

Washington Digest

Plans Reorganization Of Labor Department

New Secretary Undertakes Task to Knit Activities of Over 20 Agencies; Seeks To Avert Vet-Union Row.

By BAUKHAGE

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It took Hercules just one day to clean the stables where one wealthy but not too sanitary man had kept 10,000 oxen. At least that is the way I heard it at my father's knee. Since my father pioneered in Washington state in the early '90s, I wish he were here now to witness another Washingtonian doing a Herculean job which he hopes to finish by September 1.

I refer to Secretary Schwelmbach, whose assignment is to put the department of labor in order. He isn't going to have to do much cleaning out, but he has been tidying up so that he can bring back under his aegis most of a score of prodigal agencies, all having to do with labor, which are scattered all over the District of Columbia and points north and west.

Most of the labors of Hercules were decidedly thankless ones and were given him for spite because his stepmother, Juno, didn't like her husband's extra-curricular children. Schwelmbach's job is thankless enough, but it wasn't given to

man's desk by the first of September.

Reorganization Touchy Problem

The next step would logically be an executive order from the President embodying the Schwelmbach report to make the suggested changes. With his war powers, the President wouldn't have to ask the pleasure of congress. But President Truman doesn't want the changes he makes to be temporary affairs. Like every other president since Grover Cleveland, he has requested powers to reorganize the government and never has congress offered a carte-blanc go-ahead. Such a bill is pending in congress now. However, if the suggestions made by Secretary Schwelmbach were considered reasonable, they might be put into a bill and passed. In any case they will probably be presented before the other measure authorizing wider presidential authority is considered.

In the meantime, labor itself is tending to cloud the atmosphere insofar as acceptance of any efforts to restore full, free, collective bargaining, which the no-strike pledge and various wartime restrictions have virtually suspended. The public is getting very irritated with violations of the no-strike pledge and what many feel to be union demands which, whether or not they appear fair as between labor and management, do not take the consumer into consideration.

Much of the antagonism is due to the feeling of the men who resented strikes while they were in the service. Schwelmbach managed to smooth out one of the toughest veterans versus unions troubles the country ever witnessed back in his home state of Washington after the last war. He admits there is no doubt that such antagonism exists now. "We may as well face it," he says. But he thinks he can handle it.

One habit which Schwelmbach wants to break up, and it is assumed the President wants him to break up, is having labor disputes leap-frog right into the lap of the White House. Some of the old-line labor department officials used to write every time a long, hot telegram went out such as some of those addressed to John Lewis while the coal strike was going on, which were signed by President Roosevelt, but dictated by the War Labor board, which labor and management had snubbed. These old-timers felt that many of the questions could have been settled with the machinery which already existed within the department.

Of course, the War Labor board, which has had all the tasks complicated by the war to perform, will die with V-J Day.

Vows Impartial Labor Department

Other separate agencies dealing with labor will continue. The United States Employment service and the apprenticeship and training program are now part of the War Manpower commission. Social security is run by the social security board. If the movement to create a new department of welfare succeeds, this new set-up might conceivably absorb social security and also the children's bureau, now under the labor department.

The National Labor Relations board, which administers its quasi-judicial functions under the Wagner act, now independent, would have its "housekeeping" done by the department—that is, its financing, personnel and such matters would be under the secretary of labor.

Since Schwelmbach has been in office he has talked to a whole string of labor men and a whole string of management men, too.

"I am not a labor official," he says, "I am a public official."

That pretty well sets up his position and, as I said, it makes his job, so far as the lobbies of labor and management go, about as thankless as the labors of Hercules. Congress feels that the labor department is supposed to look after labor interests and what Judge Schwelmbach is shooting at is to have it operate with the impartiality of a court. But his chief concern now is to consolidate under one head all government activities pertaining to labor.



McGOFFEY'S FIRST READER

- 1.—Oh, see the egg! Is it a fresh egg?
- 2.—Yes, but you mustn't be too particular these days.
- 3.—Which came first, the chicken or the egg?
- 4.—That no longer matters. The point to bear in mind today is that the customer comes last.

- 1.—Who is this?
- 2.—It is Jennie. Penny is a housewife. Jenny is carrying a basket.
- 3.—What is that in Jennie's basket?
- 4.—A revolver, a letter from her senator, some credentials from her minister, a coil of rope, a map, a megaphone and a large bundle of money.
- 5.—Where is Jennie going?
- 6.—Jennie is going to try to get some eggs.
- 7.—Will she get some bacon, too?
- 8.—Don't be redick.

- 1.—Oh, see the egg! It is not like the egg in Chapter I.
- 2.—No. The egg has been polished, taken to market, card indexed, graded, stamped and given wound stripes.
- 3.—How does an egg get wound stripes?
- 4.—If you had to go through the wars that an egg has to go through in getting from the farm to the consumer you would have wound stripes.

