Last week, the House of Representatives authorized a further expansion of the U. S. Navy. The new bill provides an addition of 1,900,000 tons of aircraft carriers, cruisers, and destroyers. It also provides for 800 smaller vessels such as sub-chasers, patrol boats and mine sweepers. It also carries authority to acquire and convert 200 smaller vessels for auxiliary duties. This new authority will provide a maximum fleet tonnage of 3,749,420 tons and gives us the greatest fleet in all the world. We now have more than a million tons of combat vessels in service and 2,666,606 tons under construction. It is expected that this new fleet with its overpowering strength will be entirely completed and in service by the end of 1946. But note this. No new battleships are authorized. The accent is on aircraft carriers and swift moving cruisers and destroyers. Once there was a man named Billy Mitchell who talked of air power. Page General Mitchell that he may witness the revolution in warfare. Next step will be land-based aircraft of such range and power that even carriers will not be required.

AMENDMENTS TO SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL RELIEF ACT.

This week, the House of Representatives enacted amendments to the Soldiers & Sailors Civil Relief Act which broadens the scope of such relief very materially. The Act was originally passed and became law on October 17th, 1940 and experience under this law since that date indicated a clear need for clarifying amendments as a result of a number of court cases. Of especial interest is the provision relating to soldiers and sailors after discharge from the military or naval service. The original act provided that where a soldier or sailor had certain liabilities such as taxes, installment payments on mortgage contracts etc., at the time of entry into service, those liabilities must be paid or adjusted within six months after discharge from service. This would mean that the soldier must find a job and earn or procure the money needed to pay these obligations or he might lose his property or his rights under a contract. As amended, the soldier or sailor, after discharge from the service, who finds that he cannot meet the obligations and payments which piled up while he was in service can apply to a court for further relief and the court may, if it so finds after an investigation of all the facts, issue an order which would prevent the enforcement of any assessments, taxes or other obligations of the soldier or sailor for a period of time equal to the time which he spent in the army or navy. In the case of real estate contracts on which the soldier or sailor owes money, the time might by court order be extended for the life of the mortgage contract plus the time he spent in the military or naval service. This would afford ample time for the orderly liquidation of debts which piled up while the person was in the service.

LAWYERS IN GOVERNMENT.

The business of government must be conducted in conformity with law and authority. That means that there must be lawyers. In the 10 months beginning July 1, 1941, about 1300 lawyers have been appointed to Federal positions. Nearly one-half of this number were assigned to the Department of Justice. Geographically speaking, about 38% of the whole number came from the six states of New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts and California. New York leads with 272 of the entire number. Twenty two states received less than 10 appointments each out of the 1300. By schools, Harvard leads the list and accounted for 218. Harvard, Yale and Columbia accounted for 379 or about 25% of the entire number. The whole list represents about 78 schools of which 10 schools accounted for less than 15 and 30 schools accounted for less than 10. Ten law schools account for 50% of the total appointments.

Among other duties, the President must appoint a vast number of postmasters, diplomats, Judges, heads of executive departments and agencies, officers of the Army and Navy and other officials. His nominations must then go to the Senate for confirmation. From the 4th of March 1933 until June 8, 1942, the President nominated and sent to the Senate, the names of 93,282 persons for various kinds of Federal positions. This total number includes 31,754 postmasters, 31,893 Army officers, 19,524 Navy officers, 3522 officers in the Marine Corps, and 6889 persons to
other civilian occupations such as the foreign service, the diplomatic corps, the executive service of the government, and the judiciary. The number is the equivalent of the population of a large city and indicates the immensity of the task of selecting personnel for a host of Federal positions.

FEDERAL GRAND JURIES.
One of the unique institutions in the land is the Federal Grand Jury. It has no legal responsibility to any public officer or branch of the branch of the Government for it's decisions. It can pass upon the law and the evidence independently of any court of the U. S. Attorney who is the legal advisor to the Grand Jury. It may secretly proceed to such an extent that it may even exclude the U. S. Attorney. In Washington D. C., just such a Grand Jury has been in session for months investigating subversive and enemy activities and in the course of it's investigation has brought editors, publicists, paid agents, Congressmen and others before it to testify. Truly, it is a remarkable and all-powerful agency.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE SIX YEARS MAKES.
The time was August when the weather was warm. Two vessels put in at Baltimore, One was the Iwate, The other was the Yakuna. About 1400 officers and seamen were aboard. The seamen spent a most enjoyable week of sight seeing in the cities along the seaboard. Vice Admiral Zengo Yoshida in charge of the visiting vessels inspected the U. S. Naval Academy. He was royally and officially entertained. Among other things, he placed a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. But that was in August of 1936. This is the same Admiral Yoshida whose name frequently appears in news from the Pacific. These are of the same people who so treacherously attacked us on December 7, 1941. Six years ago, they were visiting a Naval Training Squadron. Much has happened since then.