You live in a world that is striving to uplift itself; one of these uplift devices is the Christmas spirit—a spirit that is as truly re-making human nature as the sun is giving us light and life. How impoverished, how deadened life would be without the inspiration of Jesus Christ!

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

16 PAGES, PART 1

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Christmas Light

LIGHT . . . that's what Christmas means, you know;
LIGHT of spirit to a troubled land,
LIGHT of soul to conquer flesh and lust—
LIGHT to point our steps where we can stand
IN the realm of happiness with friends,
IN the place where Peace, Goodwill abound—
ISN'T that what God intended for
ALL His children, the whole world around?
LIGHT, then, is the symbol of this Day.
LIGHT, though it may come from sun or star,
OR from lesser bodies in the world,
TOUCHES us, whoe'er, where'er we are,
MAY the LIGHT of Christmas shine this year
AS it always has in days of yore;
IT—and it alone—will guide us right,
GIVE us all we need from God's own store.
NONE of us can shine like sun or star;
YET e'en a single candle lights the night;
AND each of us, who'er, where'er we are,
CAN send forth gleaming rays of Christmas LIGHT!

—G. R. A.

Golf is about as restful, says the Cynic, as running a concrete mixer or feeding a hay baler. And not as profitable.

Human knees are parts of human legs, and help people to walk around, also enable them to sit down. Most bare human knees look better when shielded from sight. Both men's and women's knees look knotted and wrinkled. Only babies' knees are always nice. Generally speaking, knees make people in bathing suits look kinda terrible. But without knees we couldn't have feet, so let's be thankful for anything that gives us understanding.

I don't know much about bridge, except that in every hand dealt some one has to be the dummy, and play. Why don't they make the rules so that only three are needed for such a game, the dummy to be switched around in some fashion, in keeping with bridge inventiveness? That would mean, then, that with only three persons playing, a majority opinion can be effected, thus producing a speedier end to bridge controversies that now end in a tie.

Excuse me, please, for not making this annual winter suggestion earlier: If you sleep in a room that is made cold by the entrance of plenty of fresh air, and if your hair is thin or almost gone, and your head gets cold, see that your pillow slip is made of cotton flannel—not the usual plain cotton or linen. This will keep your face warm, as well as your head. For years Malcolm W. Bingay, in the "Good Morning" column in The Detroit Free Press, has suggested the use of a heavy night cap to keep the pate warm. Well, I know Bing pretty well and also know that the top of his head is as bereft of hair as there is old-fashioned democracy in the New Deal —and that makes it pretty thin. In my own case, I still have plenteous of ringlets—but in spite of this, my face and head were cold when I slept on the plain white pillow slip. I think Bing would perform a real public service by telling his readers to use cotton flannel, fitting compliment for his "Good Morning" would be this suggestion for a "Good Night."

As one who, at least every two weeks, submits himself to the professional activities of a barber, and as a consequence has to listen to various themes of conversation—some of it good, too—I wonder why the New Deal has failed to enlist American barbers in the cause of spreading its doctrine. Personally, I believe that if every barber in the nation would be made into an animated encyclopedia of economics and government, only one generation would be required to change the nation from confusion to Utopia. Millions of hours are spent in American barbershops every year by American voters, not to mention those too young to vote. The idea could also be applied to beauty shops, thus civilizing the women, too. As it is today, barbers have become experts and authorities only in the realm of baseball, football, and the high cost of living. Their ability, however, to produce pennant-winning teams, "most valuable players," etc., proves their prognosticating success. Their talents should now be used to supplement the orthodox institutions such as schools, colleges, universities, and experience. (Don't forget, New Dealers, that barbers can also make people keep their mouths closed by the simple use of a well-lathered shaving brush.)

REID IS HELD AS DRIVER OF HIT-RUN CAR

Birmingham Man Charged With Negligent Homicide In Detroiter's Death

Clyde Reid of 724 Bates street is being held by Detroit police on a charge of negligent homicide as the result of the death of Eugene Bickes, 35 years old, of Detroit, in a hit-run accident Saturday night. Reid surrendered voluntarily Sunday afternoon at Police Headquarters.

