

Shows That All US Gold Still Happily Intact To The Last Cent

Investigation though. The missing sum was only \$10, the government got it back, and the rest of the \$32,410,300,786.10 plus two-thirds of a cent is right where the former treasurer Mrs. Georgia Neese Clark Gray, said it would be.

So the Treasury is sending Mrs. Gray a receipt from her successor, Republican Mrs. Ivy Baker Priest, and everybody is happy.

All this checkup was inspired by the recent change in administration.

A committee appointed jointly by former Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snyder and new GOP Secretary Humphrey looked into accounting and guarding methods and found they included "every

feasible safeguard." But it suggested that a new committee make spot checks of gold and silver and coin.

Asked today whether the check had been completed and, if so, if anything had been found missing, Howard told a reporter: "No, sir. Everything is there. The official report is being prepared and won't be out for some time, but it will show everything is where it should be."

Howard is a Kentuckian who for many years, as assistant mint director, has been in direct charge of the nation's growing horde of precious metals.

In its quest for any discrepancies between the amount the gov-

ernment carries on its books and what it actually has, the investigating committee of businessmen and government officials:

1. Counted the bars in about 10 per cent of all storage vaults. These are at mints in Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco; assay offices at New York and Seattle and the U. S. bullion depository at Ft. Knox, Ky. About half the nation's gold is at Ft. Knox.
2. Weighed about 10 per cent of the gold bars counted.
3. Assayed a "moderate number" of the gold bars, to make sure they have the proper gold content. Each gold bar is worth about \$14,000.

The committee decided against a spot check of silver held under seal because it is "so bulky as to discourage theft."

And what about that \$10? Mrs. Gray herself disclosed the "shortage" in an interview.

She said it was discovered during a separate audit of currency and securities, mostly foreign, which were in her custody.

The \$10 discrepancy, she said, turned up in the currency redemption division. Nobody knows just how it happened. Apparently some body forgot to report the replacing of a beatup old \$10 bill by a new one or something of the sort.

Anyway, the chief of the divi-

Now about that two-thirds of a cent at the end of Mrs. Gray's cash-and-securities-on-hand total: It's an odd amount based on the alleged value of some old state bonds in the treasurer's possession, Mrs. Gray said, and personally she wouldn't give two-thirds of a cent for the lot of them.

"I wanted to write them off, as we'd do in the banking business," she said, "but I never could get Congress to do anything about it."

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