

The WEEKLY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Social Security Tangle Will Require Largest New Agency Yet; AAA About To Decentralize Its "Factory" Into Field Offices; Cigarette Paper Feud Threatening Tariff Treaty With France; Negro Congressman Slipped By Stating He Opposed Lynch Bill.

by DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

Washington—The new Social Security Board is expecting a maelstrom of confusion on January 1, when the social securities law goes into effect.

Reason is this: Under the Act, each of the forty-eight States is granted the right to write its own laws, determine its own method of collection, establish its own local agencies.

And according to reports received by the Board, each State is doing its utmost to be original. Coordinating the thousands of varying details which must result will be one of the most difficult clerical jobs of the New Deal.

In preparation, for example, Frank John Winant, Security Administrator, is preparing to hire regiments of clerks, accountants and attorneys, to sort, handle, and untangle the reports of every employer of more than ten people in the United States. Afterwards he will have to check these reports against State records and then against his own.

Result probably will be the largest bureau in Washington, outnumbering Harry Hopkins' army of 25,000.

AAA Decentralization
Rulers of the AAA have embarked quietly on a program of decentralizing their vast administrative organization.

Tentative plans have been approved for the transfer of most of the 3,500 clerical workers in the AAA "factory" to regional offices. The "factory" is the division where farmers' accounts are audited for benefit payments.

Final decentralization depends on results obtained in an experimental field office set up in Ohio. If the proposed system works out there, it will be adopted nationally.

By dividing the work among a number of regional offices, located near the farmers they serve, Triple-A chiefs believe greater speed and efficiency can be secured in handling benefit checks.

At present farmers' checks sometimes are held up for months in the central office in Washington. Since each regional office would handle only those checks from its area, the task of getting them out should be greatly expedited.

In preparation for the new plan, employees in the AAA "factory" have been asked to designate the state to which they would like to be sent.

Return J. Meigs
In the long, high-ceilinged corridor outside Postmaster General Jim Farley's private office is an interesting historical exhibit.

Hung on the walls are portraits of every Postmaster General since the beginning of the Union. One of these, bearing the unusual name "Return J. Meigs," always attracts the attention of visitors.

The guides tell this story of how the gentleman in the portrait got his name:

"Mr. Meigs was Postmaster General from 1814 to 1823. Behind his name is a tender romantic story. In his youth, Meigs' father wooed a beautiful but indifferent young lady.

"One night, in despair, he told her he was leaving, never to return, unless she promised to marry him. The girl remained indifferent. Young Meigs mounted his horse and rode away. But, as he was about to turn a bend and disappear from her sight, he heard her call, 'Return, J. Meigs.'

"In memory of that moment they gave that name to their first born who later became Postmaster General."

Conservation Conscious
Certain moving picture producers are becoming conservation-conscious—under pressure from Secretary Harold Ickes.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer already has contributed \$5,000 to the cause, and several other concerns also may be "persuaded" to chip in. It happened this way:

Last session, Congress passed an act creating a National Park Trust Fund, to which conservation enthusiasts could contribute for the development of national parks, game preserves, wild fowl sanctuaries and the like.

While the bill was still under consideration, Metro-Goldwyn-Ma-

yer produced the very successful picture "Sequoia," using one of the Pacific coast national parks as a background. This was done with the permission of the Interior Department. But after the movie was completed, the National Park Service charged the company with considerable damage to the park.

Ickes sent a bill. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer protested, but after the Trust Fund act was passed it sent a check of \$5,000 as a "voluntary" contribution.

The money was accepted. Also, it gave Ickes an idea. When other movie companies recently asked for permission to use national park property he gave his approval—on condition that they make a "voluntary" contribution to the Trust Fund of \$1,500 a week during the period they occupied the Government reservation.

New Deal Pictures
There are no pictures on the walls of the director of Art Projects in WPA. Holger Cahill, who provides for hundreds of paintings daily, must stare at blank walls because Mrs. Evelyn Walsh McLean, when she rented her famous mansion to the Government, said: "No tacks in the walls."

Cahill is too busy to look at the walls much anyhow. He chews gum rapidly, and talks in an incisive manner.

"This is a lot more than Relief work. We're knocking down some old ideas—or trying to. One is that a young artist must go to Paris to study. That's all bunk. America is the place for an American artist to study.

"Another is that you have to be rich to be a patron of art. Absurd! Everybody should be a patron of art. You, and I, and John Jones. We need it in our homes, and the artists need a chance to express themselves.

"Expensive? Yes, it is now, because they have so little work to do, and when they sell a picture, once in a coon's age, they have to get a small fortune for it."

Cahill's job is to take artists who are out of work—and on Relief—and put them to work making something somebody wants.

"These people are not creating in a vacuum. We're not having them paint just to satisfy their souls. There's a demand for what they're doing—a market."

He produces a project application, the latest one that has come to his desk. It provides for sculpting a memorial statue in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Mayor of Lincoln has signed it, promising to provide materials. It cites the name of the artist who will do the jobs, and the Work Relief wage he will receive from the Government.

