

Looking at WASHINGTON

Opposes Single Military Set-Up
The merger of the three military departments into a single department will lead this country to the "Prussian military system," in the opinion of Ferdinand Eberstadt, former chairman of the Special Committee of the Hoover Commission.

The matter is up for consideration again because President Truman recommended to Congress the establishment of a Department of Defense, with authority over all the armed services and the consequent status of the Departments of Army, Navy and Air Force.

The Hoover Commission, in its recommendation, did not advocate such a radical change in the military establishment, set up two years ago with three semi-autonomous departments acting under the "general" authority of a Secretary of Defense.

The President's recommendation is included in a military reorganization bill, already passed by the Senate, which would reduce from "Secretary" to "Under-Secretary," the civilian chief of each of the services. Mr. Hoover recently testified against the creation of a single chief of staff and Mr. Eberstadt took the same view, maintaining that a single department would result in a single chief of staff, which, he thought, would be "dangerous" to the country.

Brynes and Baruch Criticize H.S.T.
In recent public addresses, former Secretary of State James F. Brynes and retired industrialist, Bernard M. Baruch, both natives of South Carolina, have delivered vigorous, if indirect, criticism of the present Administration.

Mr. Brynes warned against the welfare state and Mr. Baruch reported a lack of a plan of "total mobilization," which, he asserted, represents a "needless invitation to disaster."

President Truman has made no direct reply to either statement but White House circles, according to The New York Times, "exhibited considerable indignation" over the Baruch charge and intimated that Mr. Baruch was badly informed. This statement was subsequently attributed directly to the President, who categorically denied that any mobilization plan had been presented to him or rejected by him. In reply, the industrialist suggested that the President examine the White House files and recalled that such a plan was submitted to the President in May or June, of 1948.

It is generally known that Messrs. Brynes and Baruch have been closely associated and the political experts wonder if there is any connection between the timing of the two addresses. Do they indicate the beginning of a more audible opposition to President Truman's "Fair Deal" on domestic affairs and his handling of the nation's security in connection with international affairs?

Three-way Test on Brannan Plan
The nation will see a three-commodity-trial of the controversial Brannan production-payment plan if the House Agriculture Committee has its way.

Representative Stephen Pace, of Georgia, explaining the plan, said that the Committee had been unable to get "best estimates of production payments, as proposed by Secretary Brannan, but he could not foresee administrative difficulties which may prove insurmountable and he was sure that consumers would get the benefits envisaged in the plan.

Department of Agriculture officials seem to be satisfied with what the House Committee proposes, assertion that it is enough to show that the plan will work. Others suggest that tough sailing will come in the Senate but it is generally expected that the House will support the Pace bill. In the meantime, Secretary Brannan has listed hogs, potatoes and wool, as the three crops for the experiment.

Economy In U. S. Housekeeping
It is quite true, as Dr. Robert L. Johnson, chairman of the Citizens Committee on the Hoover Report, asserts, that the general public knows very little about the "housekeeping activities" of the Federal Government and, therefore, the public is noting a position to understand the importance of recent steps designed to bring about some efficiency in the purchase of various agencies of government.

President Truman has ordered a general house-cleaning and inventory of governmental property, under authority of the reorganization Act, recently passed by Congress. He wants the heads of all executive agencies to survey their excess property and real estate and to plan their future requirements in a way to avoid "high cost, small lot" buying in the interest of promoting greater savings.

The new law facilitated the creation of a General Services Administration, which has the functions of the Federal Works Agency, the Bureau of Federal Supply, Office of Contract Settlement, the War Assets Administration and the National Archives establishment. It will attempt to bring together the purchase of supplies, the construction of some buildings and the management of other public works.

While it does not include all programs and functions now being carried out by various executive agencies, the President has called attention to the purpose of the legislation and, so far as practicable, ordered them to procure, utilize and dispose of property in accordance with the act and the regulations issued under its authority.

A Catholic Congressman Speaks
Representative Andrew Jacobs, of Indiana, is a Catholic member of Congress who does not agree with Cardinal Spellman's recent intemperate denunciation of Representative Graham Barden, of North Carolina, author of the Federal Aid to Education bill.

