

Washington Notes

GOLD HOLDINGS
Gold holdings of the U. S. Government reached the record of \$23,000,000,000 on Feb. 26, the highest for any nation in the history of the world. This country now owns three-fifths of the world's known supply of monetary gold and is steadily increasing its holdings.

V. D.
Venereal disease among soldiers in the U. S. Army has decreased 40 per cent in the last year, according to Army officials who gave credit largely to new emphasis on moral, spiritual, and psychological treatment of the problem.

Home-Building
Home-building during the last half of 1947 was at the rate of a million units a year and the total year's completion was 834,000 units, according to the National Association of Home Builders. The rate "broke all home-building records."

HOUSING
A housing program that would cost the government about \$1,000,000,000 for the first years has been laid before a Congressional committee by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, (R., Wis.). The measure is intended to encourage the construction of 1,500,000 new homes for the next ten years. A big share would be homes for rent to low-income families.

TIN CANS
The Commerce Department has announced the reimposition of restrictions on the use of tin cans for packaging beer, pet food, coffee, motor oil and other products. The purpose of the restrictions is to save "badly needed tin for the government's strategic stockpile." There will be no specific restrictions on tin cans for food.

MORTGAGE DEBT
The mortgage debt load on small American homes reached a new record high last year of \$11,400,000,000, according to the Home Loan Bank Board. The total was 10 per cent higher than in 1946 and was the highest since 1939, when figures on mortgage recordings were first kept. The figures cover mortgages of \$20,000 or less on non-farm homes.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
A world-wide survey of investments by American citizens in foreign countries is being made by the U. S. Department of State. Questions being asked include the volume of business in 1947, principal business activities, per cent and amount of the total capital controlled by U. S. citizens, and the number of American and foreign employees.

STRIKES
The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that the number of work stoppages due to strikes increased in January—just as they were expected to. The Bureau points out that work stoppages usually increase after the first of the year, but pointed out that the increase this year was less than last year's. About 175 new shut-downs began in January, as against 120 in December, and 320 in January, 1947.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION
The Federal Works Administration, through Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, has asked Congress to pledge \$1,000,000,000 for State highway construction in 1950 and 1951.

TRAFFIC TOLL
The nation's traffic death toll dropped thirteen per cent in January, compared with the same month in 1947, according to the National Safety Council. The January, 1948, toll was 2,130, compared with 2,450 in January, 1947. North Dakota was the only state in the nation which went "through the entire month without a traffic death," according to the Council, which stated that this was the only time in its history that a state has had a death-free month, except for the war years when travel and gasoline were restricted.

AIR ROUTE TO AFRICA
A new direct route between New York and Johannesburg, South Africa, has been opened by the Pan American Airways System. Flights will be made twice a week and will run from New York to the Azores, Dakar, Leopoldville and Johannesburg. The run is being undertaken because of the increase in trade between this country and Africa, particularly South Africa, which last year bought \$500,000,000 worth of goods from the United States.

FARM PRICES
Prices of farm products dropped 9 per cent during the month ended Feb. 15, the sharpest decline since 1920 and 1921, according to the Agriculture Department. Average farm prices on Feb. 15 were 279 per cent of the 1909-14 level, against the peak of 307 per cent on Jan. 15. Prices paid by farmers on Feb. 15 were 248 per cent of the 1909-14 level compared with the record high of 251 per cent the previous month.

EXPORT CURBS
The Commerce Department's new policy of controlling all exports to Europe went into effect on March 1st. The controls will supplement those on scarce items, in effect for some time.

POPULAR ELECTION
Washington—Election of the president and vice-president of the United States by popular vote was recommended in the Northern-Southern Democratic civil rights fight. A constitutional amendment which would radically change the present electoral system was approved unanimously by a house judiciary subcommittee in a deliberately aimed blow at minority influence on major party policies. This amendment, if adopted, would have such far-reaching effects as reducing the "balance of power" influence claimed by the American labor party, which is backing Henry A. Wallace's presidential bid in New York state.

SCHOOL WRECKERS, 9 AND 11
Shreveport, La.—The boys responsible for the destruction of a grammar school here told a juvenile court official that they wrecked the school "because they liked the sound of falling glass." The boys, 9 and 11, accidentally broke a window. Then they broke 149 other windows, entered the school, damaged books, chairs, desks, pictures and a phonograph, and splattered ink and paint over school records.