When arraigned Monday before Judge George T. Murphy in the traffic division of Recorder's Court, Reid entered a plea of not guilty. Hearing on the case was postponed until Dec. 28 for investigation.

Reid, who makes his home with his mother, Mrs. Anna Reid, is 38 years old. He is a civil engineer. He is the brother of Lloyd B. Reid of Lansing.

Strikes Parked Car

Bickes was killed at 11:30 p. m. Saturday, by a hit-run driver on Third avenue near Stimson Place. According to witnesses, the body was dragged a block, and became dislodged only when the hit-run vehicle struck a parked automobile.

Riding with Reid on Saturday night were Miss Belver Caspar of Detroit and the latter's two women cousins from Flint. According to the statement made to Detroit police by Miss Caspar, Reid and his three women companions were on their way to a hotel party.

Before Reid's car struck the parked car, Miss Caspar told police, she felt a slight jolt. She persuaded Reid to drive around the block, she said, and return to the scene. There was a man lying in the street, but Reid did not attempt to pick him up, Miss Caspar told police. Instead, they stepped into the car, she said and drove away.

Herbert McCormick, a bystander who witnessed the accident, obtained Reid's license number, and reported to the police.

MRS. BURKMAN IS INJURED IN AUTO COLLISION

The condition of Mrs. N. W. Burkman of 588 South Bates street, was reported as generally improved today at Pontiac General Hospital, where she is recovering from injuries received Sunday afternoon in an automobile collision on Rochester road.

The accident took place about a mile south of Rochester, when the car in which Mrs. Burkman was riding with her husband, Dr. N. W. Burkman collided with a car driven by G. Mazzoni of 835 Humphrey street. Dr. Burkman was driving south, when the Mazzoni car approached him, driving north. Although both drivers were cut and bruised, their injuries were comparatively minor. Dr. Burkman was treated at the Pontiac General Hospital. Mrs. Burkman suffered severe lacerations and bruises of the face and head.

Another automobile crash in which Birmingham residents figured took place Friday evening in Monroe, when William Andrews, son of Mrs. L. H. Irby of 248 Adams road, and James Robert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Robert of 458 Bird street were on their way to Monroe High School to attend the Monroe-Birmingham basketball game.

Williams received head and scalp injuries, and Robert a broken shoulder blade and bruises to the head and face. Their car, the boys said, crashed into a truck because parked cars obstructed their view of a stop street sign.

I Know There Is A Santa Claus!

I know there is a Santa Claus,
Of this I'm very certain;
Because I found a lot of things
Right there, behind the curtain.

Some books and games and candy too,
A doll with lovely dresses—
So if there is no Santa Claus,
I lose my three best guesses!

CHIEF URGES CARE TO AVOID HOLIDAY FIRES

As a word to wise parents in the interest of fire prevention and to guard against fatal accidents during the holidays, Vernon W. Griffith, Chief of the Birmingham Fire Department, has issued a warning against creating fire hazards in the home by the careless use of inflammable materials.

"So that there may not be any fatalities or tragic happenings which so often turn the home or community into a place of sorrow," Chief Griffith declared in his statement, "we are asking residents of Birmingham to follow the safety suggestions issued by the department as closely as possible, during the holiday season.

"If the doctor has to be called, let it be for the boy or girl who has eaten too much, and not for the child suffering from burns. It is our hope that we may have the cooperation of every individual in Birmingham to make this a fireproof Christmas."

Tree May Be Fire Risk

"The Christmas tree, always a delight to children as well as younger members of the family, becomes a fire-hazard, Chief Griffith pointed out, when proper care is not taken to keep it at a safe distance from flame or heat. As a precaution, the tree should be fastened firmly to the standard or holder, so that it will not be tipped over when too-eager hands reach for presents or decorations.

Although the fireplace may seem like an appropriate place near which to set Christmas trees, it increases fire risk because of the inflammability of the tree near an open flame. Chief Griffith also advises against placing trees near stoves or any other open flame. In this connection, parents are warned against leaving matches near trees or where children may find them.

Lighted candles on Christmas trees or in windows have been the cause of many holiday accidents, Chief Griffith points out. As a safe substitute for both, electric lights may be used, and the bulbs should be adjusted so they do not come in contact with inflammable materials.

