

# LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

**FEDERAL EDUCATION NEW FEDERAL AID SEATES TO CONTROL REORGANIZATION BILL FIGHT IN SENATE AN EXECUTIVE JOB NAVAL CONTROVERSY BATTLESHIPS SUPREME AIRPLANE ADVOCATES BRITISH DECISION**

(By George S. Sims, Washington Correspondent.)

Federal grants to the States for educational purposes have been hastened by the report recently submitted to Congress by the President who received it from an Advisory Committee on Education. Finding "existing inequalities in educational opportunities," which "can be adequately corrected" only by Federal aid, the study recommends the construction of \$855,500,000 in six years, divided into six major funds.

The first, of \$40,000,000 in 1939, and increasing \$20,000,000 a year, would be for general aid in the operation and maintenance of public elementary and secondary schools. A second, from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000 annually, for improvement in the preparation of teachers. The third, \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 annually, for construction of buildings. The fourth, \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, for improvement of State Departments of Education. The fifth, \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000, for civic, general and vocational part-time activities and the sixth, \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000, for rural library service.

The committee insisted upon State control, plainly and exactly established by law, with the exception of a provision that States maintaining separate schools for Negroes provide an equitable distribution of the funds without reducing the proportion of present funds spent on Negro schools. The complete will be State authority that local authorities will have to decide whether parochial and private schools will share in the benefits. However, the advisory group held that the largest share should go to small schools, because the farm population has a disproportionately heavy educational load to be borne on a lower per capita income.

The National Education Association, the largest teachers' organization in the country, gave the report its official commendation after a committee reported that the President favored the main principles, that the money be distributed to equalize educational opportunity for the nation's children and that school control be kept in the hands of the States and local school districts.

It is interesting to point out that Federal grants for educational purposes already exceed \$50,000,000 a year. They include vocational education in public schools, rehabilitation of the physically disabled, instruction at land-grant colleges, agricultural experimentation and agricultural and home economics extension work. The activities would not be interfered with, except possibly to be placed more clearly under State control, and the new grants are to be in addition to the sums appropriated for the purposes mentioned.

The Senate last week debated the administration's reorganization bill with the measure under heavy attack from a group of Senators, loosely identified as the insurgent, or anti-reform. Democrats and Republicans opponents. Several presidents have attempted to solve the problem of administrative efficiency generated by the 135 separate agencies of the government in Washington. In 1932 Congress gave President Hoover power to rearrange the bureaus but with the provision that changes had to be submitted to Congress without effect until sixty days, not even then if either house passed a resolution of disapproval.

The present measure, including the gist of two house bills, provides for submission of reorganization orders to Congress for sixty days, but to prevent any of them from taking effect a bill would have to pass both houses and, if vetoed, secure the necessary two-thirds to thwart the change. Senator Brynes, in charge of the bill, admitted at the outset that no large percentage of the budget can be saved by regrouping agencies and that the only way to save big money "is to stop appropriating money for the agencies."

The Senate bill is in five titles, the first giving the Chief Executive power to reduce or consolidate executive agencies, except a group specifically exempted, including the Federal Reserve System, Federal Power Commission, Interstate Commerce Commission and smaller agencies. Passing over titles two and three for management treatment, title four creates a new department of welfare, with a new cabinet officer, to include about twenty existing agencies. Title five gives the President the six administrative assistants, with power to define rules for their work with various departments.

The two schedules the present

Civil Service Commission and provides a one-man administration, with an advisory board of seven members. It would also authorize the President to extend civil service classification to approximately 200,000 employees, most of whom are in field service. There will be a fight on this title, with considerable talking about the present commission but probably with the 200,000 jobs in the corner of many eyes.

Title three is expected to raise the greatest row. It would revamp the accounting system by abolishing the General Accounting office and the position of Controller General. A budget director, confirmed by the Senate, would take over the accounting work and the controller general's functions, in the hands of an auditor general, to be confined to a post-audit and reports to Congress. Opponents insist on an authority to pass on expenditures before they are made, as was done by Lewis Douglas, who several times prevented what he considered unauthorized activities. Senator Brynes, however, says more than 96 per cent of all spending is done without a ruling from the accounting office, but Senator Byrd reports that the office, over a period of several years ending in 1936, collected \$54,235,000 for the government.

There is some politics wrapped up in the situation. As a general observation, an efficient reorganization of the government agencies will have to be an executive job. Congress is unable to do the job. It cannot keep up with what the various agencies are doing for that matter. Now the passage of the bill is taken for granted and one wonders why there is so much debate. Simply this: opponents of the administration measure fear that when the Senate bill and the House bills go into conference the Administration will bring out what it wants. Therefore the present show of opposition to certain features is designed to prevent their inclusion in any report.

