

## Looking at WASHINGTON

### Lobbyists Are Active Promoting Legislation

The campaign of the Department of Justice to enforce the Lobbying Act is apparently producing results although the National Association of Manufacturers has challenged the law as unconstitutional and has the matter pending in the court.

Financial statements filed with the Clerk of the House show that 170 organizations have spent \$1,534,757 during the first three months of 1948. The organization which has spent the most money is the Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons, which has spent \$149,508 in promoting legislation designed to admit DPs into this country.

Lobbying is very often denounced but it is generally recognized as a perfectly legitimate activity under the constitutional right of petition. What has caused most of the denunciation is the fact that lobbyists have done their work in secret, without revealing the true nature of their interest in legislation.

### Admits Defense Requests Are On A Budget Basis

It is an interesting revelation that comes from James V. Forrestal, Secretary of Defense, that he limits the amount which he asks for military rearmament because Congress is not inclined to back economic controls which are necessary to prevent dangerous inflation.

Mr. Forrestal says that the United States has to choose between military and economic risks. He seeks to protect the country but it is necessary to do so in a manner that does not cause the country to "go bust first" before it is armed.

The Secretary of Defense admits that he does not dare ask for a greater expansion of the armed forces because he fears the inflationary effect of additional expenditures. He admits that if Congress were prepared to approve controls to put the nation on a regulated economy, the situation would be different.

It should be noted that Mr. Forrestal has asked Congress to grant

erating electricity knows that water \$3,481,000,000 additional for defense. This, the Congress, it is presumed, is ready to approve. What is not generally known is that the chiefs-of-staff of the Army, Air Force and Navy are each convinced that the proposed program falls short of their respective needs.

General Bradley wants 47,000 additional men for the Army. General Spaatz wants 49,000 additional for the Air Force and Admiral Denfeld says that the Navy needs 116,000 more sailors. Each will be allowed to ask Congress for what he thinks his service needs, but the Secretary of Defense points out that the military leaders are not bound to consider the economic implications of the expenditures but, as the civilian defense chief, he must consider how much the domestic economy can stand without controls.

### Lend-Lease In Peace To Help Anti-Communist Bloc

President Truman recently declared in his message to Congress that the United States would, by appropriate means, extend the free nations of Western Europe the support which the situation requires.

There has been, since the message, some talk of a new lend-lease program, designed to strengthen the military power of the free European nations. Nothing definite has come out officially, but it is generally believed that important conferences are underway in an effort to set up a bipartisan program.

The people of this country should not lose sight of the great potential strength of the free European nations. The West-European Union alone embraces 108,000,000 highly industrialized people and the combined population of the countries participating in the Recovery Program exceeds 225,000,000.

This is a segment of the world's population which can become valuable defenders of the democratic way of life, both in the form of government and in the form of economic assistance. At present, their military planning is somewhat handicapped because the combined forces which they can muster are not yet able to maneuver as a properly balanced military force.

In addition, because of the economic stringency, they face great difficulty in considering the expenditures which would be necessary to equip their forces for effective use. Obviously, a lend-lease program in the United States would overcome this last difficulty.

### House Demand For Letter May Lead To Bitter Fight

Something new in the governmental experience of the United States is the 300-29 vote by which the House of Representatives recently ordered the Secretary of Commerce to produce a part of the confidential loyalty file of Dr. Edward U. Condon.

In March a sub-committee of the House Un-American Activities Committee denounced the Doctor, who happens to be director of the National Bureau of Standards, as "one of the weakest links in our atomic security." The accusation was based, in part, on a letter from the FBI to the Secretary of Commerce, referring to an inquiry into the associations of the Doctor.

A number of scientists throughout the nation immediately jumped to the defense of Dr. Condon and the Department of Commerce announced that its loyalty board unanimously cleared him of any "disloyalty" to the United States. The committee was accused of withholding information favorable to the Doctor.

The next step was taken by the committee which subpoenaed the Secretary of Commerce, W. Averell Har-

man, to produce the full text of the letter. The Secretary declined, saying that such a disclosure would be "prejudicial to the public interest." Subsequently, President Truman, by executive order, ruled that, lest the Federal Loyalty program be damaged or innocent personnel be stigmatized, no department or agency was to honor Congressional subpoenas for confidential files. The President assumed full responsibility for determining what documents, if any, should be released.

This was the situation when the House of Representatives took its extraordinary action by such an overwhelming vote. There is no known precedent for such a situation. While the resolution did not seek the concurrence of the Senate and did not seek to compel the President to comply, it merely directed the Secretary of Commerce to transmit the letter.