Ornaments Inflammable

In decorating the tree, Chief Griffith advises parents to avoid using ornaments of cotton, wool, tissue paper or celluloid, and be

(Continued on Page Two)

Birds Seek Food On Frozen Ground

Are you doing your part in keeping local and nearby pheasants, quail, and wild rabbits alive as they try to find feed from earth that is covered with snow and ice?

That question was posed yesterday by A. H. Sheridan, of George street, whose recreational activities carry him over nearby landscape these cold winter mornings.

"There is great danger that our wild game in this vicinity will starve unless we put feed out for them," stated Mr. Sheridan. "This is true especially when a coating of hard, frozen snow covers the ground. In my walks this week I have seen many birds huddled up among the weeds, hungry and cold—easy prey to starvation and the hawks that hover over them, waiting for their opportunity to devour helpless pheasants and quail.

"This raises the question: who should feed them? I believe that sportsmen should do so, as well as other bird lovers. This can be done by cleaning off a space of snow next to a fence, placing a few boards against the fence to keep the weather off, and sprinkling corn and wheat on the ground. Or grain can be scattered among the grass and weeds where pheasants and quail seek food.

"Ears of corn can also be tied to a fence, low enough for birds to reach. Lettuce leaves, obtainable free from a grocer, also make good feed. Or one can take feed to a nearby farmer, for his use in feeding wild game."

Santa Finds 434 Letters In the Mail from Boys and Girls In Birmingham

Ice Palace,
North Pole

To the Editor,
Birmingham Eccentric.
My Friend:

Am I tired! Am I exhausted!

Do you realize, my good friend, what you started when you invited boys and girls to write me Christmas letters for publication in your paper?

Well I'll tell you! This week I received 434 letters from Birmingham boys and girls. I opened and read every one myself. Why I did nothing else all week. When I tried to sleep, I dreamed about those letters, and when I took time out to eat, I found myself absent-mindedly chewing on a letter.

So I'm sending them all on to you for your paper this week. I know the boys and girls will want to see them. I've been getting letters all month, and I suppose I haven't heard from all those fine boys and girls down in your city yet. If there were more time before Christmas, I know you'd be glad to print all the rest of the letters that didn't get in sooner.

Do you remember that day several years ago when you and I figured this thing out together? We didn't have any idea there would be so many letters, did we? I received plenty that first year, but every year since, it seems to me, more have been coming in.

This year tops them all. I don't know how many I received for 1937 altogether, but for this one week I had one of my helpers count, and it came to—what did I say—434!

Now I've got to start filling all those orders. But I want you to tell the boys and girls in Birmingham for me, that I wish them a Merry Christmas, and say that I think you must have pretty fine schools in Birmingham, because they all wrote me such good letters. O yes, tell them I've been dieting, so there isn't a chimney in Oakland County, I can't squeeze through on Christmas Eve.

Your friend,
Santa Claus.

YULE SERVICE TO COMMENCE AT MIDNIGHT

Several Local Churches to Celebrate Nativity On Christmas Eve

Although many of the churches observed Christmas on Sunday with special gift and carol services, others in Birmingham will carry out the old tradition of worship at midnight as did the shepherds and wise men of old at the hour of Christ's Nativity.

Among the churches holding special services Sunday were the First Methodist, First Presbyterian, St. James' Episcopal and Christ Church Cranbrook. The two latter will hold special services Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

Three other churches also are planning services Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. They are Holy Name Catholic, St. Hugo of the Hills' Catholic Church, and Redeemer Lutheran church. The Sunday following Christmas will be marked with holiday services in several of the other churches.

Choir To Sing

Solemn High Mass will be celebrated at Midnight at Holy Name Catholic Church on Harmon avenue. Christmas music will be sung by the adult choir. Parents are requested by the Rev. J. W. Cotter, pastor, not to bring children to this service. Three Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Day, at the hours of 8, 9 and 10 a. m. The Mass at 9 o'clock will be a special service for children, with music by the newly organized boys' choir, which will make its initial appearance at this service.

