At Thanksgiving, the Flemmings demonstrated that the "approved" cranberries were really safe.

were being drawn in. They decided they could pick up their academic careers later. Now was a time for public service.

He stayed with the Government for nine years. Then the board of trustees of Ohio Wesleyan University, his alma mater, named him its president, the first time an alumnus had been so honored. It was exactly what he and Mrs. Flemming wanted.

The idyl lasted only two years. Then the Korean war broke out. He was asked to return to Washington.

This time he went with a plan. He would give Washington five days a week, Ohio Wesleyan two days. At the college, he appointed a trio of deputies for academic matters, alumni and public relations, and business management. Each Friday night, he flew from Washington to Ohio and packed 40 hours of conferences into Saturday and Sunday.

When the Republicans won the 1952 election, Milton Eisenhower urged Flemming to join the new administration.

Despite a longing look at the campus, he consented. For four more years he continued "on leave," but when it became clear that he must remain in Washington, he reluctantly cut his official ties with Ohio Wesleyan.

SINCE TAKING charge of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (sometimes known as HEW), Arthur Flemming has been facetiously called the vice president in charge of Onward and Upward. It is an apt title. He has quite an assortment of empires under his wing.

HEW employs 55,000 people and will spend more than $3 billion this year on a countless variety of projects which have been designed to increase almost everyone's health and happiness.

It includes the Social Security Administration, with its annual disbursement of $10 billion, the Public Health Service, the Office of Education, the Children's Bureau, the Food and Drug Administration, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, which is Uncle Sam's treatment center for mental illness. Also included are the Federally aided Printing House for the Blind, Gallaudet College, the only school in the world offering higher education for deaf students, and Howard University in Washington.

AS MIGHT be expected, the problems are often crushingly complex. The bulging brief case Flemming takes home every night contains such puzzlers as:

Fourteen million Americans get their water from the Great Lakes. Chemical refuse from plants making plastics, detergents, and insecticides are feeding into these waters each day. In 40 years our population will double. Where will pure water for them come from if we pollute it?

In 1957, a girl died of the plague in Colorado. With the dreaded Black Death, even a single case calls for emergency measures. Epidemiologists raced to the scene. The girl had been bitten by a flea. Fleas ride on rats that are infected, and transfer the disease to people. That outbreak was halted in its tracks. But wild rats bearing infected fleas have been found in the forests of California and Colorado, and are moving eastward. What now?

Such dilemmas raise the question: can one man bring enough know-how to this king-size job to meet the challenge? Thus far Flemming's performance sets a fine example for his successors.

For instance, hole-in-the-wall "colleges" have sold phony degrees by mail for years, tolerated largely because Federal officials were afraid of damage suits. Flemming, the ex-educator, considered gyp schools a blot on the standards of American education and ordered the public unmasking of every gyp school discovered.

Still another illustration of HEW's official diligence was its work against the rotten-egg racket. Poultry raisers who incubate eggs by the thousands eliminate those not

(Continued)

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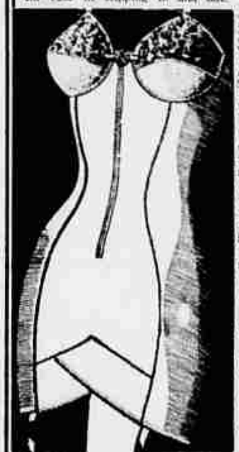

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