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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

TRUMAN AND CONGRESS

Immediately after the election, when it was known that the Democrats had not only elected a President but had gained substantial working majorities in both House and Senate, it was felt by some that Mr. Truman could have anything he wanted. But there were those whose knowledge of the workings of politics went deeper, who were not so certain. Even Franklin Roosevelt had plenty of trouble with Congresses which were overwhelmingly Democratic. Mr. Truman is in the same boat.

The Taft-Hartley Bill is a conspicuous example. If the labor groups really thought that outright repeal of this act and a return to the Wagner Act was likely, they were badly misinformed. The temper of Congress certainly is not for giving labor a free hand. The Republican minority is solidly in favor of many Taft-Hartley provisions, and so are a considerable number of Democrats. The fight against unqualified repeal has been ably led by two young Republican senators—Ives of New York and Morse of Oregon—and they have developed a large following on both sides of the aisle. The day has long been over when party members voted as a group, and statistical majorities do not necessarily mean much when some particular piece of legislation is involved.

Other parts of the Truman program will also, in all probability, be extensively modified. Sentiment against heavy new taxes on business is strong—this, it is feared in some quarters, might produce a dangerous drop in business activity and employment. Large elements in Congress—and these are also bipartisan—think the first step should be to cut the cost of government, and that new or higher taxes should only be levied if there is no other way out. The Hoover reorganization plan, which, it is estimated, would save \$3,000,000,000 a year, largely in administrative expense, is providing the ammunition for those who think that.

The middle-of-the-road elements are also laying plans for extending social security on a less costly basis than that proposed by the President. The Administration's concept of the welfare state has aroused fears in its own ranks no less than those of the opposition. Such matters as compulsory medical insurance for everyone face tough going. Here Senator Taft, who is one of the best strategists in Congress, has met fire with fire, and come up with a modified program of medical aid to the needy, housing, etc., which has strong backing.

"Modern politics," wrote Henry Adams, "is a struggle not of men but of forces." This Congress is affirming that truth.

Mrs. Joy Bigham attended the Jackson school P.T.A. meeting in Medford last Friday afternoon.

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Letter from Washington

HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M.C.
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The Hoover Commission on the reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government has been very much in the news during the past few months. Although only a fraction of the Commission's reports and recommendations has been made public to date, the Commission's work will continue to be mentioned prominently in the news, not only during the present session of Congress, but possibly for the next two or three years.

This special commission was created by an Act of Congress in 1947, and was assigned the duty of studying the Executive Branch and making recommendations to promote efficiency, eliminate duplication, consolidate services, abolish unnecessary functions and to define and limit executive functions. Three hundred experts have been busy in carrying out this study. It is probably the first time in our history that the Executive Branch and its administrative functions have been so thoroughly investigated and laid open to the general public. There have been times when Congress had the feeling of having been swallowed by this creature of its own creation. The Hoover Commission reports are revealing why Congress had this feeling from time to time.

In the preface to its report, the Hoover Commission points out that the Government is the most gigantic business on earth. Within twenty years, the civil employees have increased from 570,000 to more than 2,100,000. Bureaus, agencies, and services have increased four-fold to more than 1800 in number. Annual expenditures have increased from \$3,600,000 to more than \$42,000,000,000. The national debt for the average family has increased from about \$500 to about \$7500. It seems probable that proper reorganization and coordination of the Executive Branch of the Government might save as much as \$3,000,000,000 per year.

Although we have realized for years that the Federal Government was entirely too expensive, and that there was much duplication of service, some of the findings of the Commission and of Committees of the House and Senate make very interesting reading.

Some examples of duplication are as follows:
Thirty-seven agencies carry on activities in Public Health.

Twenty-two in Housing.
Twenty-seven in Labor Relations.
Sixty-four in Business Relations.
Twenty-four in Rehabilitation.
Twenty-four in Map Making.
Twenty-one in Transportation.
Sixteen in Education.
Sixty-five in Gathering Statistics.
Thirty-four in Acquisition of Land.

