GROWTH OF ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNMENT

Have you wondered at times, just what is meant by that freely-used word, "bureaucracy." On the floor of the House and Senate and in political campaigns, "bureaucracy" has been vigorously assailed and bureaucrats were flayed as terrible people. Bureaucracy is in a sense another name for administrative government and the problem merits some careful analysis. As everyone knows, there are 10 Cabinet Departments of government, Each of these departments contains many bureaus or sub-divisions. For instance, in the Department of Agriculture, there is the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Bureau of Dairy Industry, the Bureau of Plant Quarantine etc. In addition, there is the Commodity Credit Corporation which makes loans on farm commodities, the Rural Electrification Administration which handles the program for electrifying farms etc. These are also commonly included in the term "bureaus." Now in addition to the departments of government, there are many independent agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission, the Maritime Commission, the Veterans Administration and many others. These also are included in the term "bureaus." Then there are the many war agencies such as the Office of War Information, the Office of Price Administration, the War Manpower Commission and many others. These also are considered as "bureaus." Over each bureau is a head man. Sometimes he is styled as the Chief of the Bureau, sometimes as the Chairman, sometimes as the Administrator or by some other title. Some of these agencies were created by a Presidential Order but most of them were created by Congress. In the act or the order whereby these bureaus or agencies were created, certain powers or authority is conferred on the head of the bureau to carry out the purposes for which the agency was created. To carry out these powers, the administrator or head man issues orders. These have the effect of law as in the case of the orders issued by the OPA and when they are violated, there is a penalty for such violation. Here then is the whole picture. This whole collection of government agencies are referred to as the "bureaucracy." The administrative orders which they issue and which have the force of law are referred to as administrative law. Such orders are often regarded as law made by one man rather than by Congress and when such orders invade the customs and habits of people or deprive them of accustomed freedom of action, they are assailed as regimentation by the "bureaucrats."

THE ORDERS BY WHICH WE LIVE.

War has, of course, increased the number of administrative orders which have been issued from year to year but the process of government by administrative order has gone on for many years. This fact can easily be ascertained from what is known as the FEDERAL REGISTER. When orders became so numerous that it was difficult to tell just what was the law, Congress provided that all orders which had legal effect and which applied in a general way to the country must be published in the Register. It appears in a sort of magazine size five days per week. It has been published regularly since 1936. The average daily issue contains about 60 pages and each issue will average about 70 orders. These are the orders Issued by the OPA, the WPB, the War Food Administration, the War Manpower Commission, the Office of Defense Transportation and other agencies. From 1936 to 1944, it is estimated that the total number of such orders covered more than 90,000 pages. For the five years from 1941 to 1945 inclusive, the number of such orders of all kinds that were filed totaled 136,170. The number published in the same period totaled 78,828. Here then is the factual picture of the growth of administrative government. It is estimated that for the fiscal year which begins on July 1, 1945, the number of orders will be greater than ever before. Administrative government seems to be on the march.