SCISSOR BILL. We don't know the meaning of Scissor Bill as an expression but if it has something to do with one who is handy in snipping things, then we nominate 50 people in the Press Intelligence Division of the National Emergency Council for the title. They are the folks who serve to keep government heads advised as to what the nation thinks of their policies. Everyday, they receive 400 newspapers and thirty magazines which they dismember with their snips and file away. This division was established by Louis McHenry Howe, ex-Secretary of War and ex-Secretary to the President and one-time newspaper man. These fifty snippers snip editorials, comments, news stories on every subject that pertains to governmental activity. Clippings are carefully filed. Digests are made of their contents and they issue a Bulletin which goes to department heads from which these executives can learn what editors, reporters, and others think about everything under the sun from Crop Insurance to Government-made rum. In conjunction with legislative trial balloons, the clipping service is a great device. For instance, suppose Joe Doakes, head of the Bureau of Cosmetics has in mind asking Congress for legislation requiring that all cosmetics be sold in standard containers. Forthwith, Mr. Doakes gets himself invited to the National Society of Cosmeticians and makes a speech on the subject. Mimeograph copies are distributed to the newspapers for release on the night of the speech. Stories go out thru the lead on Joe Doakes proposal. It's a 'trial balloon.' And in a few days the clippings and snippings will let Joe Doakes know, what the people think of his idea.

DELAY IN FUNDS FOR OLD FOLKS. Are you one of the old folks who are wondering why pension checks are being delayed? If so, here's the story. The Social Security Board was out of funds with which to pay to states, the funds needed to pay the Federal Government's share of old age pensions for the last quarter of the fiscal year. That last quarter includes the months of April, May, and June. Officials of the Board laid their matter before the Budget Bureau and asked that provision for these funds be made in a deficiency appropriation bill which could be sent to Congress. Certain budget officials probably felt that time would be saved by putting a provision in the Independent Offices Appropriation Bill which was then pending before a committee of Congress, whereby funds appropriated for this purpose for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1937 would also be available for the last quarter of the present fiscal year. This would have made the necessary pension funds available for April, May, and June. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on Feb. 3rd. It then went to the Senate.

PERMANENT CCC-IF AN IDEA. The Civilian Conservation Corps, providing employment for needy young men, was an emergency agency born of the depression. It performed useful work, was relatively free from criticism, and well distributed. This year was born the idea that perhaps it should be made permanent. The President so recommended and last week, Congress considered a bill to make it permanent. Discussion of the bill began at one in the afternoon, lasted until seven in the evening. First thing the House did was to adopt an amendment limiting the life of the CCC to two years. Thus, permanency went out of the window. As the measure goes to the Senate, it provides for a CCC of not more than 300,000 young men who shall be unmarried, needy, and between the ages of 17 and 23. Marriage and age restrictions do not apply to the 30,000 war veterans and 10,000 Indians for whom provision is made. Provision is also made for at least ten hours of general educational and vocational training each week. The Corps would continue on the same line of work in which it is now engaged. Annual cost would be from 300 to 350 millions annually.

NO RUSH AT MOUNT RUSHMORE. Out in the Black Hills of South Dakota is a peak of respectable size with a very precipitous face known as Mount Rushmore. Sometime prior to 1929, some zealous souls with artistic temperament thought the face of Mount Rushmore would be a splendid place to carve huge figures of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt, coupled with landscaped grounds and a suitable
museum. Accordingly the Mount Rushmore Memorial Commission was created by Congress in 1929. It was first estimated that the memorial would cost about $400,000, one half to be provided by Congress, the other half by private subscription. Only $96,000 was provided by private subscription so that in 1935, Congress provided another $200,000 to carry on the work, making a total of $400,000 in public funds. For the next fiscal year, another $50,000 will be provided but it is quite certain that this amount will not finish the job. About 50 men have been employed on the job under the direction of Gutzon Borglum. The Memorial Commission reported to Congress that Washington is about 90% complete, Jefferson 75%, Lincoln, 15%, and Theodore Roosevelt 10%. During the last fiscal year according to the report work done consisted of "removing excess stone on the bosom of Washington, beneath the chin of Jefferson, between the shoulder of Washington and the face of Lincoln, and over the entire face of Roosevelt."

STRATEGIC WAR MINERALS. More and more, the disorder, chaos and war fever abroad in the world makes us constantly alert to our mineral requirements if war should ever come and particularly those minerals which are essential both to industry and to the fabrication of munitions of war. The Bureau of Mines in the Department of Interior is giving special attention to investigation work in the field of strategic minerals. Among them are chromite, found in Cal., Wyoming, and Oregon, tin now found in certain tin pegmatite ores in South Dakota, metallic manganese also found in the western and southern states, nickel, now found in Nevada, antimony, found in Texas and Idaho, and cobalt, found in Missouri and Nevada. Necessity of course is the mother of invention and since virtually all the tin we use is imported from foreign lands, chemists and metallurgists have been experimenting with a process of plating thin sheet iron with aluminum as a substitute for tin in the production of tin cans. The genius in the field of science who use to test tubes and microscopes to advance the cause of civilization, can be depended upon to find a substitute for tin in many uses if we cannot find tin ore in adequate quantities. "$4500 YEARLY FOREVER." Forever is a long time. Nobody knows how long Forever is. Very likely, our forefathers didn't know back in 1794 when they put those terms in a treaty. In any event, they did put those words in a treaty and every year we pay $4500 under that provision. It was a treaty made on November 11, 1794 with the Indian tribes that constituted the Six Nations in upper New York. The language of the treaty provides that "in consideration of the peace and friendship hereby established .... and with a view to promote the welfare of the Six Nations, the United States will add the sum of $3000 to the $1500 heretofore allowed .... making in the whole $4500 which shall be expended EARLY FOREVER in purchasing clothing, domestic animals etc." for the benefit of the tribes. With compound interest, that annual sum would reach huge proportions. We've been paying it for 143 years. Congress will appropriate for this obligation this week. It will go on "Forever". Who knows how long that will be unless the Indians all pass away. That's not likely because they're increasing. TERESE TOPICS. In 1935, 24 states received grants from the Federal Treasury that were larger in amount than what they paid in taxes; in 1936, 27 states received more than they paid in. In some cases, like Arizona, Ark., and Alabama, they received $4 or more in grants for every dollar paid in taxes. If all states can be put on that basis, all our troubles will be at an end, or will just begin...... Altho our forefathers frowned upon the practice of accepting gifts of any kind from foreign governments and even placed a provision in the Constitution that no present, office, emolument, or title could be accepted from a foreign government by one holding any office of trust or profit under the United States, without the consent of Congress, yet every session of Congress sees enactment of a resolution which permits public officials to accept decorations from foreign governments .... funds requested for various purposes in only 24 of the 7000 bills introduced in the present session of Congress total 16 billion dollars, or almost one half of our present national debt ..... Odd items of revenue of the Federal Government include $280,000 a year paid by soldiers to buy discharge from the army, $2500 a year paid by unknown persons into the Conscience Fund, $200,000 a year in unclaimed funds and wages left with the clerks of the Federal Courts, $125,000 from concessions in national parks......