- 1.—Jennie is looking at the egg. Isn't she?
- 2.—There are 67 people ahead of her, though.
- 3.—Will Jennie get the egg?
- 4.—No.

- 1.—Where is Jennie going now?
- 2.—She has left the store. She is going to a bingo party.
- 3.—Why?
- 4.—The door prize is one egg.
- 5.—Will she have a better chance to get the egg there?
- 6.—It won't be any worse.

- 1.—Who is this?
- 2.—This is a maker of adages. He is author of the adage "Never place all your eggs in one basket."
- 3.—What is he doing?
- 4.—He is changing the adage to read: "Never use a basket to get negative answers."

IN THE FOG
Ernie and Erbie and Clement A.—
A Big Three of their own are they;
John Bull with dripping, furrowed brow,
He hardly knows the old place now!
"Truman in Frankfurt Review."—
Headline.

Is this the first formal recognition of the hot dog in the global setup?

To a Jap his old position balanced on top of a high ladder in a circus must today seem a position of comparative security.

Robert S. Wilson has been named the new United States rubber administrator. He is reported to have plenty of bounce.

The Pullman company announces that after the war the old fashioned diner will largely disappear, to be replaced by a hot and cold buffet, or "Smorgasbord" car. Huge platters of "tempting dishes"—foods will be piled on a center table, from which the passengers will take their choice. The old cry "Last call for dinner" will disappear. This is okay with us, although we doubt that the railroads have even a remote idea what constitutes "tempting dishes."

Nothing in the general record to date so indicates. If anything on the diners today is tempting, we will eat the flagman's lantern, without mustard. Of course the war is largely responsible, but in peace days we never once heard anybody leave a dining car exclaiming "Boy, wasn't that dinner a knockout!"

A Harvard board has decided that the present educational system there, in most colleges and in high schools is pretty defective. It must make a university blush to find that it has been teaching the wrong stuff for over 100 years.

The board says Harvard has been educating the boys in specialties and neglecting the all-around general education necessary to develop the intelligent and sound citizens.

Howard Hughes is completing a giant airplane that will have eight motors, carry 750 passengers and be big enough to support a superfortress on each wing. The general idea is to assure airplane tourists every discomfort they can find on the ground.

Joe Stalin is now the only survivor of the original Big Three. He must have moments when he wonders whether he is conferring with some team mates or just helping break in a junior membership.

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WNU-13 32-45

Watch Your Kidneys!

Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste
Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to remove impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery.
Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up sight, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.
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Smart Crocheted Hostess Apron



THE smart hostess wears a crocheted apron when she entertains. This one combines mesh and petal stitches; easy, inexpensive to make.

Wear this crocheted apron when you serve refreshments. Don't be surprised at the excitement you create! Pattern 7407 has instructions.

Household Hints

Before starting to polish leather-seated chairs, wipe off the seats with a cloth dipped in sweet milk. You will be surprised at the dirt that will come off. Polish as usual.

If you are reshingling your house, think about color. A thoughtfully chosen roof color may greatly enhance the appearance of a house.

Add a few chopped ripe or green olives to either plain or lemon sauce served with fish.

Varnish the soles of children's shoes, allow them to harden, then varnish a second time. This will render them impervious to dampness and also make them wear longer.

The washer manufacturers have carefully worked out the amount of water that will give best results in their machines. On most machines the water line is clearly marked. Follow this guide for best results. The size of the load is also worked out, usually in pounds.

Home Front Accidents
There have been 30,000,000 Americans injured in home front accidents since the war began.

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States' Constitutions

More than 140 constitutions have been adopted by the states of this country since 1776. While many states have had only one, other states, such as Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina and Virginia, have had as many as six different constitutions.

Kool-Aid

MAKES 10 Big COOL DRINKS
6 FLAVORS

SNAPPY FACTS about RUBBER

Tire conservation is important on the fighting fronts, too. Winning slogan in a contest conducted by Stars and Stripes, Army newspaper, was "Bring victory, and the fight, conserve tires day and night."

A new highly maneuverable combat vehicle called the "Staghound" uses tires four feet high. Rubber required for one such tire is equivalent to five passenger tires.

B. F. Goodrich is building a new \$1,500,000 research laboratory located at Brecksville, a century-old village between Akron and Cleveland, Ohio.

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BARBS... by Baukhage

A recent photograph mislabeled "fraternizing" and showing a G.I. talking to a cute brunette was really made in England.

When Prime Minister Attlee was in San Francisco an old friend he knew in England years ago invited him to dinner. There was no maid and Attlee helped the wife wash the dishes.

Canada expects to get more of India's trade than the United States because it will keep its price controls on longer than we do.

I had the pleasure of making two philological predictions in the war which came true: the addition to readers' and listeners' vocabularies of the words "infiltrate" in the military sense and "redeployment."