

billions of dollars every year. Russia To Build Up Navy

The practice of government doing things which might According to a forecast of the be better done at less cost by private industry is so British Admiralty last week, Ruswidespread that nobody seems to know just what is sia is to build up its navy within the next two to three years to 30 the actual count of such plants, industries, shops, fac-

tories, offices and counting houses. marines, 500 motor torpedo boats, The directive the White House is drafting to make 1.000 minesweepers. 300 escort vessels, 4,000 naval aircraft, and numsuch an inventory is only a start to come to grips with the problem. Legislation before the House Government Operations Sub-committee to authorize the Presidnt to liquidate commercial-type operations isn't all of the answer, either.

It was a good idea, for instance, to get rid of the R. F. C., but the Congress thereupon substituted the Small Business Administration. It was all right to reduce making paint, but when there was talk of closing down the naval ropewalk at Boston some of the Congressional delegation from there protested as though it was proposed to outlaw the bean and the cod.

It was all right to say the government would get out of the power business, but the protests of the public power people were loud in the land when the Interior Department suggested plans about how to go about doing it.

It was a fine idea to get the government out of rubber manufacturing and tin smelters until somebody got the idea to close the smelter at Texas City. The holler from the Texas delegation had its effect; both House and Senate have passed a bill requiring the government to continue to operate that facility for another year while a commission studies its sale. It would probably be inaccurate to say that the minority leaders of the Senate and House, both from Texas, were disinterested in this particular bit of special treatment.

The big problem any Administration faces when it wants to change a system is the self-interest of many of its own supporters in their own communities. The interest is quite natural, and is a part of the political system. Nonetheless the answer to the problem will always come slowly as long as people say that thus and so is a wonderful idea - for the other fellow.-Wall Street Journal.

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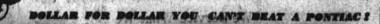
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