Mr. Jacobs states that a great many Catholics disagree with the Cardinal and points out that as long as Catholics have the same right to send their children to public schools as anyone else, they are not discriminated against.

Mr. Jacobs quoted the late Al Smith on the separation of Church and State, and pointed out that Catholics, as a group, "do not have the right to a separate, publicly-supported school system." Mr. Jacobs added, quite correctly, that neither "does any other group of people have such right."

Defending the right of Catholics and other religions to build and maintain churches, "but not to build or maintain them with public funds," the Indiana Congressman pointed out that "our parochial schools are an adjunct of our religion, established for educational use instead of using public schools, solely for the sake of the child's religious training." He then concludes that Catholics must "keep parochial schools and maintain them or take public funds and convert them into public schools."

It should be noted that a great many religious organizations maintain schools and colleges throughout the land. These institutions of learning are in competition with State-supported institutions of higher learning. No one has suggested that the church organizations cannot have their institutions of learning, if they want them, but this is quite different from attempting to secure public funds for the use of the churches in connection with their institutions of learning.

As Representative Barden says, "I don't believe it's the duty of the Government to provide money for Presbyterian schools, any more than for private schools of Methodists, Catholics, Quakers, Episcopalians, or any other faith."

PINEY WOODS NEWS

Miss Ruth King returned to her home in Norfolk, Va., Sunday after spending some time with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Chappell.

Sgt. Marvin Lee Simpson, who is stationed at Shaw Field Air Base in South Carolina, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Raper. He was accompanied back Sunday by Mrs. Simpson, who has been visiting here for three weeks.

Mrs. Elmer Laasier and Miss Theresa Winslow visited Mrs. Thomas Butt and Mrs. Harvin Simpson Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Purvis Chappell and Mrs. Minnie Rountree were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Chappell on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Verne Mitchell and E. T. Chappell of Rich Square visited Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Chappell Sunday.

NEW HOPE WOMANS SOCIETY MEETS

The Womens Society of Christian Service of New Hope Methodist Church held its regular meeting at the church Tuesday, July 26th, with 8 members present.

The meeting opened by singing "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind." The devotional was conducted by Mrs. S. T. Perry. The Scripture was taken from portions of 1st John, Matthew, Luke and St. John. A meditation was taken from the devotional book. The Lords prayer was prayed in unison pausing after each petition that its meaning might sink deeper into our hearts.

Mrs. W. H. Matthews, program chairman, introduced the lesson from the program book using the topic "The United Nations." Mrs. I. C. Butt and Mrs. H. H. Butt also took part on the program.

The president, Mrs. I. C. Butt had charge of a short business session. The roll was called, minutes read and approved. The Society went on record as being opposed to the establishment of a liquor store in Perquimans County.

Mrs. S. T. Perry and Mrs. E. A.

Turner were reappointed to serve on the flower committee. The secretary, Mrs. H. H. Butt was asked to remember any sick in the community with a card from the society. It was decided to remember Mrs. W. E. Dail with a potted plant when she returns home from Emerging Hospital, Washington, where she has been a patient.

The president read a card from the family of Lucy Howell Spencer, one of our beloved members who has just passed away, acknowledging the flowers and expression of sympathy from the Society.

There being no other business the benediction was pronounced by Mrs. S. T. Perry.

BRIDE-ELECT HONORED AT MISCELLANEOUS SHOWER

Mrs. Sam Hourmouzis was a delightful hostess at a miscellaneous shower, given Wednesday night, July 20, at the Hertford Cafe, honoring Miss Jean Hurdle, bride-elect. Those attending and presenting gifts to the honoree were Meadames Charles E. Johnson, Fannie Wright, Nelson Jordan, Iola Stewart, William Sawyer, John Ward, William Landing, Jr., Chester Winslow, Calvin Banks, Woodley Bundy, James Wilder, Elizabeth Cayton, Stanley Spruill, Y. L. Brown, Margaret Hurdle, Henry

Lewis, Johnnie Lane and Agnes Ezzell and Misses Lillie Rae Chappell, Barbara Hurdle, Edna Earle Hurdle, Patsy Hurdle, Martha Tilley, Laura Hop-

kins, Mildred and Sybil Skinner and Betty Jean Winslow.

The hostess served cold drinks, ice cream, cake, peanuts and mints.



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