

PICTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Recently, the Senate and House passed a Bill which delegates to the President, the authority to reorganize the Executive agencies of the government. It is left to the President to so re-group, coordinate and reorganize the various agencies under his jurisdiction as to produce greater economy, efficiency and the elimination of duplicating and overlapping functions. Certain restrictions were written into the Bill so that there are certain agencies like the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Securities Exchange Commission and others which he cannot abolish or transfer, It is the duty of the President to submit such reorganization plans to Congress and if Congress does not disapprove, the plans become effective. In nearly every administration in recent years, the President has been given this power. President Roosevelt submitted a half dozen reorganization plans to Congress, all of which were approved. As an illustration of what is meant by re-grouping and consolidation, take the creation of the Federal Security Agency. Before it's creation, the Social Security Board, the U. S. Employment Service, the Office of Education, the Public Health Service, the National Youth Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps were all bouncing around in different agencies or departments of Government. Under the reorganization plan, they were all placed in a single agency called the Federal Security Agency under a single administrator. But despite these efforts to reorganize and economize, government continues to grow.

1789 VS 1945.

Consider how we've grown. In 1789 we had 13 states, 26 Senators, 66 Congressman, 3,929,000 population, 3 departments of government, 6 other agencies, 136 persons on the payroll (Believe it or not) and our yearly revenues and expenditures were slightly over 4 million dollars. In 1945, we have 48 States, 96 Senators, 435 Congressmen, 132,000,000 people, 10 Cabinet Departments, 23 War Agencies, 26 Independent agencies, revenues of 44 billion and expenditures of 94 billion. Population has increased about 32 times, revenues increased a 1000 times, expenditures increased more than 2000 times (that includes war expenditures) AND THE FEDERAL PAYROLL HAS INCREASED ABOUT 27,000 TIMES.

A LITTLE MORE OF THE STORY.

But take a closer look at the Executive Branch of the Government. The President himself has a number of agencies under his direct control like the Budget Bureau and the Refugees Board and these in turn have 13 different component parts or functions. The 10 Departments of Government are broken down into 499 different parts or functions. As an example, the Department of Agriculture contains 52 different bureaus or services. The 23 war agencies are divided into 364 different parts or functions and the 23 different independent offices like the Interstate Commerce Commission have 364 parts. To operate this huge Federal structure requires 3,649,769 persons. Compare that with the 917,760 who were on the payroll when the armistice was signed in November 1918.

DUPLICATION.

Naturally, a lot of duplication and lost motion creeps into an unwieldy structure like this. There are 22 agencies scattered through 11 different departments or independent offices that deal with housing, 24 agencies scattered through the government deal with map making; 16 deal with power and water power; 22 deal with insurance; 44 perform some function relating to agriculture; 93 are concerned with government lending; 27 deal with employment and unemployment. Here then is in truth and in fact a fruitful field for reorganization. All power to President Truman as he approaches this herculean task.