



Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—No one knows how many lawyers there are in the government. Aside from the department of justice there are thousands. Every agency has a legal staff of its own from Bonneville to fish and wildlife service; from farm credit administration to reclamation service; from forest service to HOLC. In the United States federal statutes, unchanged in the latest edition, there is a paragraph adopted in 1872 which prohibits any department head from hiring a lawyer; that when an attorney is required application shall be made to the department of justice and an attorney shall be assigned to handle the matter.

This statutory provision limiting all government lawyers to the department of justice has been circumvented by the innumerable bureaus and departments in a slick manner. When an appropriation bill is up there is included authorization to engage the services of legal, clerical or other persons. By this means the statute is made a dead-letter.

There is now before a senate com-

mittee a simple bill, of a few lines, offered by Senator Rufus Holman which provides that all lawyers on the government payroll shall be assigned to the department of justice; that the attorney general shall be responsible for them and assign them on request from a department secretary. This would form a pool of lawyers, just as there are pools of stenographers and typists in certain departments. The lawyers are now running around trying to discover what is behind the measure; law journals have inquired, and the department heads wish to know what's going on. The bill will probably be killed; government lawyers have friends on "the hill" and are clever lobbyists.

Army and navy munitions board has been directed by Donald Nelson to give airplanes a higher priority for better effect upon the public. General supposition has been that airplanes had double A rating

for anything required. It develops, however, that the munitions board had decided that warships and tanks are more important than airplanes, for they gave the ships and tanks a higher rating. The highest rating for planes has been A-1-B for four-engine Boeing bombers while the rest of the fighting craft were given a rating of A-1-D. At the moment the only double A rating has been given to four battleships which will not be completed and ready for sea for a long time; they are being rushed to replace the Pearl Harbor losses. Warships which will not be built until next year have as high a priority as the bombers.

War department has been taking over large sections of public land in the northwest. According to the general landoffice, 14,000,000 acres of public land have been withdrawn for aviation fields, bombing and gunnery ranges, sites for anti-aircraft guns, training areas, etc., more exact locations being a military secret. Many acres taken over by the war

department involve old mining claims, homestead entries, etc., and it is estimated that 20,000 such claims must be adjusted within 18 months in the western states to clear titles for military purposes. Few of the cases are expected to go to court and most of the claims will be quickly invalidated.

Of immediate concern is the construction of a cantonment at Medford to house 30,000 soldiers. On the basis of \$500 per man, which is conservative, the Medford cantonment will cost about \$15,000,000. Thousands of carpenters, plumbers, bricklayers, painters and common laborers will be used by the contractors and the first problem Medford must meet is housing these workers while they are building the barracks, mess and assembly halls, chapels and utilities. It will be several months before the cantonment is completed, for it is an enormous task—building a city for a population greater than that of any of 29 counties in Oregon. It will have

almost three times the population of Medford, principal city of the cantonment area.

High prices mean inflation and the higher they go the more the inflation, until the time may come when it will require two bushels of wheat or two sacks of potatoes to buy what can now be bought for one. It is to prevent this condition that the government is placing a ceiling on prices. The plan, roughly, has two branches: one is to clamp down on prices and the other is to extract from the people so much money (in the form of taxes) that workers will not have spare cash to indulge their fancy in consumer goods. A few steps have already been taken, such as the federal reserve requiring the banks to carry a larger amount of government securities and to be tight with commercial credits. There is also the reduction in installment buying, one of the easy payment plans which is already being affected.

## STAR Reporter

FRIDAY-SATURDAY

### MOONLIGHT IN HAWAII

Johnny Downs, Jane Frazee, Leon Errol, Mischa Auer, Sunnie O'Dea, Maria Montez, the Merry-Macs

A musical with comedy.

—Plus—

### SECRETS OF THE LONE WOLF

Warren William, Eric Blore, Ruth Ford, Victor Jory

Another fast-moving "Lone Wolf" drama.

SUNDAY-MONDAY

### H. M. PULHAM, ESQ.

Hedy Lamarr, Robert Young, Ruth Hussey, Charles Coburn, Van Hefflin, Bonita Granville, Fay Holden

Based on John P. Marquand's great love story that was also a Book-of-the-Month selection, a Reader's Digest story and a McCall Magazine serialization, every fascinating character in the celebrated best seller now comes to thrilling life on the screen.

TUESDAY

Bargain Night

### THE PERFECT SNOB

Lynn Bari, Charlotte Greenwood, Charlie Ruggles, Anthony Quinn, Alan Mowbray, Cornel Wilde

This comedy-romance gives capable comedians Greenwood and Ruggles a chance to bring you a generous quota of laughs.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY

### THE MALTESE FALCON

Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Gladys George, Peter Lorre, Barton MacLane

This is excellent entertainment... a mystery story packed with humor and suspense.

### THE MARCH OF TIME

Far East Command: How will the U.S.A. hit back at Japan? Where are the Japs most vulnerable? Can the fighting Anzacs hold Australia and New Zealand?



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