

Looking at WASHINGTON

Constitutional Amendment To Limit Presidential Term?

The probability is that a constitutional amendment will be submitted to the various states, designed to set an eight-year limit on the office of President.

The issue has been discussed in this country for many years. It arose when Theodore Roosevelt ran for office but was more widely discussed, of course, when Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for his third term.

There are many Americans who think that it would be wise to limit the term of a President to eight years. They fear that an occupant of the presidential office might manage to create conditions that would practically insure his reelection. There are other Americans who doubt that this is a threat to the Republic and maintain that the people of the nation should have a right to maintain a President in office as long as they wish to do so.

Can 1,000,000 Government Employees Be Spared?

Representative John Taber, of New York, proposes to fire 1,000,000 of the Government's 2,300,000 civilian employees. He points out that in 1939 the Government had only 900,000 employees and that if one million were cut off, the Government would still have 400,000 more than in 1939.

Since there is so much public discussion about the number of Federal employees, it might be a good idea to get a few facts. At the peak of the war effort, June 1945, there were 3,769,646 civilians on the payroll of the Government.

According to the Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures, sometimes referred to as the Byrd Committee, the figure dropped to 2,330,467 in November, 1946. Senator Byrd says that, outside the armed services, there was an increase, not a reduction, in the number of Federal employees.

According to the figures of the Byrd Committee, there were, at the end of last November, 1,240,378 Federal employees inside Continental United States and 56,019 outside Continental United States. To these must be added 783,616 civilian working for the War and Navy Departments in the United States and 250,454 overseas.

This means that Federal employees, excluding the Army and Navy, in November, numbered 1,240,378. In addition, 1,084,070 civilian workers were connected with the armed services. In connection with the 1,240,378 Federal employees, it should be pointed out that the Veterans Administration, which began with 65,000 employees before V-J Day, now employs 217,000 persons. The Postoffice Department had 458,294 on its payrolls at the end of November and the Treasury Department, charged with collecting taxes, had 102,852 on its roster. These three agencies have on their rolls 777,646 of the 1,240,378 civilian employees.

We do not know whether the Veterans Administration, the Post Office Department or the Treasury Department has more employees than they need for the promptness and efficiency that the public desires and expects from them. However, the other agencies of the Government have some 462,000 employees and it might be a good idea to see where the bulk of them are working.

To discover the work done by the other 462,732 employees, one finds 82,114 in the Department of Agriculture, 44,188 in the Interior Department, 35,925 in the Commerce Department, 33,823 in the Department of Justice, 8,526 in the Department of State and about 6,000 in the Department of Labor. These account for approximately 200,000 of the workers.

We have left approximately 264,000 Federal employees. We have not available exact figures on the employment list of a number of war agencies, but in June, 1945, twenty-two of them employed more than 150,000 persons.

In addition, the Government maintains a number of independent agencies, more than thirty in number, including such activities as the Social Security, the TVA, the RFC, the Maritime Commission, the Federal Security Agency and other activities. These employed, in June, 1945, something more than 200,000 workers.

While the figures given in the three paragraphs above are of June, 1945, since that time there have been some reductions which explains why the total, as of June, 1945, exceeds the total as of the time of the other figures used in this article.

From the figures given, the reader of the Weekly will have a fairly accurate picture of the distribution of Federal civilian employees. It will be noted, of course, that the dates given for statistics vary and there may have been some increases and decreases, but the general picture is clear.

Reciprocal Trade Pact

Congress No. 1 Issue

Probably the most important issue to be decided by the Congress is whether the United States will continue its reciprocal trade program in an effort to expand world commerce.

The program, which was vigorously pushed by Secretary of State Cor-

dell Hull, has been as vigorously attacked by certain Republican Congressmen. Senator Butler, of Nebraska, for example, calls it "a gigantic hoax on the American people." Other Republicans have been similarly critical and, recently, some Democrats have taken it upon themselves to answer the Republicans.

Along this line, Eric Johnston, former President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, says that the stand of the Republican Party on the reciprocal trade agreements is "the supreme issue." He urges his party to give full and hearty, not grudging, support to the program.

Mr. Johnston says that the trade pacts are being attacked from all sides, the right and the left, for different reasons. He calls "absurd" the fears of the Conservatives that "the purpose is to tear away the remnants of the tariff structure" and force "free trade on America." He says that this would be as bad as if it would be to scuttle the Army and Navy and promote world peace.

