

This Week In Washington

Washington, Dec. 26. (Auto-caster).—Since a day or two after Thanksgiving newly-elected Senators and members of the House of Representatives have been flocking into Washington to make their arrangements for the session which begins on January third. They have occupied themselves with arranging for living quarters for themselves and their families, if any, and putting in their applications for particular offices they desire, which are about to be vacated by members who were not re-elected.

To most of these newcomers the atmosphere of Washington is not entirely unfamiliar, but for many it is the first experience of being on the inside looking out, instead of on the outside looking in.

Naturally they have been making inquiries as to what there is in their new jobs, besides the glory of being in Congress and the task of taking a hand in shaping the Nation's laws. What they have learned about the money value of their jobs has frankly surprised some of them. Few persons outside of Congress realize what a comfortable position financially, Senators and Representatives occupy.

There is a salary, to start with: \$10,000 a year for each member of each House.

20 Cents For Mileage
Then there is the mileage. Every Senator and Representative is entitled to draw 20 cents a mile for the distance from his home to Washington, when the session begins, and back home again when the session ends.

For a member from Maryland or Virginia, who can get to Wash-

ington in an hour or two, the mileage is not a big item; but a member from California gets around \$1,300 each session, while his railroad fare, including a Pullman lower berth, runs to less than \$300, making a thousand dollars' clear profit. He draws his mileage, whether he goes home between sessions or not.

Then comes the item of clerk hire. Each Senator is allowed to hire four clerks and Uncle Sam allows him \$10,320 a year for that service. The only restriction is that he may not call on the Government to pay his secretary or any other clerk more than \$3,900 a year—\$75 a week. Of course, he can pay as much more as he wants to out of his own pocket, and there are instances of wealthy Senators who turn over their own salaries to their secretaries. Most of them are more thrifty, however.

There is no restriction upon whom a Senator or Representative may employ, so many of them put their wives on the payroll as their secretaries and sometimes their sons or daughters as clerks, thus keeping the money in the family.

Vice-President Garner's official secretary for many years has been Mrs. Garner, and it is only fair to say that in the opinion of those who know she does a magnificent job of managing the work of the Vice-President's office, as she did when he was a Representative in the lower house.

Members of the House of Representatives get only a \$5,000 annual allowance for clerk hire, with the same limitation of \$3,900 as the top salary officially paid to a secretary.

Postage Is Free
Then there is free postage. Senators and Representatives have the "franking privilege." They can send letters or any other sort of mail matter anywhere without using stamps.

Another source of revenue for the thrifty Senator or Representative is the stationery allowance of \$125 a year. A member can use up his allowance in carbon paper, rubber bands, erasers and typewriter ribbons, if he wants to; or he need not use any stationery at all, in which case he can draw the full allowance in cash.

Then each member has his own suite or private offices in the handsome marble buildings adjacent to the capitol. The offices are all large and expensively furnished in solid mahogany and leather. Representatives who are not chairmen of committees have to put up with two rooms; Senators get three office rooms and a waiting room. There are private laboratories and baths attached to each of those suites, and a constant supply of clean towels and soap.

A thrifty Representative or Senator really does not need to pay room-rent if he is unmarried; he can set up a comfortable daybed in his inner office and do all his sleeping there. The late Senator Park Thammell of Florida lived in his office for several years and made no bones about it.

Senators get other free services which not all Representatives share. There is the Senate Garage, for instance, underground at the top of Capitol Hill. It has uniformed attendants, comfortable lounging quarters for Senatorial chauffeurs, and space for housing 361 cars. As there are only 96 Senators, this leaves 265 stalls which are allotted to Representatives who are considered to have

Contender Lou Nova P



Lou Nova, whose recent victory over Tommy Farr came as a surprise to a majority of the nation's fight fans, in battling posture before a picture of Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis. Nova ranks second to Tony Galento as championship contender, according to National Boxing association ratings.

special privileges.

Swimming Pool For Senators
In the basement of the Senate office building are the swimming pool and Turkish baths. They give free service to Senators.

The Senate and House barber-shops provide free service, including manicures, for members. For the members of each house there is a private dining room in the Capitol building, where all labor costs and expenses outside of the actual cost of food are paid by the public.

When a Senator or Representative dies the Government gives him a free funeral, usually including the expenses of a committee to escort the body to its final resting place back home. Some such Congressional funerals have cost the taxpayers as much as \$9,000. Nor does the death of a member leave his family entirely destitute, for the widow is given a full year's salary in cash.

There are many minor perquisites which make the job of a Senator or Representative both pleasant and profitable, as the newcomers now in Washington are beginning to find out.

God Bless Us, Every One!
To market, to market,
Our jewels to pawn.
Home again, more of them,
Money is gone.

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Happy and Prosperous NEW YEAR

WE ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE PATRONIZED US DURING 1938 AND PREVIOUS YEARS, AND WE HOPE WE MAY SERVE YOU IN THE FUTURE.

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Happiness and Prosperity.

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during 1938. We deeply appreciate your support
and good-will.

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Happy New Year

Your Sinclair Agent
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and every patron of the
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JOYOUS and PROSPEROUS

1939

SINCLAIR'S POPULARITY IN THIS COMMUNITY IS EVER ON THE INCREASE, MADE POSSIBLE ONLY THROUGH YOUR PATRONAGE, FOR WHICH WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL AND APPRECIATIVE. . . AND IT IS A PRIVILEGE NOW TO TELL YOU SO THRU THIS MEDIUM OF OUTWARDLY EXPRESSING OUR INWARD FEELINGS.

W. J. Bason, Agent