At St. Hugo of the Hills' Church, the Choristers under the direction of Carl Sobie, former NBC tenor will present a program of Christmas music assisted by

(Continued on Page Two)

HASCALL VOICES PROTEST AGAINST DRIVE ON PARKING

Requesting information regarding "what is underneath or behind the strenuous activities of Birmingham police in giving tickets for over-time and improper parking in a community, the majority of whose citizens are decent and law-abiding," Louis Hascall, of Oakland avenue, appeared before the City Commission Monday night. Mr. Hascall, whose real estate office on Woodward avenue overlooks the main intersection of the City, entered a vigorous but friendly criticism of the situation.

"Is the present campaign against parking conditions going to be one of long City policy?" asked Mr. Hascall. "If it is, then everything possible should be done to acquaint the people with the move. Plainer signs should be erected at crosswalks, where plenty of tickets are being given to people who can't see the yellow street lines because of the ice and snow. Another situation that should be looked into is the danger that confronts pedestrians when they attempt to cross at Woodward and Maple avenues. The constant right and left hand turns of cars makes it very difficult to get across while the light is green. Only tonight I, myself, was nearly bowled over by a motorist who kept his car going around the corner, even though the green light was with me, as a pedestrian."

Mr. Hascall suggested that instead of a policeman going around marking cars for over-time, perhaps it would be better to station him at this main intersection to regulate traffic.

Make Defense

The matter was discussed back and forth for more than half hour, with numerous defensive statements from Chief of Police John P. Hackett, City Manager Donald C. Egbert, and several of the Commissioners. All agreed that the situation called for concern; but were not willing to lay the blame solely upon police regulations and police attention.

"The enforcement of the local traffic ordinances is more lenient in Birmingham than most other communities," said Manager Egbert.

Hulbert Explains

"The stricter enforcement of the traffic ordinances here is being done at the request of the City Commission, in the interests of local business and local people who patronize the local stores," stated Commissioner Lawrence Hulbert. Chief Hackett is in favor of parallel parking, and so are some of the Commissioners. But others on the Commission, realizing that local business property owners have given frontage in the past for street widenings, feel that angle parking will serve

(Continued on Page Two)

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CRULL ADVISES SURVEY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The advisability of conducting a survey among graduate and non-graduates of Baldwin High School to determine whether the high school of today is adequate to meet the needs of modern young people was discussed by Superintendent of Schools, Howard D. Crull Monday evening at a meeting of the Board of Education.

The survey would endeavor to learn why students who left high school before graduation, did so, and would also endeavor to get the reactions toward the school of those who did graduate, Mr. Crull explained.

"As we look into the future, it is important that the needs of pupils be a paramount consideration. Today we must consider every child and his fullest possibilities, rather than groups at the sacrifice of individuals," said Mr. Crull.

"In a long-time planning program in which curricula of local public schools are being considered, a great amount of significance will necessarily be given to students who have enrolled, and either graduated or left high school over the past five years. To determine accurately the reaction of the students toward the school, and the services it rendered, will be the task of a committee of teachers to be appointed soon after Christmas vacation," Mr. Crull announced.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Dr. Hugo Erichsen, 415 **Harmon avenue:** "I suggest that the Woodward Avenue cut-off be called Horatio Earle Highway, or simply Earle Highway, in memory of the late Horatio S. Earle, who did so much for Michigan's highway system."

For as little as 25 cents you may insert a CLASSIFIED AD in the columns of The Eccentric. Try one when you want to buy or sell, locate a house or sell one, or for hiring a maid. Telephone 11 before Wednesday noon each week. —(Adv.)

Rites Thursday

Melvin H. Lee

LEGISLATOR DIES OF HEART ATTACK IN ROYAL OAK

Melvin H. Lee, of Royal Oak, representative of this District in the Michigan State Legislature since 1930, passed away suddenly at his home Monday morning of a heart attack. He succumbed while in the act of answering a telephone call in the living room of his home, 324 Royal avenue.

Mr. Lee had been in apparent good health, although his widow stated he was showing signs of tiredness from overwork in recent weeks. He was in the insurance business.

During his service in the Legislature he sponsored and worked for many objectives, including adequate funds for the public schools of Michigan.

