

# LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By HUGO S. SIMS, Washington Correspondent

## Local Efforts Needed To Help Nation Execute Bold Plan For Housing

Every American citizen should be interested in the housing plan proposed by President Truman on the basis of a report submitted by Wilson W. Wyatt, Housing Expediter, who insists that the problem can be solved by "the same daring, determination and hard-hitting teamwork with which we tackled the emergency job of building the world's most powerful war machine four years ago."

Space does not permit even a summary of the 6,000-word report of Mr. Wyatt, but attention should be called to some of the facts mentioned in the report. In October, 1945, 1,200,000 families were living doubled-up with other families. In addition, an estimated 2,900,000 married veterans will want homes by the end of the year and something like 560,000 non-veterans who will marry during the present year.

Included in his figures were existing vacancies and additional families needing homes in the next two years and Mr. Wyatt comes to the conclusion that the construction of 2,700,000 low and moderate cost homes must be started by the end of next year and says that even this program will leave at least 1,200,000 families still doubled-up.

In the main, his target for 1946 includes the beginning of construction on 700,000 conventional houses, 250,000 permanent pre-fabricated houses and 250,000 temporary units. For 1947, he wants to see 900,000 conventional houses and 600,000 permanent pre-fabricated houses constructed. The size of this job can be understood by his statement that the previous all-time high was 957,000 homes in 1925. In 1946, he points out, only 240,000 homes were built.

The report of the housing expediter pays full attention to the obligation that the nation owes to the men and women who have been in service and suggests a distinct preference for veterans and their families in connection with the construction, rental or purchase of the homes to be constructed.

There is recognition of the necessity of increasing the flow of building materials and recommendations for the adoption of subsidies designed to make this a certainty. One of the shortages to be overcome involves man-power, with the estimate that an additional 1,500,000 workers will have to be attracted to the job of constructing houses and producing and distributing the materials for home-building.

There are also problems in connection with the type of construction that will provide the homes needed. In addition, there must be adequate provision to secure a sufficient number of suitable lots, with sewer, water and other facilities, and this may require specific local cooperation with the government's program.

Attention is also paid to the danger of inflation which could create uncertainties that would increase production and lead to inventory-hoarding and speculation. This would "result in such high prices on homes as to put them completely out of reach of veteran incomes."

Mr. Wyatt points out that building materials have risen thirty-five to forty per cent above pre-war levels, that houses are being sold at prices above today's increased cost of replacement, and that many who want to rent are forced, instead, to buy at inflated prices.

Consequently, he suggests positive steps to curb inflation, including strict control of the prices of materials and continuation of rent controls. Legislative authority, it is said, "is needed for ceiling prices on old and new housing, and on building lots in urban areas."

Declaring that no program "of this magnitude can be directed from Washington alone," Mr. Wyatt calls for the "advice and active participation of courageous community leaders in cities and towns throughout the country." He thinks that "emergency housing committees should be formed" wherever they do not exist, with the idea of clearing away "obstacles which might impede the progress of the local housing program."

These committees, in his opinion, should be composed of representatives of local government, veterans, labor, builders, building material producers, financing institutions, chambers of commerce and other interested groups.

## Federal Employment Plan Needed When Capitalism Fails To Provide Work

The House of Representatives has passed what its critics call a "watered down" bill recommended by President Truman, but the measure is defended by its friends as the best compromise that could be passed.

The House version of the legislation calls for an annual economic report by the President, with suggestions as to how the objective of full employment can be achieved. Nowhere in the bill does the term "full employment" appear, but the maintenance of maximum employment is accepted as a governmental responsibility.

The effort of the national government to survey the economic situation in the United States, with the idea of taking positive steps to provide employment for the citizens of this country, has been denounced as socialism by a number of Americans. Among the critics are included many of our financial, industrial and business leaders, who slyly suggest that it destroys private initiative and will lead Americans to rely unduly upon the Government.

We believe that it is the fundamental duty of the Government in the present era to assume some responsibility in regard to employment because, in the event of mass unemployment, the obligation of finding jobs and feeding people devolves upon the government. Certainly, if our system of private capitalism is to continue, the private capitalists must assume some responsibility in connection with providing employment. If they fail, they should not complain if the Government, acting in the interest of everybody, takes over the job.

It has been our observation that many of the captains of business, who bitterly complain of paternalism when the Government attempts to help men and women throughout the United States, make no such outcry when the Government begins to subsidize private enterprise in a fashion that adds to their profits. They do not complain of Government interference with business when the Government levies a tariff for their benefit or when it takes action to bolster the economic structure of the nation at the top.

