

Tomlinson's News Notes

Scanned and Picked up from Here, There and Everywhere
by J. W. Tomlinson

Subversives Off Payroll

A report recently made public in Washington says that 6,926 persons have been removed from the government's payroll as a result of the present administration's security program. Of this number, 1,743 of the persons removed had "subversive data" in their files, 2,611 of the total were listed as discharged and 4,317 as having resigned before final determination of their cases. According to the Civil Service Commission the report covered the period from May 26, 1953 to last June 30. The number separated from their jobs because of information indicating "in varying degrees, subversive activities, subversive associations or membership in subversive organizations" showed an increase of 1,380 since a previous report earlier in the year.

Sales Of U. S. Bonds

The Treasury department reports that sales of United States savings bonds are at a nine year record high. So far this year Americans have bought almost \$3,500,000,000 worth of the bonds.

The report stated that sales have stayed well ahead of cash-ins.

Italians and 1,217 of unknown nationality. The United Nations has returned 8,000 Communist war dead to the Reds.

U. N. Aids Children

Emergency aid projects for children in South Korea, Pakistan, India and Jordan have been approved by the United Nations Children's Fund. Also approved was a \$1,329,800 program for help to 18 Latin-American countries.

All of the projects were voted by the fund's executive board without dissenting votes. However, the Soviet and Czechoslovak members abstained on the allocation for Korea. This calls for \$658,000 to be spent for a milk-feeding program for 2,000,000 Korean children.

The major portion of the funds for Latin America will go to provide maternal and child welfare services and new projects for sanitation and disease control.

Yalta Secret Records

Officials in Washington have announced that the State department will begin publishing in December the secret records of the Yalta and other famous conferences of World War II. Momentous decisions were made at these meetings of President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and other Allied leaders.

Rural Electrification

The Rural Electrification Admin-

istration reports that 92.3 percent of the nation's farms had electric service as of last June 30. This compared with 90.8 percent a year earlier and 77.2 percent at the time of the 1950 census.

Liquidation Of RFC

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation whose liquidation has been ordered by Congress, reports it is making progress toward that end. The corporation has liquidated in nine months about \$307,000,000 in loans, securities and commitments, or promises to lend. It reported, though, it still had \$253,000,000 in such assets on its hands as of last June 30. Other items in the report are:

A loan pool was set up of more than 2,800 business loans totaling \$73,000,000. Under this plan a majority interest in the pool was brought by banks and other investors.

About 146 business loans amounting to more than \$28,000,000 were sold up to June 30 to private lending institutions at face value. The sale of another 18 amounting to \$3,400,000 was authorized.

Through negotiations with banks and borrowers, 217 loans amounting to more than \$17,000,000 were retired six months or more in advance of maturity through refinancing arrangements.

About 273 loans, totaling \$3,700,000, were paid in full six months or more in advance of their maturity dates.

More than \$144,000,000 was returned to the government through the sale and retirement of security issues held by RFC as collateral.

Loss on Crop Support

A Department of Agriculture announcement says that during the year ending June 30 farm price supports cost the government the record sum of \$419,477,000. It stands to lose more than a million dollars more, according to department estimates. Losses occur when the department sells its government-owned surpluses for less than it paid farmers for the commodities under price-support guarantees, plus storage costs. The previous high loss because of price supports was \$343,000,000 for the 1951 fiscal year. Crops in the June 30 accounting included tobacco, cotton, corn, wheat, butter, cheese, cottonseed oil, wool, dried milk, and soybeans.

New FHA Regulations

The Federal Housing Administration put into effect recently the administration's home improvement program and to safeguard home owners from "exploitation by unscrupulous salesmen or dealers." The new regulations include:

(1) FHA will insure only 90 percent of a loan, instead of the full amount, thus requiring the lender to assume ten percent of the risk. FHA said this is aimed at inspiring lenders to look more closely at home improvement loans, including both the borrower's credit and the reputation of the dealer contracting for the work.

(2) Lenders applying for FHA insurance of their home improvement loans must investigate the "reliability, financial responsibility and qualification to perform the work and extend service to the customer" of the dealer who contracts to carry out the job. The lender will be the judge of the dealer's qualifications and he must put his written approval of the dealer in his files.

(3) Repair and modernization loans will be eligible for FHA in-

surance only when the loan is on structures that are complete and that have been occupied for at least six months.