The attack from the left, Mr. Johnston says, is designed to isolate capitalism in America by choking off a revival of international trade. The leftists fear that Europe may return to its rightful place in the community and commerce of free nations.

The Republican business man, now President of the Motion Picture Association, says that a return to a high protective tariff policy would be disastrous and, if adopted, lead to a "whirlwind of economic disaster a few years from now." For this reason, he considers the World Trade Conference, which is to assemble in Geneva in April, as important as the San Francisco Conference which drew the charter for the United Nations. U. S. Must Assume Economic Leadership Or Chaos Inevitable

Willard Thorp, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, says that the trade policy of the United States is designed to "expand world trade—the production and use of goods—so that throughout the world there will be more jobs and more of the things people need and want."

Pointing to the nations stake in world stability, security and prosperity, and saying that it compels us to assume economic leadership, the official points out that the markets of the world must be opened more freely to the products of various countries and warns that if this economic program fails, our political programs will likewise fail.

Asserting that the United States is the only country left in the world that believes in enterprise and competition, Mr. Thorp says that unless there is an expanded international trade, the world will split into economic blocs, as it did in the Thirties, that the "American way of life as we know it will go."

Agriculture Department Explains Potato Situation

The people who are always interested in finding fault with the government have made much of the fact that thousands of bushels of potatoes have spoiled.

Editorials have been written and speeches made with the purpose of questioning the waste while hungry people exist in the world. The answer comes from the Department of

Agriculture, which points out that early in the war there was a scarcity of potatoes. The armies needed them and, under the Stegall Act, the Department was compelled to support prices at ninety per cent of parity. The purpose of the Act was to protect farmers who expanded production during the war from consequences of over-production.

When there seemed to be the promise of sufficient potatoes, the Department of Agriculture cut down potato acreage materially but the growers, counting on the ninety per cent of parity, changed to richer acreage and used heavy fertilizer. The result was an inevitable glut upon the market.

Very few Americans criticized the Government for offering to support agricultural prices in order to encourage farmers to produce food that was necessary to win the war. Having made the promise, the Government was committed to the growers and when too many potatoes were produced, there was nothing that could be done but to pay the growers and let the potatoes rot.

It is pointed out that about 1,000,000 bushels were distributed to school lunch programs and charitable institutions. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration would not take the potatoes because dehydration was too costly and, otherwise, they would spoil in overseas shipment.

Work With Insects Stepped Up By War

The atomic bomb is not the only scientific development that was accelerated by the war-time emergency. From the entomologists' standpoint,

considerable scientific progress was also made.

James T. Conner, Jr., Extension entomologist at State College, points to the development of DDT as an example of this work, and other insecticides which will remove the menace of still more common insect pests may well be anticipated.

For instance, during the war, louse-borne typhus was one of the most dreaded diseases. Entomologists rose to the occasion and brought out a powder known as MYL louse powder which answered the need at first. They then devised a quick, convenient and effective method of delousing individual uniforms with methyl bromide. The use of DDT followed this, as it was found still more effective.

A similar progression was followed with the control of "scrub typhus," a mite-borne disease of the South Pacific. The insect carrying this disease is a close relative of the common chigger. Insecticide after insecticide was used in this treatment, each one progressively better than its predecessor. Finally an emulsion was developed which, by dipping clothing into it, would give mite protection, even after the garment had been laundered.

The final page of the war record of these entomologists was written when they discovered that dipping garments into benzyl benzoate rendered them mite repellent even after five launderings.

With the development of this superior material, Conner says, work to control the common chigger has received added weapons, and it too may soon fall victim to scientific skill.

CHAPANOKE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. David White of Portsmouth visited his mother, Mrs. J. C. White, on Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Paul Vaughan of Portsmouth has returned home after spending the week with her mother, Mrs. Irma Dorsey.

Miss Janet Quincy spent Saturday in Norfolk.

Joe McNider spent Sunday afternoon at Center Hill.

Mrs. Roy Branch of Portsmouth was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Em-

met Stallings, on Friday.

C. P. Quincy has been confined to his bed this week with pleurisy.

Mrs. Roy Pierce and Mrs. W. H. Elliott were in Edenton Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Brendle of Norfolk were guests on Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. George Jackson.

Mrs. J. C. Wilson spent Friday in Elizabeth City.

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