Nearly everyone, as the President says, thinks himself competent to discuss national defense in the most intricate technical details and nowhere is the trait more firmly established than in Congress. Consequently, one finds many divisions of opinion, but chiefly typified by those opposed to increasing naval strength, those advocating reliance upon aircraft for defense and those who accept the expert opinion of naval officers and depend upon battleships. Out of the welter of words will come authorization of a fleet approximately as recommended by the President, with probably additional sums for the development of aircraft and the enlargement of the military establishment.

The President, who served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy during the World War, insists that the battleship is the most effective weapon of naval attack or defense. In his opinion he is backed by Rear Admiral Arthur B. Cooke, chief of the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics, the conclusion of almost all high-ranking naval officers in all countries and the cold fact that other naval powers are hastening the construction of super-battleships.

Admiral Cooke, while admitting that any surface ship can be sunk if hit a sufficient number of times in the right place, points out that a modern, 16-inch gun, battleship can fire in one hour as many as 2,100 pound shells as a force of 450 bombing planes in the same period of time and that it would require about 8,750 airplanes to equal the fire of fifteen battleships. Such an air fleet would have to be replaced every seven years. A fleet of fifteen battleships, with an estimated life of twenty-six years, would cost, at \$70,000,000 each, less than half the amount.

The answer to the aircraft-battleship debate was made some years ago in Great Britain where a civilian board studied the "vulnerability of capital ships to air attacks." The conclusion was: "The advocates of the extreme air view would wish this country to build no capital ships (other powers still continuing to build them). If their theories turn out well-founded, we have wasted some money; if ill-founded, we would in putting them to the test, have lost the empire." That about settles it, for the present!

**Peoples of India**  
India has more than 25 races, speaking 300 different languages. The origin of the first inhabitants of India is lost in antiquity, and invasions of foreign peoples began so early that little of a definite nature is known of them. It is thought that the Dravidian tribes of the central region are probably the nearest in origin to the early race. The most persistent invaders were the Aryans from central Asia, who brought their own language and religion and became overlords in later centuries. In the foothills of the Himalayas are Mongoloid peoples, skin to the yellow race, and in the extreme south are Negroids, of the brown race.

# WOODVILLE NEWS

## CRAZE FOR DARTS SWEEPING ENGLAND

**Interest of Queen Elizabeth Popularizes Game.**

London.—Darts, a game for which is sweeping England, has arrived socially. Formerly identified with the cheapest bar of the corner pub and cloth-capped men drinking beer between throws, the game now has been played, and praised, by the king and queen.

It already was the most popular indoor game in Great Britain, by a wide margin. The patronage of their majesties, however, caused a further spurt. Darts immediately became the fastest selling of all games during the Christmas season; manufacturers have received so many orders they are three months behind on deliveries.

Brewers have not said whether royal patronage of darts has helped the sale of beer, but the brewing industry fathered darts from the beginning as a stimulus to business. It is an almost invariable custom in pubs, each with one or more dart boards, for the loser or losers to buy a round of drinks after each game.

Brewers organize competition in darts and award handsome prizes. In London alone darts contests organized by only one brewery drew 117,000 entries. Brewers, and managers of pubs, organize darts teams which play first in one pub and then in another, thus distributing the business.

It was at Slough social center that King George and Queen Elizabeth made the acquaintance of darts. When they looked in the games room, three games of darts were in progress. The queen commended a good shot and expressed a desire to try. A player immediately handed her three darts.

"Where do I stand? What do I do?" she asked, and was told. She threw three darts for a total score of 21, then handed the darts to the king and asked him to try. The king scored 18 with three darts, throwing with his left hand. He is a southpaw at most things except writing. The king remarked that his wife had beaten him, and added: "Darts is a very good sport." The queen said she had never played before.

## St. Augustine's Historic Past Enriched by Relics

St. Augustine, Fla.—Excavation work being done in connection with the restoration of Fort Marion is bringing to light an abundance of historical relics of Spanish and Indian lore.

Workers at the site have found highly decorated pipes, Indian pottery and other materials buried since construction of the nation's oldest existing military stronghold in 1672.

The relics will be displayed in connection with public educational exhibits planned to outline the historical background of old fortifications.