Some of the legal experts consider that the proposal represents an unconstitutional violation of the rights of the President. Others express the view that Congress has an "established" right to demand and receive papers from the executive branch, but it is admitted that the Supreme Court has not ruled on the exact question. TVA Finds Power Lobby Fights To Block Funds

The Tennessee Valley Authority has faced a vicious fight by the private power interests since its beginning and the bill now pending in Congress to authorize the Authority to build a \$4,000,000 steam plant in Tennessee, has been vigorously fought by the power lobby.

Nearly everyone who is the least bit familiar with the business of power plants require a certain capacity of steam plants in order to be able to deliver a full load at all times. Gordon C. Clapp, chairman of the TVA, says that before the war the steam capacity of the Authority was about twenty-five per cent of total generating capacity, but now it has dropped to less than twenty per cent. He says that the new plant would bring steam capacity to a little over twenty per cent by 1951.

In the area served by the TVA, Mr. Clapp points out that residential customers have increased consumption by about sixty per cent since 1945. Commercial customers have increased consumption by about sixty per cent. The industrial loads have gone up sharply.

Farm customers of the Authority have shown a phenomenal increase in reports, particularly during the last ten months and 5,000 farms are being added monthly to the cooperatives which purchase their power from TVA.

When TVA "took over" private power company operations in 1933, Mr. Clapp says that consumption was 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours. In 1947 this consumption had increased ten-fold. In 1933, only one farm out of twenty-eight had electric service but today more than one farm out of every two enjoy the convenience that electricity gives. In 1933 farm consumption of electricity was 10,000,000 kilowatt hours but in 1947 the farmers used 300,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity.

Mrs. C. A. Davenport was hostess to her bridge club Thursday evening at her home. Those playing were Mesdames V. N. Darden, H. C. Sullivan, J. H. Newbold, S. P. Jessup, Trim Wilson, J. R. Futrell and Miss Mae Wood Winslow. The high score prize went to Mrs. Darden. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

### HOSTESS TO ROOK CLUB

Mrs. G. R. Tucker was hostess to her rook club Friday evening at her home on Grubb Street. Those enjoying the evening were Mesdames D. F. Reed, J. E. Morris, C. T. Skinner, Carlton Cannon, Julian White, Archie Lane, Oscar Newbold, R. M. Fowler, Crawford Mathews, J. H. Towe, Miss Mildred Reed and Miss Mary Sumner. The high score prize went to Mrs. Cannon, low to Mrs. Reed and floating to Mrs. White. A sweet course was served.

There is no law of God or man which suggests that wealthy criminals should not pay the penalty for their crimes.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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## Cotton Production Hits 452,000 Bales

Production of cotton in North Carolina during the 1947 season totaled 452,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight, or 12,000 bales more than was produced from the 1946 crop, according to Frank Parker, chief statistician of the Federal-State Crop Reporting Service. Ginnings, as enumerated by the Census Bureau, totaled 457,980 running bales.

The acreage harvested during the 1947 season was placed at 647,000 as compared with 570,000 the previous season and a 10-year (1936-45) average of 828,000 acres.

Lint cotton yielded an average of 335 pounds per acre compared with 370 pounds from the 1946 crop and the 10-year average of 348 pounds.

Cotton and cottonseed produced from the 1947 crop was valued at \$87,220,000, compared with \$84,442,000 for that of the 1946 crop. Prices received by farmers for lint cotton sold to May 1 averaged 32.3 cents per pound compared with 32.65 cents for the 1946 season.

The 1947 cotton crop for the United States was 11,851,000 bales of 500 pounds, gross weight. This was slightly over 3 million bales more than the small 1946 crop but 539,000 bales less than the 1936-45 average. The combined value of the national cotton and cottonseed crop was computed at \$2,291,202,000, the second-highest on record.

### State Official To Speak At Negro Finals

S. E. Duncan, State Inspector of Negro high schools for North Carolina, will address the members and friends of the senior class at the 1948 commencement exercises at Hertford High School, it was an-

nounced today by H. E. Brown, principal. The exercises will begin at 11:30 A. M. Thursday, May 27, in the school auditorium. Inspector Duncan was a visitor at the local school last November, and expressed himself as very pleased with the operations of the school.

Baccalaureate services for the seniors will be held Sunday afternoon, May 23, at 3:30. The Rev. Clarence R. Thomas of Wilmington, N. C., will deliver the baccalaureate sermon. The public is cordially invited to attend.



### a salute to tele-farmers

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