

Weems Will Work In New Wales Park

Samuel P. Weems, Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the scenic route link-

Washington Comments

Washington, D. C.—The recent gathering of leaders of Congress at the President's ranch in Texas was a deadly serious business and the decisions made there—and concurred in by opposition Republicans—might be crucial to the nation's stability in the next eighteen months.

President Johnson was not taking the initiative in proposing to cut three billion dollars from the current budget and to trim something from current spending in a sudden move for approval from economic conservatives or in an appeal for voter approval, primarily.

He was acting because there are grim signs that unless the nation balances its budget and its international payments the dollar may at last collapse in international financial circles. Gold has been flowing steadily out of the nation during the sixties.

France is currently seeking to set up a European bank which would add emphasis to gold (and its movement). This could cause serious problems for the dollar and Washington. The French think the pound is highly suspect and that devaluation is only a matter of time.

They are convinced Prime Minister Harold Wilson is going to lose his desperate fight to save the pound and that when the pound is devalued the dollar, too, will have to be devalued, since there are so many foreign countries holding dollars in such great amounts the United States could not redeem them all, in a run, at \$35 an ounce.

Not only foreign governments but foreign banks closely watch the U. S. budget and the U. S. balance of payments. For some years now leading government and private bankers have warned Washington that the dollar (gold) drain must be checked, that the U. S. must balance its international payments. These warnings have, in effect, been ignored.

President Johnson, with his commitment in Vietnam now costing 2½ billions a month (some of this regularly ending up in the Bank of France) is faced with the moment of truth. He courts the real danger of a loss of confidence in the dollar. And unless the dollar can be maintained, the pound will surely collapse—for the dollar has saved the pound in two crises in two years.

Republican congressional leaders know these ominous facts and support the President's proposal to trim five billions from next year's budget; they have, in fact, been preaching this theme in vain in recent years. They see their support of the President in his current course as vindication of their warnings in recent years.

ing Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina-Tennessee, will assist the government of the State of New Wales, Australia, in organizing a national park system and in developing interpretive, training, and other park programs, the Department of Interior announced today.

His assignment, made in response to an invitation from the Minister of Lands of New South Wales and financed by that State, is part of an overall effort on the part of the Department of the Interior's National Park Service to further park conservation activities throughout the world.

National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., said Superintendent Weems is ideally qualified for his new assignment. All of his park career, which has spanned three decades, has been devoted to the development and administration of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the most heavily visited unit of the National Park System. For his outstanding work on the Parkway, he was awarded the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award last spring.

Superintendent Weems will report for duty in Sydney, New South Wales, in January and remain there from 12 to 18 months.

Comment On Lawrence

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Both former President Harry Truman and President Lyndon B. Johnson, commenting on the death of ex-Governor David Lawrence of Pennsylvania, described him as one of the major forces for good in the Democratic Party in recent decades.



"THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!" Mrs. U.S. Savings Bonds—Joan Berry of Lusk, Wyo.—tells Mrs. America contestant, Janeway Murphy, of Eau Claire, Wis., that Savings Bonds are the perfect Christmas gift this year.

Use Christmas Seals, Sales Chairman Asks

With this issue of the Democrat, many merchants remind the public only 13 shopping days remain until Christmas. Additionally postmasters and postal employees are urging residents to mail cards and packages right away.

"They are important suggestions," says Charles H. Blackburn Jr., Seal Campaign Chairman.

"Also of importance is your use of the 1966 Christmas Seals on all mail and packages and your early response to your Christmas Seal letter."

Blackburn says a late count shows that citizens of Watauga County have made much

progress toward the Seals goal set for this year, although others, who are doubtless busy preparing for the holidays, have failed to reply to their Seal letter.

In the next few days, he said, a note will be mailed to "those busy people who have not yet answered their letters. Many firms and individuals of Watauga County have sent their contributions, but many more replies are needed."

Belgian regime plagued by economic troubles.

St. Lawrence Seaway traffic increased.

Where You'll Be Findin' A Gift For The Two Of 'Em...



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Men's Shirts

by Sero - Manhattan H.I.S.

Suits

Slacks & Sport Jackets

Palm Beach - College Hall - H.I.S

Thane Sweaters

Lams Wool & 100% Alpaca In New Holiday Shades

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Billfolds - Men's, Women's Toiletries - Jewelry

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Every Boy Wants a Johnny Speed Race Game \$12.99



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A Delightful Toy For Any Little Girl \$6.99

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CAREFUL, CAREFUL by Mattel \$9.99



FARMERS Hardware & Supply Co.

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Consult

Jerry Coe

about this question:

"Our fireplace damper dropped shut while we were out of the room. I see a \$500 cleaning and repainting bill at least from the smoke damage. Does a Homeowner Policy cover such a loss from smoke damage?"

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