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Popular Election Vote is Sought

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Rep. Gossett (D., Tex.), author of the amendment, blamed the electoral college system for the present split between President Truman and Southern Democrats backing the president's proposals to lower some racial barriers. "The electoral college," Gossett said, "permits and invites irresponsible control and domination by small, organized minority groups within the large pivotal states."

These minorities, Gossett said, "by voting together can and do hold a balance of power." The result, he added, is that "the political strategists in both parties make special appeals to these various groups."

Southerners have charged that Mr. Truman took his civil rights stand in the hope of capturing one such minority group—the Negroes in New York, Pennsylvania and several other Northern states.

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WASHINGTON NAMESAKE DIES ON FEB. 22

Gettysburg, Pa.—George Wash-

ington, White, 86-year-old resident of nearby Littlestown, was born on George Washington's birthday and named for him. He died, recently—on George Washington's birthday.

THREE IN ONE

You buy one blouse and get the benefit of three—all for only

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- Button the bib on front.
- Wear it without the bib.
- Button the bib around the collar.

Fashioned of washable rayon crepe with simulated pearl buttons and black grosgrain ribbon. White only. Sizes 32-38.

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JANE EVANS handles gentlemen's shirt front tucks with a femme flair! Shows them at their prettiest... this time in a spring-into-summer frock of printed Bemberg sheer. The collar can be buttoned high as a backdrop for your jewelry. White on cornflower blue, leaf green, startle pink, dove grey, and summer luge. Sizes 12 to 20. **\$9.95**

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IF IT IS...LET US REVIVE IT WITH A Complete REBUILDING JOB!
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WIN A COMPLETE BENDIX automatic Home Laundry

IN THIS NEW EASY-TO-ENTER BENDIX CONTEST

Your Chances of Winning Are Excellent for this exciting new contest is open only to you who live in North & South Carolina

FIRST PRIZE A Complete Bendix Automatic Home Laundry. Three wonderful work-savers that wash, dry and iron... all automatically. The famous Bendix Washer, Dryer, and Ironer bring you the glorious freedom of "Push-Button Washdays".

SECOND PRIZE A Deluxe Bendix Automatic Washer in shining silver and gleaming gold.

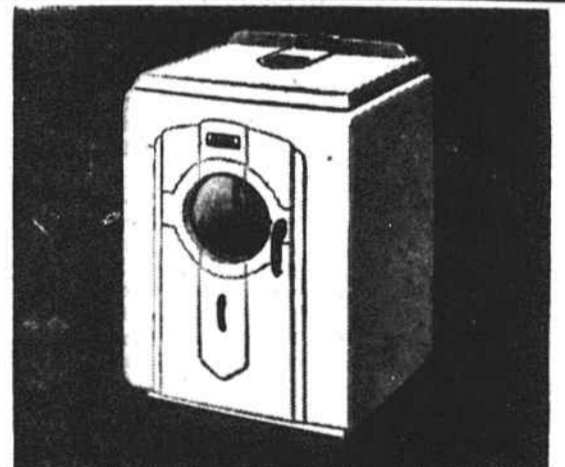
HERE'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO Come in and get an official entry blank. Then finish the following statement in 50 words or less: "My Choice on Washday is Bendix automatic Washer because..." Entries will be judged on sincerity, originality, and aptness of thought. Three competent judges will be supplied by the Charlotte Bendix Distributor. In case of tie, duplicate prizes will be awarded.

CONTEST CLOSES MIDNIGHT, MARCH 31ST.

Prizes to be awarded by Southern Appliances Inc. Bendix Distributor in North and South Carolina.

COME IN FOR COMPLETE DETAILS, HELPFUL HINTS ON HOW TO WIN, AND YOUR OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK. DO IT NOW

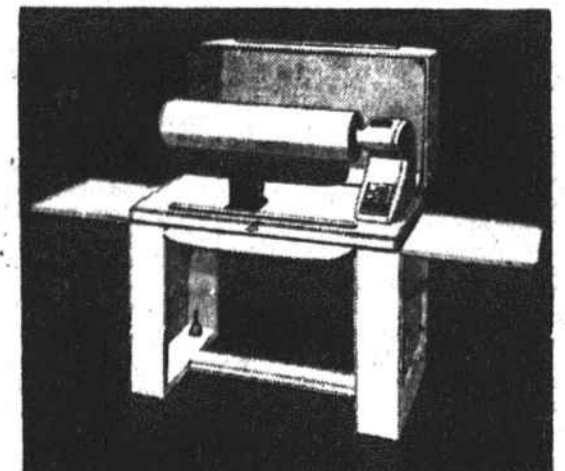
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