

# Looking at WASHINGTON

## R. F. C. INQUIRY MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER

The charges and counter-charges in connection with the senatorial investigation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation drew big headlines early this month. The Senate committee, headed by Senator William J. Fulbright, of Arkansas, continues its investigation for the purpose of demonstrating that in its report the committee was "not talking through its hat."

The RFC is a Federal agency which lends money to financial, industrial and agricultural enterprises that cannot secure credit from private institutions. It was set in motion under the administration of President Herbert Hoover. Its lending practices have been under sharp criticism more than once.

When the committee charged, early in February, that a group of Washington persons—including some members of the presidential circle—exerted influence to get loans for friends or clients, the President, asked to comment on the report, said it was asinine.

Taking what seemed to be the offensive, the President said he found an immense number of letters from Congressmen to the RFC but that nobody seemed to agree that this Congressional activity was exerting undue influence. The disclosure that the President had ordered copies of 800 or 900 letters by Congressmen was taken, in many quarters, to be the equivalent of telling the committee to let his staff alone or that he might be able to reveal some evidence against Members of Congress.

Among the recommendations of the committee, in making its report, was that the Board of Directors of the lending organization be replaced by a single administrator, responsible for all operations. Shortly afterwards, the President submitted a reorganization plan which, in general, followed the committee recommendations but the information was advanced that the Chief Executive had decided upon the plan before he saw the report.

It may be too early to pass judgment upon the charges made by the Fulbright Committee, but it is quite evident that somebody is not telling the truth before the committee. Either the prospective borrowers, who report approaches offering assistance for compensation, or the individuals, who deny the charges, are guilty of perjury.

It is not too early to say that the investigation should be pursued until the true facts are satisfactorily established. There is a deep-seated suspicion throughout the country that men in official positions are often guilty of using their positions improperly, either to give special favors to friends or to advance themselves financially or otherwise. It is well to dissipate the suspicion whenever possible. This can be done by disclosing the facts and by the prosecution of anybody who may be guilty of the practice.

The President, in getting copies of letters written by Congressmen to the RFC, merely emphasized the necessity of a thorough investigation. His maneuver was no reply whatever to the charges made by the committee. The improper use of influence by those connected with the presidential office is not disproved or justified by intimating that other officials of the government have been guilty of the same activity.

**SOLDIERS COST \$10,000-A-YEAR EACH**  
The cost of preparing for war is illustrated by the estimate of the Department of Defense that, under universal military service, it would cost \$10,000 a year to support a man in uniform.

This seems like a great deal of money and, to many Americans, an exorbitant amount. Nevertheless, when one considers the training, upkeep with the extensive services maintained for his welfare, the \$10,000-a-man

## doesn't seem to be excessive. SPECULATION AS TO SOVIET ARMED FORCES

The Soviet Government, in a recent note to Great Britain, gives for the first time in postwar history, its estimate of the present size of the Russian Army, Navy and Air Force. The figure, cited by Moscow, is 2,500,000, counting land forces, air forces and the navy. This, according to the Russians, is equal to the numerical strength of the armed forces of the Soviet Republic in 1939, before the outbreak of the second World War, and less than half of the numerical strength of the armed forces of France, Great Britain and the United States.

The Soviet Government links the three powers together, as one military force, "first and foremost because the armed forces of these countries are not three independent armies but one army combined by American military men and put under the command of the American General Eisenhower." These forces are estimated at more than five million.

The Soviet figures differ considerably from those recently discussed in Washington, where estimates of the Soviet land forces have been 2,500,000 to 3,000,000, with an additional million for sea and air forces. Data presented to a Congressional committee recently estimated the armed forces of the Soviet and its satellite nations at nearly 5,000,000 men, making up at least 175 divisions. Soviet troops alone were estimated at 4,000,000. These figures are exclusive of Communist China. Against this, the estimate in Washington, is that the North Atlantic Treaty Nations have 4,500,000 men in their air, sea and ground forces with about 2,600,000 in ground forces.

There is no way for anybody in this country to know whether the Soviet figures are approximately correct or not. The natural tendency will be to suspect that Moscow has under-estimated its strength. Even if this suspicion is unfounded, one should not overlook the fact that, despite the force maintained by the United States, the disparity of military strength in Europe is what makes the present situation dangerous. Even if the Moscow figures are correct, they dem-

onstrate that Russia maintains an armed force thoroughly capable of overrunning Western Europe and that, without counting upon the United States, the free nations of Europe have practically no chance of containing a Russian aggression.