Twenty-eight in Welfare.
Sixteen in Wildlife Preservation.
Although the world's largest printing plant is owned by the

Government here in Washington, and the bulk of government publications are printed there, it is interesting to note the overlapping of printing facilities and functions. In Washington alone, there are sixty-one separate government printing and duplicating plants. There are twenty-three in San Francisco, twenty-five in Philadelphia, sixteen in Chicago, six in Kansas City, sixteen in New York, etc. The Army and Air Force have one hundred and forty printing and duplicating plants, and the Navy has eighty-seven, the Commerce Department twenty-six, the Interior Department fifteen.

To find out how involved the red-tape has become in some government agencies, a routine letter was addressed to one department. A tracer was placed on this letter, and it was discovered that it landed on twenty-one different desks in three different buildings and travelled through each building twice before the reply left the department.

The lack of cooperation between government agencies is well illustrated by an instance reported wherein the Army, after tearing down a multi-million dollar camp in Alaska, shipped the lumber to Seattle Washington. The Interior Department then purchased the lumber, and shipped it back to a point in Alaska within ten miles of the place where the Army camp had been.

Government expenditures for new materials, supplies and equipment amount to more than six billion dollars per year, the largest part of which is for the armed services. The Hoover Commission found that Government purchase procedures and programs are inefficient and wasteful. The military and civilian inventories on hand were found to be worth about twenty-seven billion dollars. The value of government personal property being used could not be calculated. One item, however, was more than one million motor vehicles, probably worth nearly two billion dollars. It costs about one billion dollars per year merely for the purpose of transporting such property.

The facts uncovered by the Hoover Commission and the House and Senate have set bureaus and agencies to justifying their existence. Each agency seems to feel that it is fine to reorganize the Executive Branch as long as it is done in the other agency.

Mr. Earl Helms, of Portland, was a visitor at the Maude and Ruth Helfrich home over Thursday of last week.

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Navy Mothers Attend Camp White Service

Seven members of the Central Point Navy Mothers' Club No. 466 attended the ceremonies at Camp White Sunday. They had their club banner displayed on the stage with many others of various organizations. A lovely bouquet was sent to the Veterans. The mothers toured the hospital and visited many of the men already at home in the hospital. Each member expressed the opinion that much can be done to make the days pleasant for the veterans.

POSTWAR ARMY VETS TO HAVE OWN LAPEL BUTTON

CHICAGO, ILL.—Veterans of the postwar Army will have their own distinctive lapel button, according to Lt. Arthur Steele, head of the Air Force recruiting station in Chicago.

The button will be a miniature Revolutionary War minute-man on a red enamel disk surrounded by mate friends. The ring ceremony 16 pointed gold rays. It will be 9/16 of an inch in diameter.

15 Years Ago-

A pretty wedding ceremony took place Wednesday evening at 9:30 at the home of Mr. Kenneth C. Combs, Medford, when Miss Elizabeth Ellyn Scott of Central Point was united in marriage to Mr. Harley Virgil Dressler of Medford, in the presence of the immediate relatives of the bride and groom and a few intimate friends. The ring ceremony was read by Rev. J. M. Johnson of this city. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Scott of this city and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Dressler of Medford. Mr. and Mrs. Eicher and daughter

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Nellie and two little granddaughters Alice and Ellen Howard, returned from a two-weeks' stay at Gold Beach Tuesday, where they visited Wilbur Eicher, who is staying at a CCC camp.

Maynard Putney has accepted a position at Faber's store. Mr. Putney and wife expect to move here the last of the week. Mrs. Putney is a daughter of Rev. Iverson.

Mrs. Herbert Smith of Eagle Point visited Mrs. Truman Brenner at the Salade home Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Milton entertained the officers and teachers of the Federated Sunday School at their home Tuesday evening.

A number of young people are going to Medford to the skating rink each week. Among those attending Friday evening were John Obenchain, Gerald Morris, Helen Powell and Charles Murphy.

Carol Furry, Dorothea Hedgpath, Dorothy Powell, Lewis Hedgpath, Herman Hosfeld and Ralph Adams motored to Crater Lake recently.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR JACKSON COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of

T. C. Gaines, deceased

Notice is hereby given that I have been appointed by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Jackson County, Administrator de bonis non of the estate of T. C. Gaines, deceased, and have qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present them, with proper vouchers, and duly verified, to me at the office of Harry C. Skyrman, attorney for said estate, at Room

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