Tuesday, May 23, 1022

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e departments is fundamentally wrong Let me illustrate: I made an offer one spring to the appropriations committees of both house and senate, teiling them

spring to the appropriations committees of both house and senate teiling them that I would tomorrow discharge 15 per cent of the employees of the Navy de-partment if they, the committees, would give me complete authority to take one-half of the scalaries of the employees and discharged and add it to the salaries of the other si per cent of the employees and the the department. . . Of course, however, under the present syn-tem congress would not think of giving executive discretion of this kind. Congress, for various reasons, has so tied the hands of the executive officers of the government that they have no dis-cretion in the fundamental questions of employment. . . My own wonder is that, considering the existing circum-minates, the employees of the govern-ent are as efficient as they attaily are. Congress legislates for every minute item of work being done in other departments which ought properly to be under the Navy department, and in the main way there is a lot of work done by the Navy department, and in the main way there is a lot of work done by the Navy department and is they denartments. After seven years down here in an ex-ecutive position . . I cannot help the conduction that our governmontal meth-od are combersome and wasterd. The free timeney and my wasterd. ods are cumbersome and wasteful. The first improvement must come in what is, after all, the source of governmental aclvities-that is, the legislative branch a must come from congress. We need a a reclassification and redistribution the work of the executive depart-its. This can only come if congress. ricing in accord with itself and with executives, will discuss the wrole estion simultaneously and not morely

Well, there you are! A Republican who has been in the legislative branch of the government for seventeen years, and a Democrat who has been in the executive branch for seven years; both telling the same story of how badly. the national business is managed,

The odd thing about it is that our agents and representatives at Washington who let this waste and Inefficiency run on, year after year, pay no penalty. We pay the piper to the tune of millions and billions-literally that much. And the condition will endure until we make a real roar shout it. Congress increasingly shakes its head over the situation and brings in various proposals of reform, and mays how wrong it all is; but incking a lively, inflamed public pressure, nothing gets done.

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