"We're doing this all over the country," says Cahill, "except in one or two states. We couldn't find any unemployed artists in Idaho."

The busiest center for WPA art is New York, where there are 1,119 artists employed in painting, sculpting, or in teaching others how.

"It's a great job I've got. There's only one thing wrong with it. I would like to have a few pictures on the wall."

Slip Of The Tongue
One slip of the tongue by Arthur Mitchell, lone Negro member of Congress, may cost him his seat next election.

During the debate on the anti-lynching bill at the last session, Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina delivered a scathing attack on the measure.

Immediately afterward, Congressman Mitchell rushed into Smith's office, congratulated him. He said he was vigorously opposed to the anti-lynching bill.

News of this incident leaked to the Negro press, has caused a storm of criticism against Mitchell.

Cigarette Paper
A long-standing feud between rival American tobacco interests over cigarette paper is threatening to upset the apple cart in Secretary Cordell Hull's secret negotiations for a reciprocal tariff agreement with France.

Cigarette paper is one of the three largest items of U. S. imports from France. Yearly shipments of this commodity amount to around \$4,000,000. Only wines, spirits and lace exceed this figure. All the French paper that comes to this country goes to the

French Government's demand for a cut in the duty.

But the domestic paper industry plus the independent tobacco companies, which are unable to get any of the French paper, are strenuously opposing the cut.

Merry-Go-Round

The old, large-size currency notes are still flowing into the Treasury. So far this year, about \$40,000,000 worth of them have been received. Treasury officials estimate that there is still more than \$250,000,000 outstanding. When turned in, the bills are destroyed and the new, smaller-sized notes issued in their place. . . . After more than a year's delay, the Federal Reserve System will soon begin construction of its new \$5,000,000 building in the Capital. The long hitch was due to the inability of the Federal Reserve to obtain possession of the ground on which its new home will stand, because it was occupied by war-time shacks housing the Federal Trade Commission.

The problem of finding new quarters for the FTC was finally solved by the Government leasing several down-town apartment houses and evicting the tenants, among them Supreme Court Justice McReynolds. . . . For advice on matters relating to cooperatives, Under-Secretary Rex Tugwell's Resettlement Administration has obtained the services of Howard C. Cowden, Kansas City, head of one of the largest co-ops in the country. Cowden's organization recently bought 20,000 carloads of gasoline in one lot. . . . In order to speed up Federal projects in his district, Chairman Sam Rayburn, of the House Interstate Commerce Committee, is commuting several times a month between his Texas home and Washington.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WEEKLY BUSINESS SURVEY

The cold snap that struck scattered areas of the country recently resulted in a brisk pickup in retail trade, but in many sections, including the East and South, unseasonably warm weather continued to have a depressing effect, according to reports to the Department of Commerce from more than 30 of the leading commercial regions of the country.

Wholesale lines reacted accordingly, with continued heavy demand for wearing apparel and holiday items. Reports referred to the backlog of reserve buying power that is expected to bear down heavily on retail stocks with the advent of cold weather.

In many regions holiday buying was in progress in addition to generous purchasing of better quality goods in staple lines. Notwithstanding the delayed pace of Winter business, in most instances the volume was running ahead of a year ago. Department store sales throughout the United States in October were 6% ahead of the same month last year, while in small towns and rural areas general merchandise sales were 17% greater than October a year ago and 31% ahead of the 1933 month.

Reports indicated WPA projects were absorbing thousands of additional employables in all sections of the country and that private industrial expansions were also making increased demands on the unemployed rolls. This was particularly true of the industrial centers of Detroit, Cleveland and Pittsburgh, but also extended to the Pacific Coast. A strong upswing in the woolen textile industry was reported, with unfilled orders for woven piece goods having been estimated at 48,575,000 yards. In the woolen center of Lawrence, Mass. the monthly payroll increased from \$990,000 in October 1934 to \$1,733,000 last month while the city's payroll lists increased by 10,932 workers in the same period and relief families were reduced from 1,044 to 434. Cotton mills also set a faster pace in October, having consumed 552,187 bales of lint and 67,106 of linters, compared with 449,126 and 61,127 during September.

Bank deposits continued at a high peak with Christmas Saving Clubs preparing to release a huge accumulation of cash.

Figures by experts in the Department of Commerce on national income placed the depression cost to the people of the United States at \$26,631,000,000, the huge sum being equivalent to an annual salary of \$2,663 for 10,000,000 men. From a record high of \$81,034,000,000 in 1929, income slumped to \$29,545,000,000 in 1932 but rose to \$43,561,000,000 last year. Agricultural income showed the largest decline from 1929 to 1932 and the largest relative improvement since 1932, having gained 91% from 1932 to 1934, while manufacturing gained 74%, according to the survey. Atlanta reported that all but \$400,000 of the \$3,253,000 loaned Georgia farmers this year through the



Peticoat Government in Linndale, Ohio
CLEVELAND . . . The women of Linndale, a suburban town near here, decided to "clean house" politically, and succeeded in electing a slate of their own which included mayor, treasurer, clerk and two of six councilmen. The new bosses were photographed above at the first town meeting. Left to right, Mary Roginsky, treasurer, Ann C. Lakowitz, mayor and Helen Lashutka, clerk.