(4) The total of all FHA insured improvement loans on any one property may not exceed \$2,500. Previously the \$2,500 limit applied to each loan.

A Bit Of Humor

In the New York Times Walter Hard tells of the taciturn New Englander who was asked how his wife was and replied in this manner:

"Well, all right, I guess. But you know, last winter I got worried about her. She went out to the barn to do the milkin' and some other chores one late afternoon and the snow was comin' down and the wind was blowin' and ice was formin' and I stood there beside our fireplace lookin' out the window at her 'bout an hour strugglin' with the elements—and you know for a time there, I was afraid I was going to lose her!"

On the first day of hunting season this year in Arkansas, an old man was hunting quail with an ancient pointer. Twice the dog pointed. Each time the old hunter walked over, kicked at the grass, wheeled sharply and fired into empty air. Asked why, the old man explained: "I knew there wasn't no birds in the grass. Old Jim's nose ain't what it used to be. But him and me have seen some wonderful days together. He's still trying hard and it'd be mighty little of me to call him a liar." —Arkansas Baptist.

"Dad," inquired the high school junior, "what can I do when a pretty girl keeps talking to me day after day in class?"

"Well," replied "papa," "you can have your seat changed, of course, but if she's like your mother, she'll get you in the long run, anyway." —Wall Street Journal.

Certified Seed Boosted

North Carolina farmers are being exposed to approximately 2,000 educational posters designed to acquaint them with the merits of certified seed. The posters were distributed by the N. C. Crop Improvement Association, which certifies seed as to quality, purity, and germination.

John Rice, executive director of the association, explains that as new varieties of crops are produced by plant breeders at the North Carolina Experiment Station, small quantities of seed of these crops are transferred to the N. C. Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. This farmer organization is responsible for making seed increase of these new varieties.

Such "increase-fields" are usually on farms of members of the association; all are under direct control of R. W. McMillan, manager of the Foundation Seed Producers. At harvest, these increase-fields of breeder seed are classed as "white tag" foundation seed.

During the growing season, these fields are closely inspected by official crop certifying agency in North Carolina, the Crop Improvement Association.

Purple Tag. Certain seed growers that want to produce registered seed, which bear a purple tag, apply for the production of such a class during field inspection periods. This registered

type of seed is an intermediate class between foundation and certified seed. Such seed must pass field and laboratory inspections.

The largest quantity of the three classes of seed is the certified seed, designated by a Blue Tag. It is unlawful for any seed to be labeled with a blue tag unless it has been approved by the certifying agency. "Farmers recognize this blue tag as a symbol of quality," according to Rice. It represents the true seed variety, identified on the tag. Purity and germination must be above the minimum standards to be eligible for certification.

Certified seed bags carry the printed emblem of the N. C. Crop Improvement Association and the bags are sealed with the official seal of the association. These trademarks are the buyers assurance of high quality seed that have met the rigid standards of certified seed, Rice says.

The educational posters, explaining different classifications, are being distributed to each county agent, vocational agriculture teacher and other agricultural workers. Every retail seed dealer that sells field crop seeds will also receive a poster.

The Crop Improvement Association and Foundation Seed Producers have offices at N. C. State College.

mental examination on December 11 as the first step in the competitive cycle leading to an appointment as midshipman.

Successful candidates will start their Naval careers in colleges and universities across the country in 1955, with substantial financial assistance from the Government. After a normal college education, graduates will be commissioned in the Regular Navy or Marine Corps for active

duty with the Fleet throughout the world.

Male citizens of the United States, between the ages of 17 and 31, are eligible to apply for the NROTC aptitude test. Persons who attain a qualifying score will be given the Navy's rigid midshipman physical examination next February. From the pool of qualified candidates remaining in competition, approximately 1,800 young men will be selected for appointment to the NROTC and the college of their choice.

Students enrolled in the NROTC program will spend their summers on training cruises with the Fleet and will receive \$600 annual retainer pay until commissioned. In addition to the normal college curriculum, the midshipmen will study a planned course in Naval science. All tuition, fees, and books will be furnished by the Navy.

Applicants in this area can obtain the necessary forms from the nearest high school or Navy recruiting station, or by writing direct to the Chief of Naval Personnel, Washington 25, D. C.

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Deadline Dates For NROTC Nears

High School Seniors and graduates have only until November 20 to apply for the Navy's college training program, it was announced today. Candidates who apply for the NROTC will take the qualifying

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