



CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE HOOPER REPORT

According to former President Hoover, forty-five per cent of the recommendations made by the Hoover Commission for efficiency in government have not been acted upon. Some of the reforms advocated by the Hoover Commission require congressional action and some of the reforms require presidential action.

Still to be approved are recommendations to modernize checking, obsolete civil service operations, unify Federal medical and hospital services which are now scattered among various civilian and military agencies, stream-line the politically potent Agricultural Department, reform post office procedures, get rid of 22,000 postmasters and 30,000 rural mail carriers named by the political party in power, end duplication of engineering activities by the Civilian Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers of the Army and obtain a real reform of the Veterans Administration.

Dr. Robert L. Johnson, of Temple University, who is head of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report, realizes that there is very little time left to push the necessary measures through Congress. Dr. Johnson has indicated that his group will disband this spring after it makes one more final drive to obtain these needed reforms. The reason why the group plans to disband is to avoid involvement in politics. At a time when waste is prevalent and taxes high, it is unfortunate that our leaders cannot join together in forcing these reforms which would have the taxpayer money and would work toward more efficiency in government.

We are sorry to see Dr. Johnson's group disband because we realize the need for strong citizens committees working to offset the concentrated and powerful interests of those seeking appropriations opposed to the public interests. As Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois has so aptly put it, "a broad constituent group of citizens representing both parties" is needed "to ride herd on the procurement officers of the military establishments where the greatest waste occurs."

UPHOLDING THE FEINBERG LAW

Recently the United States Supreme Court, in a split decision of six to

three, upheld New York State's Feinberg law. This law bars from employment in the public schools anyone who advocates overthrowing the Government of the United States by force or anyone who belongs to any organization which advocates this, "in the absence of a showing that such membership has been terminated in good faith."

Justices Black and Douglas, who voted against upholding the New York law, stated that the law was based on the ugly principle of guilt by association. Justice Black went so far as to say that under the law it would be dangerous for a teacher "to think or say anything except what a transient majority happened to approve at the moment." The chief dissenter, Justice Frankfurter, raised a technical argument that one of the plaintiffs had been actually hurt and that thus the constitutional issue was abstract and speculative.

The majority of the Supreme Court Justices felt that a state has a constitutional right to protect its children from that subversive propaganda which a Community Party member would try to disseminate. They found that the Feinberg law was not unconstitutional.

The New York Board of Regents, under the Feinberg law, is empowered to list subversive organizations and to establish the procedure for the hearings for those teachers accused under the provisions of the law.

We will watch with a great deal of interest the administration of this law for, while we agree with a majority of the Court that the State has a right to pass such a law, we recognize that improper administration could have the result of curtailing individual liberty and freedom of expression.

Certainly a state should have the right to prevent those who advocate the overthrow of our government from teaching in the public schools. The danger lies, however, in the fact that some state legislatures may want to go even further. It would, of course, be highly improper and unconstitutional to forbid one from teaching in the public schools who had a different political philosophy than do the legislators. We should be tolerant of other people's beliefs as long as they are willing to submit their beliefs to the will of the people, but when they advocate the

overthrow of the government to establish their political beliefs, then they become a serious menace to the peace of the nation.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Vice-President of General Electric, Dr. W. R. C. Baker, recently proposed before the National Convention of Institute of Radio Engineers that a "whole-hearted investigation to determine the overall efficiency and the extent of duplication of governmental research and development" be made by select engineers from industry and education.

While Dr. Baker is alarmed by the extent of federal participation in research and development and feels that research and development is more than half socialized, he also points out that "there are areas so great in the public interest, in which benefits accrue so broadly" such as in the field of weather research, the creation of crops which resist insects and blights, the extraction of portable fresh water from salt water, and research aimed at reducing the \$12 billion annual cost of deterioration, that the Federal Government must continue to be very active in this field.

It has been estimated that during 1952 the country will spend about \$3 billion on research and development. More than half of this amount will be financed by the Federal Government while the remainder, or about \$1 1/2 billion, will be financed by all other sources which include institutions, universities and colleges, foundations and industry.

YOUR-BUYING POWER IN 1939 AND NOW

Government experts say that the average U. S. income, in terms of buying power, goes forty per cent further today than it did in 1939, the year World War II broke out in Europe.

With this statement, many citizens are likely to express sharp disagreement but government experts say they can prove it. The Government's statisticians say per capita incomes in 1939 averaged \$526. Last year, they averaged \$1,443. After the Government experts deduct taxes and translate the cheaper 1951 dollar into the equivalent of a 1939 dollar, they come up with a figure of \$750. This \$750 is forty per cent higher than the 1939 average of \$536.

During the war when goods were comparatively scarce, Americans saved money and bought many war bonds. They had more cash and fewer goods and luxuries. However, that trend ended with the end of the war and the resumption of civilian production. Today, more people have deep freezers, television sets, and other luxuries and conveniences than ever before and, as a result, have less cash. In other words, they are making their average per capita income (in terms of 1939 dollars) of \$750 do more than the average \$536 did in 1939.

The Government calculators are quick to admit there are certain white-collar groups, which are not in average circumstances and who are suffering today from a reduction of buying power which they have experienced or are experiencing. This group includes many who are on fixed-income pensions or old-age assistance. These are the citizens who are enduring real hardship, the Government experts say.

The average American, however, is far better off today than in 1939, the statisticians insist, even though they admit he pays \$184 in taxes today, compared with \$18 in taxes in 1939.

Health and Beauty

By Dr. Sophia Brunson
CHALK BONES
Years ago I knew of a family whose bones were so fragile that the chil-

dren constantly were in trouble with fractured bones.

Reading through a recent copy of "Time," I observed a picture of a little boy crouching under a table. When guests enter the room he is so fearful that they might pick him up or otherwise inadvertently cause a bone to break, that he avoids contact by retreating under the table and remaining there until they leave.

This child was born with several broken ribs and a broken arm. He was only four months old when he broke a leg lying in his cradle. A doctor while endeavoring to examine this afflicted leg, broke the other one. This poor child has had 106 fractures of bones. A two-year old brother bumped into him and caused his leg to break again.

He has what is known as fragilitas ossium (it means brittleness of the bones). This condition is due to the fact that the bone forming cells of the body do not produce enough bone-forming material. All of his bones are weak, porous, thin, and very brittle.

This child cannot walk. He propels himself by squatting on a roller skate and making it serve the purpose of a scooter. A teacher comes and spends about two hours with him each day. His father is a railway worker. His mother gently picks him up by the hips. She is afraid to grasp him under the arms.

He is extremely careful to avoid as far as possible striking furniture or anything that might possibly break a bone. But he keeps out of the way of visitors because he never knows what they will do to him. His seat under the table is the safest place for him, for grown people cannot get at him there.

He is afraid to play with children. His mother lives in dread of the child's breaking more bones. This little boy has four brothers, all of whom are normal. Though it is generally believed that fragilitas ossium is a hereditary disease, it does not appear to be true in this case.

to do with improving the condition of the boy's bones. He has been fed on

a well-balanced diet and given calcium in hopes that it would become incorporated into his bones, but so far nothing seems to do any good.

It is possible that a high organic calcium diet might have had some influence if the mother had subsisted on a high calcium diet before the birth of the child.


Probably, the condition will im-

prove as the boy grows up. Some hormone deficiency may be at the bottom of the trouble. Later on, he will be able to take hormones.

There are 44,000,000 families in the U. S.—which gives you an idea of the relative importance of your tribe.

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