He was born in Calhoun County near Battle Creek March 27, 1884, and had made his home in Royal Oak since 1922. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Theresa McGrath Lee, to whom he was married September 3, 1921; two sons, M. H. Perry Lee, 14, and Roger Lee, 7; a daughter, Mrs. Robert Flemming of Battle Creek; his mother, a sister Mrs. William Manby of Battle Creek; and two brothers, George Lee of Battle Creek, and Merton Lee of the State of Washington.

Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in the Royal Oak Congregational Church, corner of Third and Center streets. The body will lie in state there from one o'clock to the time of the service, which will be conducted by Rev. John S. Young, of the Congregational Church. Rev. Wallace Fisher, of the Evangelical Church, and Herbert J. Hawkins, First Reader of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Detroit. Interment will be in Oakview Cemetery, Royal Oak, where services will be conducted by the Northwood Masonic Lodge, of which Mr. Lee was a member.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Lawrence Hulbert, City Commissioner: "I think it would be a shame to erect the proposed new Birmingham postoffice in any location other than on or near the Civic Center. Birmingham has spent much money to beautify this area, where most of its public services are rendered, and since we already have the nucleus of our public buildings there, why not have the postoffice there, too? A fine new postoffice would help to beautify an already beautiful area."

J. H. Sheridan, of George street: "The deep snows keep rabbits from getting natural food, so they eat the bark from valuable shrubbery and trees. Scattering alfalfa hay, sweet apples, carrots, or lettuce leaves will avoid this destruction."

Plenty Of Good Food Is Available At Moderate Cost, Say Local Merchants

By Carol Dwelley

Good Cheer, the Yuletide watch-word, means Good Food in any language, for the Christmas holidays are the one season of the year when everyone is busy either entertaining or being a guest. Local shoppers will be pleased to know that food prices, although slightly higher now than at Thanksgiving time, are still not so high as they were at this time last year, according to Birmingham merchants. With this reassurance, everyone may stock up the larder with as much or as little as is necessary for the holiday parties, and still not permanently ruin the family budget.

The Christmas turkey and the New Year's goose are of course, the king and queen of holiday foods, and certainly other fowl are members of the royal family. Shoppers will find that the prices have either remained the same as at Thanksgiving, or have risen only slightly. Those who favor Christmas roast beef will find this and other meats generally much cheaper than for some time.

Fruit and canned goods are also cheaper, and very plentiful at this time. The west coast crops of the year are now on the market, in such abundance that dealers are offering them at especially low prices. Oranges are very popular fruit, for general family use, as well as to tuck in the Christmas stockings. Housewives will find their price down, since the new crop of ripe tasty navel oranges has come on the market.

Vegetables too, follow the general outline of plenty this year. Delicacies as artichokes, avocado pears, hothouse asparagus, tomatoes and mushrooms are available, as well as several new canned items.

Not the "banana oil!" of your slang days, but canned banana juice, is now on sale at Birmingham stores. The juice is the result of many years of work on the part of the fruit growers, and is recommended especially for children, as well as for general table use. The juice of the papaya is also

(Continued on Page Two)

Schools Facing Cut In Revenue From State Fund

City Adds Fourth Well To System

Birmingham's fourth deep well, furnishing a maximum of 1200 gallons of water per minute to the City's system, has been completed and accepted during the past week, City Manager Donald C. Egbert reported to the Commission Monday night. It was started last spring near the old Lincoln well, just west of Southfield avenue, and cost a total of $18,000, which includes drilling, electrical pump, pump house, and main connections.

With the three older wells, the new unit can furnish a maximum of 4800 gallons per minute to Birmingham water consumers. The average winter daily peak load is 1500 gallons per minute, while in the summer the peak load runs as high as 3000 gallons per minute.

"We now have a comfortable reserve of water supply from our four deep wells, and they should support an additional 1000 population," stated Manager Egbert. "Available water supply from our underground sources varies slightly year to year, but during 1937 the levels increased slightly."

Whether underground sources will continue to meet local needs in the future is an unknown quantity, local officials assert, believing that in the ultimate future Birmingham may have to connect with Detroit, or get its supply from a proposed huge main for communities between Port Huron and this area.