In principle, and in fact, the capitalists have the same idea as the average citizen; both classes look to the Government for all the favors that they can get and expect the Government to serve their interests.

## New Party Alignments Worry Our Politicians

It has been apparent for a number of years that both of the major political parties are composed of what might be termed conservative and liberal factions, although there is considerable difference between the professed tenets of the factions that bear these adjectives.

Just now, the Republican politicians are preparing for a struggle that is to determine which faction will take control of the G. O. P. Even now the

initial line-up is being centered around two candidates, Governor Bricker, of Ohio, for the conservatives and former Governor Stassen, of Minnesota, for the liberals. Both of these leaders have made their allegiance clear.

The liberal wing of the Republican party was represented, it is believed, by the party nominations for the Presidency in the last two elections, in the persons of the late Wendell L. Wilkie and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. The conservative faction has shown its hand rather conclusively in the voting record of the majority of the party in Congress and the apparent conflict militated against the candidates of the party in 1940 and 1944.

There is no comfort for the Democrats in the factional division of the opposition party. The fundamental differences that have been revealed follow somewhat the same line of cleavage between conservatives and liberals but the Democrats face the added differences that arise in the

effort of Democratic leaders, including the President, to pass such legislation as the F. E. P. C. bill.

Without posing as expert we venture the suggestion that a realignment of political groups is not many years ahead of us. The G. O. P. may become the captive of either of its major groups, with the other seeking to act independently.

The conservatives might possibly attract some Democrats in the North and West who are tired of the close tie that exists between their party and some labor leaders. There may also develop something like a coalition between the liberal factions in both parties. The use of existing party

names would depend upon who managed to wrangle control of the party machinery.

No survey of the national political situation would be complete without discussing the possibility that the Southern States may remain Democratic in name but shift its support to one or the other of the groupings that seem certain to appear. The support would not be anything like the permanent attachment that has kept the South Democratic since the War Between the States. It might be the result of a temporary arrangement designed to care for Southern interests as they may be interpreted by conservatives and liberals in the South.

## ON THE SPOT

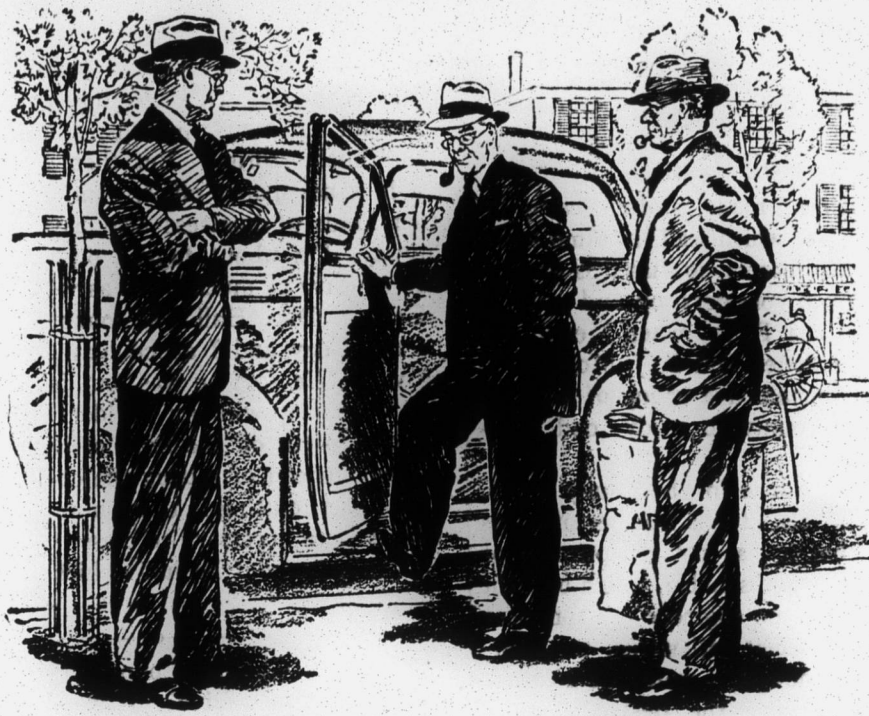
Office Boy (nervously). Please sir, I think you're wanted on the phone. Employer — You think! What's the good of thinking? "Well, sir, the voice at the other end said: 'Hello, is that you, you old idiot?'"

