

U. S. State Dept. Costs You "Plenty Much"

All Departments of our overgrown Government are overstuffed, but none more so than the State Department. It has 7,000 employees in Washington and 20,000 more scattered over the globe.

Bryton Barron, who was with the Department for over 25 years, bluntly says that most of these 7,000 employees do little but write memoranda to one another. Mr. Barron got fired!

FOR A LONG TIME the Department strove to withhold from the people the facts as to its overstaffing. However, last May, when it asked for funds—which it obtained—to erect a 50-million dollar annex, which will cover four city blocks, it had to admit that its Washington personnel had been increased with the intent to go to 8,000 in Washington alone.

Mr. Barron urged that Congress cut down the State Department to size, as the most effective means of breaking "the stranglehold of bureaucracy."

Senator Douglas, of Illinois, after careful study, says: "A much smaller staff would not be so administratively muscle-bound. It could accomplish much more in much less time and at much less expense."

TOTAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT in the Executive Branch during Roosevelt's 12 years averaged 1,423,000. During Truman's 8 years, it averaged 2,477,000. During Eisenhower's 4 years, it averaged 2,411,000, or nearly one million more than Roosevelt's 12 years.

John Foster Dulles is our Secretary of State. He is in Washington less than any of his predecessors. He apparently has no ability as an efficient administrator. That's a chief reason why that bureaucracy gets larger and larger, costlier and costlier to the taxpayers.

By the way, what really has happened to the economy program of Ike and the GOP?

Local Sign Ordinance Being Re-Written

Currently Birmingham's city commission is engaged in the re-writing of a new business sign ordinance. This is no small task. To date, a proposed ordinance has been placed before the commission for its review and final adoption.

In keeping with the processes of democratic government, public hearings on every ordinance are held. Two of them already have been held on the sign ordinance. A final one is planned for February 18.

The ordinance is designed chiefly to protect people from accident from falling signs, and to prevent the gaudy and spectacular display of outdoor signs in Birmingham. This is good.

A LICENSE FEE is charged when a sign is first installed, which finances the

cost to the city. Later inspections of a sign (determined by the city in relation to the type and materials in a sign) also cost the city expense, and may be charged to the owner.

However, a straight original and annual license fee, unless the city makes an annual inspection, ought not to be included in the final ordinance, local business people believe.

We agree with them—otherwise such an annual charge becomes revenue not from a direct service performed, and is contrary to the normal procedures of Birmingham's municipal operations. A committee from the Birmingham real estate board is actively engaged in helping the city to rephrase those portions of the ordinance that are peculiar to the temporary uses of signs posted on business and residential properties.

"Struggle" Helps To Strengthen Youth

Don't take all of the "struggle" out of your children's lives!

Emanuel Lasker was the world's champion chess player for 21 years. No man has ever mastered all the secrets of this difficult game.

Asked what he saw in Chess, Lasker replied: "Chess is a symbol of life. The key to life is struggle. Take struggle out of Chess, and what's left? On the chessboard, I have found life's happiest hours."

Take struggle out of any sport, and it's simply not played. Children know this instinctively. When they invent a game, they always put struggle in it.

YET MOST PARENTS always try to make life easy for their young 'uns. "I don't want my kid to go through what I had to when I was his age."

This attitude is everywhere. In schools, competitive examinations are viewed with alarm. If "flunked," the pupils might develop an inferiority complex! Result: Millions of high school graduates can neither properly read, spell, nor face up to many

problems of life.

The whole emphasis today is on "security": less work, more pay; shorter day; longer vacations; bigger pensions; earlier retirement. WE HAD A PRESIDENT ONCE who preached the strenuous life of work and struggle, and the happiness that follows difficulties overcome. A weakling in youth, he made himself strong. He was "Teddy" Roosevelt.

The Eccentric sincerely believes that millions of today's boys and girls are perfectly willing to accept the element of "struggle" in their lives; instinctively, they know its ultimate value.

It is not necessary, of course, that one "live by the break of his heart," but the wise men and women of all ages agree that dependable adult character is forged on the anvil of self-discipline, of honest work, of personal responsibility.

Making it too easy for boys and girls, from the cradle through to high school or college graduation is, in most cases, making it more difficult for them as adults.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

It currently seems that some old-time freedoms are being restored in Poland ... as it seems that Russia is relinquishing its strangle-hold on Poland's people. So it seems ... but so long as the Kremlin holds the reins anywhere, about all one can say is " ... so it seems ..."

One day the housewife was asked by her cleaning lady: "How much do you weigh?" "I never get weighed, Nora," she replied. "It is so much more refined to say that 'I don't know' than to say 'It's none of your business' ..."

Preparedness has its various grim aspects, including the spare side of a memorial monument in Ludington, Mich., which is reserved for the dead of the next war.—The Chicago Daily Tribune.

How foolish for one to declare that "I never make a mistake!" Why, the mere utterance of that statement is proof itself.

Perhaps one of the troubles with the manner in which unsuccessful people go about their affairs is that they always give what they are doing an unfair trial.

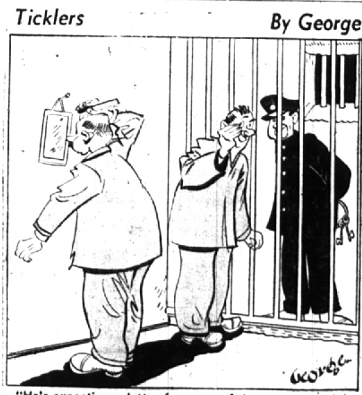
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"He's expecting a letter from one of those matrimonial agencies."