ROTARY HOST TO 35 CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thirty five Oakland County boys and girls, ranging in age from five to 14 years, were given their annual Christmas party by Birmingham Rotarians last Sunday afternoon at the Community House. This custom, part of the activities of many Rotary Clubs throughout the country in work for crippled children, has been in vogue here for a number of years.

Turkey an' all the trimmin's, presents for each child, singing of carols, was the order of the day as, starting at 2:30 o'clock, a buffet dinner was served at long tables. A beautifully trimmed Christmas tree stood over at one side of the room.

An unusual feature of the program took place when D. S. Hastreiter, of Abbey Road, dressed in all the habiliments of a real Santa Claus, rushed into the Community House, the sound of sleigh bells announcing his "arrival." With a "Whoa Donner! Whoa Blitzen!" Santa ascended the steps of the Community House and quickly strode into the room where all were assembled. Cheerfully greeting the children, he began handing to each a present, generally accompanied by a "Merry Christmas" and friendly pat on the cheek.

Miss Edith Roach, music director for the Birmingham public schools, led the entire assemblage in the singing of carols. She also directed the local school boys' harmonica group of 15 in several timely selections.

The "party" disbanded at five o'clock, when the Rotarians, who earlier had gone to each child's home to get him or her, made the return trip.

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Board's Action May Depend On Tax Collections, Randall Says

The Birmingham School System is facing a total deficit of $14,397.28 in revenues from the State, due to a 10 percent reduction of the Primary Supplement Fund by Gov. Frank Murphy, and a second reduction of 10 percent anticipated by the Department of Public Instruction, it was revealed today in a statement issued by Louis Randall, business manager of the Board of Education.

The cut was effected by Gov. Frank Murphy in an "attempt" to balance the State budget, the statement sets forth.

The first cut in the $71,986.46 to which Birmingham is entitled under the amended State Aid Act, was made in the Dec. 15 installment from the Primary Supplement Fund. The second installment is due Feb. 15, and the third, April 15, when the second 10 percent cut is anticipated.

Situation Serious

As a result of these reductions, the Birmingham Board of Education may be faced with the necessity of "curtailment" during the second semester, Mr. Randall points out, unless delinquent tax receipts offset the percentage of anticipated uncollected current taxes plus the loss in State revenue.

The emergency can not be met by a loan, Mr. Randall explains in his statement, due to legislation enacted in 1931, and effective Oct. 1, 1937, prohibiting the State Loan Board to approve loans against anticipated delinquent tax collection made by school boards or other governmental units.

As a remedy, the Governor has been requested by several of the larger cities of the State, to call a special session of the Legislature before spring, which will include loan legislation. If existing laws should be amended at this session, authority could be granted to school boards to borrow and use uncollected delinquent taxes as collateral, the statement points out.

Governor Cuts Fund

The complete explanation as contained in Mr. Randall's statement follows:

"The Primary Supplement Fund, to which the Birmingham School System is entitled, has been reduced 10% by the governor in an attempt to balance the State budget. The Department of Public Instruction also anticipates a further 10% cut from the total.

"The State revenue is paid in the form of Primary Interest Fund, State tuition, Library money, and Primary Supplement.

"When the Birmingham School budget was compiled this year, it was based on a certain amount of revenue from the State in order to balance it. To date, we have received our total allotment in Primary Interest Fund or $37,266.60; Tuition money $7,245.81; and Library money $467.57. The Primary Supplement Fund is paid in three installments due Dec. 15, Feb. 15, and April 15.

Loans Prohibited

"According to the State Aid Act as amended, we are entitled to $71,986.46, but with the 10% cut already made and a further 10% cut anticipated this amount would be reduced by $14,397.28. This is a serious problem for the Board to face. Unless our delinquent tax receipts offset the percentage of anticipated uncollected 1937 current taxes, plus the loss in State revenue, the Board may be faced with a curtailment the second semester.

"Legislation enacted in 1931, which did not take effect until October 1, 1937, prohibits the State Loan Board to approve loans against anticipated delinquent tax collections made by school boards and other governmental units.

"We understand a direct appeal has been made to Governor Murphy, by Boards of Education from several larger cities, asking for a special sessio nbefore next spring session to include the loan legislation—and place the

(Continued on Page Two)

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