

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Harris Ellsworth, M. C.
4th District, Oregon

In a previous weekly letter, I told the story of the attempt made by the Administration forces to slip some medical provisions in a bill to amend the social security act. The principal purpose of the bill was to provide increased benefits. Since that bill was brought to the floor under conditions which permitted neither adequate debate nor the right of amendment on the floor, the House was required either to accept the unnecessary socialized medicine language along with the desirable part of the bill—or vote against the entire bill. There being little doubt in the minds of any of us that the bill could be brought up again minus the objectionable section, this first effort was voted down.

As anticipated, the Committee on Ways and Means struck out the objectionable paragraphs and again brought the bill to the floor a few days ago—again under the "suspension of rules" procedure. It was passed by an overwhelming majority—only 22 members voted "No." As reported, I voted against the bill the first time but was glad to vote in favor of the corrected measure. I was sorry that the "gag" procedure was used a second time for I think the bill could have been improved with amendments from the floor, but we members of the minority party had no choice in the matter.

Earlier this month I mentioned a trip being planned by the Department of Interior, and noted that members of the House Committee on Public Lands were invited to go along. The jaunt is an inspection trip to public land areas. It sounds like a good idea and I believe it is. The odd, and I think irregular, part of the deal is that the Department of Interior is paying the expenses of the members of Congress who go along! I am sure that Congress does not appropriate money for the Department of Interior to be spent on trips for Congressmen. The fact is that Congressional committees have expense money of their own.

Another activity—and expenditure—of one of our Executive departments is ever more amazing than the one noted above. The Department of State is now assigning men to serve on the staffs of state governors! A Washington newspaper reports the fact as follows: In an experiment to bring America's concern in international affairs closer to the state level, the State Department has assigned Foreign Service Officers to the staffs of two governors, Earl Warren of California, and G. Mennen Williams of Michigan."

No wonder the State Department which seemed to function quite well in 1940 with a budget of \$24 million requested \$338 million for the coming fiscal year—nearly fifteen times as much.

One Senator in discussing this subject summed it up briefly: "The taxpayers back home will wonder why such a program is necessary. It seems to me that the program now proposed is just another attempt to engage in propaganda all over the United States, in an endeavor to sell the American people on the unwise schemes of the State Department."

At this point it seems appropriate to give a few figures on government employment. During the past six months the total Federal civilian payroll has exceeded \$5 billion and is expected to continue at this rate for the next six months. At this pace, the payroll will be \$2 billion higher than at the peak of World War II, when it was \$3 billion a year.

The latest report shows 2,549,716 employees on the Federal payroll, with more than half of the civilians working in the Defense Department. There are 1,307,360 civilians working in the Defense Department, for a military personnel of 3,500,000. The fact that peak military personnel during World War II was almost four times the present number, or nearly 13 million, makes significant the apparent excessive civilian personnel and payroll costs.

William J. Warner Elected President Of Savings Firm

Election of William J. Warner as president of the Jackson County Federal Savings and Loan Association was announced yesterday by the board of directors of the institution. He succeeds John C. Mann whose death occurred on May 25. The association has had but two presidents since its reorganization in 1917. C. M. Kidd served from that year until his passing in 1946, and Mr. Mann since 1947.

President Warner, a Medford

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resident since 1894, was postmaster from 1921 to 1934. After leaving that office he engaged in wholesale bulb growing until his recent retirement. He has long been identified with the savings and loan concern and has served on the board of directors since 1934.

The new president, in a statement following his election, said a continuation of the association's conservative policies, which have proved so successful in the past, would be his endeavor. The association, one of the largest in the state, now has assets of over \$6,500,000, having added \$1,000,000 in the past year.

Dairy Scientists Working to Cut Breeding Losses

An important role is being played by Oregon State college in the search for ways to reduce the estimated \$5 million loss suffered annually by Oregon dairymen as a result of breeding inefficiencies such as delayed conception.

Dairy scientists from OSC reported on their progress in the search at the national meeting of the American Dairy Science association June 24 to 26.

Members of the OSC dairy husbandry department told the nation's dairy scientists about the college's work with fertility, semen quality and a simple test for determining pregnancy in dairy cows.

Among the scientific papers presented at the meeting was a report by John H. Byers, OSC research

assistant, which outlined early results of his work on a new pregnancy test. Byers declared the test to be 91 percent accurate in limited experiments to date, but warned that his results are not complete and may not hold up in future trials.

He OSC scientist said he got the idea for the new test from a German scientist, W. Schlor, who developed a pregnancy test for humans. Byers adapted the test for dairy cattle.

Urine samples were collected from 136 cows. A chemical was added and the color reaction showed whether the cows were pregnant. Outstanding advantages of the test are its simplicity and speed—a farmer could do it in his own barn and know whether his cow was pre-

gnant within a week after breeding. Byers was careful to point out, however, that he is not yet prepared to recommend the test without further experimentation.

If it proves valid in future trials, it could become an important money and time-saver for dairymen. A quick test for pregnancy would save valuable weeks in the breeding process. Byers explained that about 10 percent of the dairy cows in most herds have trouble conceiving. They lose an average of 60 days each in becoming pregnant. In a 100-cow herd this means 600 lost days, or two complete lactations plus two calves. This costs the dairyman money that can be saved with a quick and accurate test for pregnancy.

Visiting at the home of Mrs. E. C. Faber are her daughter, Mrs. Jack Mitchell and son, Donnie who drove up Wednesday from Concord, California. They plan to remain until after the Fourth.

Dr. Arnold M. Depner

Chiroprapist

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