THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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THE UNADORNED HISTORY OF THE EFFORT BY 48 STATES
TO RECAPTURE A STATE FUNCTION WHICH WAS LOANED
TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN 1940.
(In 10 episodes)

EPISODE 1. On December 19, 1941 President Roosevelt telegraphed
the governors of the various states asking them to loan the United States
Employment Service to the Federal Government to aid in recruiting man-
power for the war effort. This transfer, including all records, facilities,
personnel and property, was completed on January 1, 1942 in the short space
of eleven days.

EPISODE 2. In the Appropriation Bill for the Federal Security Agency
for the fiscal year 1946 it was recognized that the transfer of the
Employment Service was only a loan and a provision was inserted in that
bill to the effect that these facilities "loaned by the states shall be
returned not later than three months after termination of hostilities
in the war with Japan as determined by presidential proclamation or a
concurrent resolution by Congress".

EPISODE 3. After V-J Day no effort was made to return the Employment
Services to the states. Instead a bill was introduced by Representative
Ramspeck of Georgia on October 18, 1945 to keep the Employment Service
in the hands of the Federal Government until June 30, 1947. This bill
also contained other control features and even went so far as to author-
ize the Secretary of Labor to create duplicate systems in the various
states if he was not satisfied with the manner in which the employment
offices were being operated.

EPISODE 4. On January 15, 1946 Congressman Dirksen of Illinois offered
a substitute bill which would return these offices to the various states
on or before June 30, 1946 without any strings attached thereto so that
they would be restored to the same position which they held before they
were loaned to the Federal Government by the various states. This sub-
stitute bill was adopted by the House of Representatives on January 29,
1946 by a vote of 254 to 125. This substitute bill had the support of
at least 46 of the 48 governors.

EPISODE 5. This substitute went to the Senate on the same day that
it passed the House and slumbered peacefully in a morgue for nearly
four months. It was finally dusted off and passed by a close vote of
36 to 32. The Senate, however, had restored all the objectionable pro-
visions of the Ramspeck bill.

EPISODE 6. On June 11, 1946 the House of Representatives passed the
Labor-Security Appropriations Bill which provided funds for the opera-
tion of the Federal Security Agency and the Department of Labor. This
bill carried a provision which would have forced the return of those
Employment Service offices to the states on or before September 30, 1946.

EPISODE 7. On June 29, 1946 the Senate passed the Labor-Security Ap-
propriation Bill but instead of passing it substantially in the form
in which it passed the House it inserted seven full pages of new legis-
lativc material which in effect included all the objectionable features
of the original Ramspeck bill and sought to delay the transfer of these
services.

EPISODE 8. This Appropriation Bill was then sent to a conference com-
mittee made up of members from both House and Senate, and after consid-
erable labor agreed on the final form of this appropriation bill. Most of
the objectionable provisions of the Ramspeck bill were removed or modi-
fied and the agreed date for the return of these Employment Services was
fixed at November 15, 1946. Meanwhile, the original Ramspeck bill as
amended by the Dirksen substitute was sent to the Rules Committee of the
House where it reposes as of this moment and it may be that no action
will be taken thereon so that the bill will die in this session of Congress.

EPISODE 9. The Labor-Security Appropriation Bill with the provision for
the return of these services to the states on or before November 15, 1946
was finally approved by the House and Senate this week.

EPILOGUE. Such is the tortuous and long drawn out effort to bring about
a bit of decentralization in government and to return certain functions
of government to the grass roots where they belong.