Sparta High School News

Third Grade Entertains
Under the direction of their teacher, Miss Annie Sue McMillan, the third grade pupils presented a Thanksgiving program in the school auditorium on Wednesday morning, November 27.

The following are the numbers as given:
Song, "Thanksgiving," all; Bible reading, Hattie Cook; prayer, all; poem, Thomas Zack Osborne; poem, Elva Kirby; poem, Peggy Cook; poem, Eva Edwards, and

Pilgrim parade, Lucille Mitchell, Kathleen Harris, Harriette Crutchfield, Bert Wagoner, Roy Collins, Patsy Ray Burgess and Irene Hendrix.

The school is observing Thursday and Friday of this week as Thanksgiving holidays.

Honor Roll for Third Month

First Grade—A: Dale Andrews, D. C. Bledsoe, Jr., Nelson Clyde Gibson, Thomas Johnson, Billy Reeves, George Roe, Upton Andrews, Doris Collins, Naomi Douglas, Evelyn Mitchell, Doris Weyman.

First Grade—B: Clive Pardue, Joe Bill Moxley, Glenn Goodman, Burton Edwards, J. M. Bennett, Rosalee Pruitt, Ennice Maines, Ruth Sexton.

Second Grade: George R. Crouse, Dean Edwards, Harold Irwin, Wade Irwin, James Poole, Dodge Sexton, Billy Sexton. Char-

les Dillard, Rosamond Doughton, Georgia Goodman, Lessie Goodman, Winnie Mae Goodman, Elton Hardin, Maybelline Richardson, Mattie Lee Sanders, Virginia Phipps, Bettie Joe Todd, Virginia Ann Johnson.

Fourth Grade: Dorothy Truitt, Jessie Gwyn Woodruff, Glenna Duncan, Mary Ross, Anna Rose Reeves, Gene Blevins, Charlie Doughton, Jay Duncan, Ray Smith, James Dee McKnight, Bobby McMillan, John Higgins, Jr., James Hardin.

Fifth Grade: Mabel Ayers, Virginia Gentry, Blanche Hendrix, Katherine McMillan, Ethel Poole, Iris Poole, Doris Richardson, Una Lee Richardson, Dorothy Wayman, Robert Berry, Bill Alex Gibson, Robert Morton.

Sixth Grade: Nannie Andrews, Mildred Bennett, Emogene Choate, Wanda Choate, Louise Miles, Freddie Sue Sexton, Margaret Sexton, Mildred Wagoner, Blanch Wagoner, Marie Bray.

Seventh Grade: Louise Edwards, Marie Evans, Lois Reeves, Myrtle Truitt, Rose Wagoner, Guy McCann.

Eighth Grade: Louis Irwin, Robert Nicholson, Jr., Beulah Estep, Madeline Sheperd, Emoryetta Reeves, Francis Wrench.

Ninth Grade: Minnie Richardson, Edna Edwards, Pauline Edwards, Alma York, Virginia Joines, Pauline Sexton.

Tenth Grade: Hattie Maines, Jay Sexton, Wilma Wilson, Flora Crouse, Minnie Edwards, Cleo Jones.

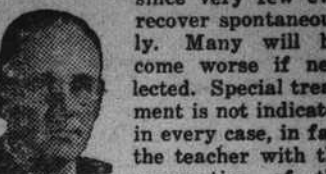
Eleventh Grade: Florence Warren, Louise Monhollen, Grace York, Madelyn Wagoner, Carolyn Maxwell, Susie Osborne.

YOUR CHILD AND THE SCHOOL

By Dr. ALLEN G. IRELAND
Director, Physical and Health Education
New Jersey State Department of Public Instruction

Children with Speech Defects—1

Probably nine out of ten cases of speech defect—stuttering and the like—in children are curable. They all need attention, however, since very few ever recover spontaneously. Many will become worse if neglected. Special treatment is not indicated in every case, in fact the cooperation of the



parents will be able to bring about a marked improvement for the majority. The chief essentials are patience and sympathetic understanding. Suggestions to parents and teachers are as follows:

Attention to general health is important; fresh air, play, nutrition, sleep, assist in reducing nervousness.

Teach proper breathing. Slow, steady inhalations; full expansion; and slow, steady exhalations.

Insist upon slow speech. If a pupil stammers, have him stop talking for a moment. Every syllable should be spoken distinctly.

Exercises in talking should proceed slowly from simple to complex. Limitation of good speech is essential.

Self-confidence must be aroused. Fear, emotional excitement and nervousness attending speech must be avoided. Great tact is called for at all times.

Dad—Sonny, they can't tell me anything about the horrors of war. In the battle of Verdun my head was grazed by a German bullet.

Sonny—There ain't much to graze on there now, is there, Dad?



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