## MISTAKES IN INCOME TAX RETURNS

As millions of Americans prepare to make their annual income tax returns, it is interesting to note that George J. Schoeneman, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, estimates that the Government loses as much as \$1,500,000,000 a year through faulty income tax returns.

The Federal official reports that nearly 14,000,000 Americans made mistakes in their returns last year and that, after checking them, the Government collected about \$1,800,000,000 additional. He thinks that if every return could be correctly prepared, the Government would pick up an additional billion dollars.

Mr. Schoeneman thinks that the big majority of taxpayers are truthful and that their errors are "honest." He admits that the Bureau does not "interpret" of deductions.

It should be understood, of course, that the Commissioner does not refer to the efforts of some taxpayers to escape payment by making dishonest and fraudulent returns. There is no way to estimate what the Government loses from this "calculated risk" on the part of the tax-dodger but it must be tremendous.

In connection with the enforcement of tariff rates, the Government has a system under which informers are rewarded for reporting delinquencies. It might be a good idea to have something of the same incentive to encourage the collection of information as to willful income-tax evasions. No reward should go to an informer unless the data made available to the

Government reveal a fraudulent intent on the part of the taxpayer or a failure of a taxpayer to report actual income.

## Military Duties Will Not Interrupt GI's Who Attend School

World War II veterans now in active military service, attending school under the GI Bill during their spare time, will be able to resume their courses after the July 25, 1951 training cut-off date, if they are forced to interrupt their studies because of military duties or transfer, the Veterans Administration Region Office at Winston-Salem announced.

They will be allowed to continue training within a reasonable period after their release from active duty—even though they do not get out until after the cut-off date.

In fact, the VA added, when they do re-enter GI Bill training, they may step up the part-time training taken while in uniform to full-time courses.

However, the VA said, a veteran taking a GI Bill correspondence course while in service or otherwise may not, after the cut-off date, which to classroom training, regardless of whether it's in the same or any other field of study.

Veterans whose training is interrupted by military service must meet three requirements if they expect to return to training after the cut-off date, the VA said. They are: conduct and progress in their GI Bill course must have been satisfactory; period of training obtained after they got out of uniform will be limited to their remaining GI Bill entitlement; and the course may not extend beyond final deadline of the GI Bill program on July 25, 1956.

## 25,970 Licenses Issued To Drive In February

Driver's license examiners of the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles issued a total of 25,970 driver's licenses during February, the Department reports.

Of the number, 22,663 were operator's licenses issued on new applications, 2,014 were duplicate operator's licenses, and 1,197 were chauffeur's licenses.

Net revenue from issuance of licenses was \$61,523.25, with \$60,935.50 coming from original operator's licenses, \$2,199 from original chauffeur's licenses and \$1,379.75 from duplicate operator's and chauffeur's licenses.

## TRY A WEEKLY CLASSIFIED AD

## CHAPPELL - HOLLOWELL

The marriage of Miss Rita Hollowell of Tyner, North Carolina, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Hollowell to Maynard H. Chappell of Hobbsville, North Carolina, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hollowell, took place Saturday afternoon, March 3, at 2:00 o'clock in the Edenton Baptist parsonage, with the Rev. R. N. Carroll performing the double ring ceremony.

The bride was attired in an aqua and brown checked suit with pink and brown accessories. Her shoulder corsage was a lavender purple-throated orchid.

The only attendants were Miss Lottie Ann Leary of Tyner and Wallace W. Hobbs of Hobbsville.

After a short wedding trip to the western part of the state, the bride will reside at the home of her parents while the groom will begin his training in the armed forces.

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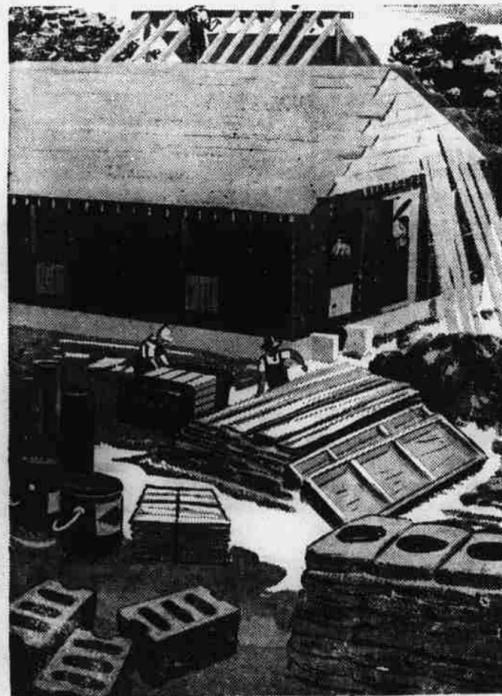
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