Got to Make More Room



NATURE NOW Winter Birds Are Undaunted by Cold

Now, in the dead of winter, long shadows fall dark on white snow, bare branches sketch intricate patterns on a blue sky, and our birds, disporting themselves in many guises, are an undaunted part of the landscape.

Included among our winter birds are those visitors like the junco, tree sparrow and downy woodpecker which breed north of our region but come southward to remain for the cold months. Some of them are really "visitors," ornithologists prefer this term to winter birds. They are "reserving" the latter for those species which breed in the region in question.

There are also certain "practical" visitors which appear only when their more northern food supply has failed. Most of these are seed-eating finches such as the redpoll and the pine grosbeak, but not all, including the snowy owl, are predators. The latter sometimes drifts southward, in search of a season when the supply of Arctic hares and lemmings runs low.

THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS made each year by members of the Audubon society is indicative of our winter bird population. This year 34 species were identified with a total of 11,671 individuals. The territory surveyed was a circle 15 miles in circumference, with Little Street as its center. Included is a part of the city of Pontiac, plus a diverse suburban and country area.

In the group designated as song birds, the English sparrow again topped the list with a count of 3,428. The tree sparrow was second with 2,568 and the starling with 1,621 individuals seen.

Among water birds, the mallard duck led with 310. The black duck was second with 241. Population of this group is obviously variable, depending upon the extent of open water.

Of the upland game birds, 186 of our popular ring-necked pheasant were counted. Also present were 422 bobwhites (quail), those

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

It's extremely doubtful whether Russell B. Robins, L. A. Young Spring and Wire Co. executive, ever would trust a live Russian.

Speaking the other day to Birmingham Rotarians, Robins said his nine-day October tour through the Soviet with 45 other American businessmen left him with the feeling the Russians "are very dangerous."

But he admitted he was no "expert" on Russian affairs. "In my estimation," he said, "there are no experts on Russia. Instead, there are only varying degrees of ignorance."

HE ASKED ROTARIANS to imagine themselves at the main intersection in the world's third largest city:

Where all the buildings belong to the government; Where all the store employees worked for the government; Where there was not even a single electric sign that lighted up at night;

Where there were no signs at all above any stores telling what could be found within; In a country where there are no salesmen, no advertising or other promotion. "It's the most depressing experience you'll ever have!" Robins emphasized. He was speaking, of course, of Moscow.

HE HELD UP A FEW souvenirs he brought back—a \$1.25 pack of cigarettes (only 1 1/2 tobacco, the rest holder); a 6-oz.

bar of chocolate costing \$3.10; a \$4.15 tiny orange handkerchief worth only a quarter. "You pay 45 cents for an ice cream cone, or \$3.50 a pound for butter," he went on. "A 6-inch TV set would cost you \$237, while one 14 inches would be \$600. Why, an inferior bedroom suite costs \$2,300!"

"They have no advertising costs in their prices—yet look at how high they are. In America, where some critics complain about prices in which advertising and sales promotion costs are a small part, look at how low they are by comparison!"

Certainly goes to show where the REAL "workers' paradise" is.

Former Michigan representative Richard C. Van Dusen and his family are looking forward to early May when they will be moving from their Birmingham home to a new one (for them)—the 83-year-old Bingham farmhouse on Bingham road in Bingham Farms.

"I'll almost be 'homecoming' for Dick—he was born not far away in another house on Bingham road. "I'd like to go to the seashore on our vacation," said the domineering woman to her meek husband, "but I'm afraid that the sea air wouldn't agree with me." "My dear," he said, "it wouldn't dare!"

It's quite a jump in cost from the best things in life, which are free, to the second best things, which are so terribly expensive.

Hills School Supt. To Attend Meeting In Atlantic City

Bloomfield Hills Superintendent of Schools Eugene L. Johnson will attend a five-day meeting of the

American Association of School Administrators convening in Atlantic City on Feb. 15. Approximately 30,000 school administrators are expected to attend. General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO February 1, 1897 "The most fitting term for the present wonderful period in the world's history would be 'the age of telephones.' ... A year ago Birmingham had 50 subscribers. Since then 109 new phones have been installed at regular rates, a net cost of \$12, 310 and \$18."

"A teacher famine is on in Lansing. The school board has been almost at its wits' end to keep a complete staff, and in case of sickness of regular teachers, has been forced to go out of the state and substitute ..."

30 YEARS AGO January 27, 1927 "Birmingham's fire department has a personnel of 24 men at all times available, according to the annual report. ... Total calls for 1926 were 98."

"Petitions were to be filed late this week with County Clerk Burton Daugherty for the annexation to Birmingham of approximately 100 acres of land on the southeast boundaries. It is known as the Frederick Lambert property and is in Troy township. The land is bounded on the west by Woodward on the east by the road to Clover Hill cemetery, on the south by the Clawson road, and on the north by Cole street."

"Gathering of material has started today for the historical background to be published by the firemen and policemen of the village and distributed without charge to homes and stores in Birmingham. ... The book is to contain a history of Birmingham as well as a history of both the fire and police departments."

15 YEAR AGO January 29, 1912 "Blackout and civilian defense ordinance—a brand new field of lawmaking for Birmingham's City Commission—were passed Monday night. ... The Mayor is authorized and directed to carry out blackouts and air raid protection measures."

"Persons violating the ordinance and failing to cooperate are liable to a maximum fine of \$100 or jailing of not more than 90 days."

"Mrs. Earle H. Cunningham was elected president of the Birmingham Community Council at the council's annual meeting. ... 'Birmingham's Post Office lobby, like the old time saloons, has never closed. But all that is to be changed'—new hours will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., week-days."



"In many situations, it's a darned sight easier to stay out than to get out!"