## Dr. Geo. T. Crawford

CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

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## THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



**TED:** "Clem and I were wonderin' what you thought of that new movie about the chronic alcoholic, Judge. Understand you saw it before we did."  
**OLD JUDGE:** "Well...it's true most of us never see a case as extreme as that in real life because they are so few and far between. But it does point out one thing... chronic alcoholics are abnormal people and we've got to change our ideas about how to help them."  
**CLEM:** "In what way, Judge?"  
**OLD JUDGE:** "We've got to realize that excessive drinkers are suffering from more than a craving for alcohol. According to

psychiatrists and medical men at one of our great universities, the alcoholic is a sick person. The study of hundreds of cases shows he is suffering from some physical, social or emotional condition... just as in the case of that poor chap in the picture. Fortunately, they represent only a very small percentage of those who drink."

**TED:** "Is anything being done to really help these folks, Judge?"

**OLD JUDGE:** "Yes... a great deal in clinics throughout the country. And with the cooperation of the beverage distillers who sincerely want their product used only in moderation."

This advertisement sponsored by Conference of Alcoholic Beverage Industry, Inc.

## TAYLOR THEATRE

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA  
We Have the Shows

Today (Friday) March 15—  
Edw. G. Robinson and  
Joan Bennett in  
"SCARLET STREET"  
Not Recommended for Children

Saturday, March 16—  
Wild Bill Elliott in  
"WAGON WHEELS  
WESTWARD"  
"King of Forest Rangers" No. 7

Sunday, March 17—  
Alan Curtis and  
Lon Chaney in  
"THE DALTONS RIDE AGAIN"

Monday and Tuesday,  
March 18-19—  
Tom Neal and Barbara Hale in  
"FIRST YANK INTO TOKYO"

Wednesday, March 20—  
Double Feature  
Ken Curtis in  
"THROW A SADDLE ON A  
STAR"

East Side Kids in  
"COME OUT FIGHTING"  
"Jungle Raiders" No. 4

Thursday-Friday, March 21-22—  
Joan Leslie and Robert Alda in  
"CINDERELLA JONES"



# LOOK AT THE... PEANUT SITUATION!

## LARGE VIRGINIA TYPE PEANUTS ARE MORE HEAVILY IN DEMAND THAN EVER BEFORE IN HISTORY

### TO INSURE A GOOD STAND DO THIS

- 1 Select your seed peanuts with care. Your crop begins with the seed you sow.
- 2 Shell by hand, if possible. This way you'll get only the best, with no splits or inferior peanuts.
- 3 Then, we recommend that you treat your seed. (Consult your county agent on this).
- 4 Have your soil tested. Your county agent will help. It will pay you in the long run.
- 5 Fertilize according to the county agent's recommendations. He knows your farm.
- 6 Follow his advice on dusting. But, above all, don't waste time and money planting poor seed.

### THERE ARE NO ACREAGE RESTRICTIONS IN 1946

The demand is greater than ever before for large peanuts of the Virginia type. This year there are no restrictions on acreage. The subsidy program of war production based on the government's need for domestic oil has ended. Now, grow the peanut demanded by the Trade.

### PRICES EQUAL TO 90% OF PARITY GUARANTEED

Prices equal to 90% of parity are guaranteed in 1946. This guarantee is substantially the same as last season. And every government program has provided premiums for large peanuts. Now, it is certainly to your advantage to grow the nuts people want to eat.

So plant the large VIRGINIA TYPE for greater profit and to maintain this area's reputation for growing the world's finest peanuts!

## VIRGINIA - CAROLINA PEANUT ASSOCIATION

Peanut Millers of Virginia and North Carolina

SELECT YOUR SEED WITH CARE AND SCREEN OUT SMALL PEANUTS BEFORE SHELLING. SHELL BY HAND IF POSSIBLE. GET GOOD SEED; IT ALWAYS PAYS.



## EXTRA GOOD BREAD!



USE FLEISCHMANN'S ACTIVE FRESH YEAST

THERE'S NO LOST ACTION WITH FRESH YEAST! And Fleischmann's fresh Yeast goes right to work because it's actively fresh. No waiting—no extra steps—Fleischmann's fresh Yeast helps give full delicious bread flavor, tender smooth texture—perfect freshness.

IF YOU BAKE AT HOME, always ask for Fleischmann's active fresh Yeast with the familiar yellow label. Dependable—America's favorite for over 70 years.



Always fresh—at your grocery