Fort Marion, known during the period of European domination as Castillo de San Marcos, was established by presidential proclamation as a national monument in 1924. Constructed of sea-shell masonry, the fort is in excellent preservation. It was visited last year by more than a quarter-million persons, the national park service reports.

## Australian Plane Pilot Carries Snake on Trips

Sydney, Australia.—Roger, a "nice, companionable, eight-foot carpet snake," is a regular passenger in planes piloted by Goya Henry, a one-legged airline pilot. "At the start," said Henry, "Roger used to give vent to his ferocity by biting my wooden leg. They always bite until they're friendly." The pilot said he likes snakes like other people like dogs. "I can't get on with dogs. In fact, I'm afraid of them. But a snake is after my own heart. I hope to find Roger a mate soon." As Henry spoke, the snake crawled round his room. "Taking his daily exercise," said the pilot.

## Prices of 100 Years Ago Shown by Old Accounts

Philadelphia.—One hundred years ago whisky sold for 12 1/2 cents a quart, but a better brand brought as much as 16 cents, according to an old account book of the Erie-Grand general store, Upper Merion township. Eight cigars—spelled "sagars" in the accounts—could be bought for 2 cents, but if sold to a heavy smoker 100 would cost only 25 cents, the ledger revealed. Other deals showed that one dozen tin spoons were sold for 1 1/2 cents; one dozen eggs, 12 1/2 cents; a quarter bushel of salt, 2 cents; and one pound of lard, 15 cents.

## Automobile Horn Blowing

Blowing in Jackson, Miss.—Water blower for twenty-one years, a man named "All" with long, wavy hair, and a beard, was seen in the streets of Jackson, Miss. He was blowing a horn that sounded like a steam locomotive.

# WOODVILLE NEWS

The Woman's Missionary Society of Woodville Baptist Church held prayer meeting on Sunday at the church. Miss Beulah Bogue had charge of the program. Miss Myrtle Ownley made a very interesting talk. Mrs. J. A. Bray dismissed the meeting. A large number of the members were present.

Mrs. Wilton Pearce has as her guest her sister-in-law, Miss Marjory Pearce, of Portsmouth, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bogue, Warren and Beulah Bogue and Opaline Cooke were Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Winslow, at Winfall.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bogue, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Spivey, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Spivey were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Sharber, at Newland, on Sunday.

## A Correction

In the item reporting the birthday party of Miss Gazelda Godfrey last week, Miss Godfrey was inadvertently called "Mrs." Gazelda Godfrey. We regret the error.—Editor's Note.

## RYLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Lamb and son, of Center Hill, visited Mr. Lamb's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bum Lamb, Sunday.

Mrs. H. N. Ward visited Mrs. Cornie Spivey one afternoon recently. Mrs. Roy Parks was quite sick several days last week, but was reported to be improving Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Winslow, of Corapeake, visited Mrs. Winslow's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Byrum, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carson Davis and Mrs. Harriett Parks were in Edenton Friday afternoon.

The condition of Mrs. Cornie Spivey is reported not so good. William Ward spent the week-end in Edenton with George Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Ward and two children, Lehman and Faye, were in Edenton Saturday afternoon. Herbert Ray Lane has been confined to his home with measles.

"What the Dickens?" The phrase "what the dickens?" has nothing to do with the name of the English author and was in use centuries before he lived. It is a softer term or euphemism for "devil," probably derived from the diminutive form of Dick, just as Nick was similarly employed. Shakespeare in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" had Mrs. Page say: "I cannot tell what the dickens his name is."



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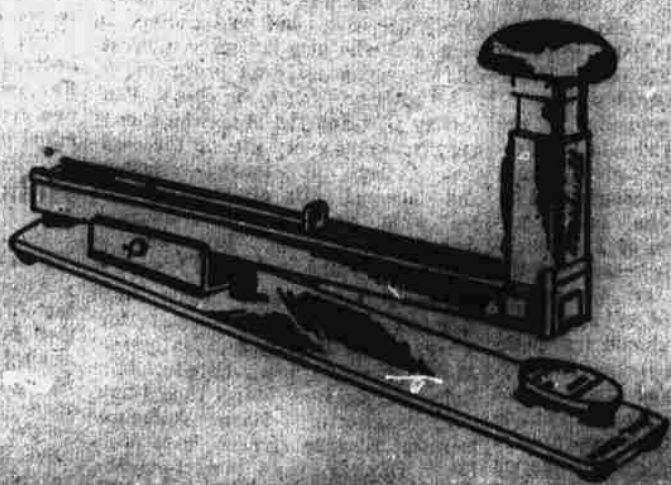


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