

creased to 2,450,759, according to figures released by the Civil Service Commission on November 24. The payroll for August 1942 for these civil employees was reported as \$371,502,171.

The commission's figures disclosed that the War Department alone had 1,009,030 civilian employees last August, or 91,030 more than the 918,000 required to operate the entire Executive branch at the peak of the first World War. Next in size was the Navy Department with a total of 500,565.

FREDERICK E. HASLER  
*President*

CHARLES T. GWYNNE  
*Executive Vice-President*

Attest:

B. COLWELL DAVIS, JR.,  
*Secretary*

New York, December 3, 1942

World war, 1939-

U.S.

**To Commercial Organizations:**

Your attention is called to the following report with the suggestion that perhaps your organization may be disposed to take similar action.

B. COLWELL DAVIS, JR., *Secretary*

**NOTICE:**—This report was mailed to all members of the Chamber five days before the meeting and copies were also placed in the hands of each member attending the meeting, when opportunity was given for discussion. The vote thereon therefore can fairly be said to represent the opinion of the entire membership. The meetings of the Chamber are attended by three or four hundred members.

## Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York

**At the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, held December 3, 1942, the following Resolutions and Report, submitted by its Executive Committee, were unanimously adopted:**

### REDUCING GOVERNMENT RED TAPE TO SPEED WAR EFFORT

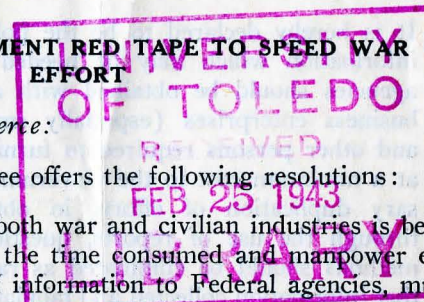
To the Chamber of Commerce:

The Executive Committee offers the following resolutions:

*Whereas*, The work of both war and civilian industries is being hampered and delayed by the time consumed and manpower employed in the supplying of information to Federal agencies, much of which serves no essential purpose and is a duplication of effort, and

*Whereas*, The compiling of the great number of forms and questionnaires required to obtain such information and their checking, filing and other disposition of the completed documents in these agencies necessitates the employment of large clerical and supervisory forces, which adds to the cost of Government and the burden of taxation, and

*Whereas*, If the collection of information sought by the Government were coordinated into a single agency and the data so secured were made available to other agencies, a substantial saving of time and manpower to both Government and business could be effected





which could be diverted to urgently-needed work in war industries and to productive effort in essential civilian industries, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York urges the House of Representatives to follow the action of the Senate in passing Senate bill 1666 entitled "A Bill to coordinate Federal reporting services, to eliminate duplication and reduce the cost of such services, and to minimize the burdens of furnishing reports and information to governmental agencies" and, be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be sent to the President, members of the House of Representatives and to other chambers of commerce and business associations.

Senate bill 1666, which is sponsored by the Special Senate Committee to Study Problems of American Small Business, was passed by the Senate on November 23. Section 2 of the measure reads

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress that information which may be needed by the various Federal agencies should be obtained with a minimum burden upon business enterprises (especially small business enterprises) and other persons required to furnish such information, and at a minimum cost to the Government, and that all unnecessary duplication of efforts in obtaining such information through the use of reports, questionnaires, and other such methods should be eliminated as rapidly as practicable, and that information collected and tabulated by any Federal agency should in so far as is expedient be tabulated in a manner to maximize the usefulness of the information to other Federal agencies and the public.

The bill directs the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (1) to investigate the needs of the various Federal agencies for information from business enterprises, from other persons, and from other Federal agencies; (2) to investigate the methods used by such agencies in obtaining such information; and (3) to coordinate as rapidly as possible the information-collection services of all such agencies with a view to reducing the cost to Government of obtaining such information and minimizing the burden upon business enterprises and other persons.

President Roosevelt more than four years ago expressed his concern in regard to the conditions which the bill seeks to remedy. Under date of May 16, 1938 he stated in a letter to Central Statistical Board (now known as the Division of Statistical Standards in the Bureau of the Budget):

I am concerned over the large number of statistical reports which Federal agencies are requiring from business and industry. In view of comments that have come into this office, I desire to know the extent of such reports and how far there is duplication among them. Accordingly, I am requesting the Central Statistical Board, under the authority of section 1 of the act creating the Board, to report to me on the statistical work of the Federal agencies, with recommendations looking forward to consolidations and changes which are consistent with efficiency and economy, both to the Government and to private industry.

The summary of the board's report indicated that officials of practically all Federal administrative agencies recognized the tremendous increase and duplication of statistical reports required from business and industry and were sympathetic to the creation of a coordinating agency, but were opposed to a central statistical agency for the collection of all information and reports.

In June 1941 the Special Senate Committee to Study Problems of Small American Business reported that it had received thousands of complaints from business concerns, both large and small, against the tremendous burdens placed upon them by the multiplicity and duplication of demands of Federal agencies for information regarding the operation of their business. Since that time the creation of a number of defense and war agencies, which also require information from business enterprises, has materially increased the burden upon industry.

There has been considerable criticism too from business concerns in regard to the number of copies of a form or questionnaire which, in many cases, the Government agencies require.

In connection with the multiplicity of reports which business is compelled to make to Federal agencies, it is interesting to note the expansion in the personnel of the Executive branch of the Government. At the end of August 1939, the month before the outbreak of the present World War, 943,000 persons were employed in the Executive branch, exclusive of legislative, judicial and military personnel. By the end of August 1942 the number had in-