

World War (1939 -)

WAR INFORMATION
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A million men

for the

ARMY

THE PRIMARY DECLARATION

Streamlining for VICTORY

One Million Federal Employees - - - - -

should be transferred immediately to military service or directly to war and agricultural production, to help solve manpower shortage. Congress should act at once.

There are more than one-half as many federal employees sitting at desks at Washington and elsewhere as there are enrolled in the army—and the number is increasing.

Slashing non-essential war activities and stripping non-essential workers from federal payrolls—1,000,000 of them—meet two basic requirements—need for manpower and blasting extravagance in the federal budget.

Business “as usual” is out for the duration. So should there be a moratorium on non-war bureaus.

Make effective the powers of the Comptroller General. Congress still has the authority to do this.



THE SUPPORTING *Facts*

Canada Has Done It

The ratio of total federal civilian employes to the total armed forces of the United States is one to two.

On the same basis, in Canada the ratio is one to six.

The ratio of civilian employes in war agencies to the armed-force personnel of the United States is one to three.

On the same basis, in Canada the ratio is one to eight.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL INCREASE OUTSTRIPS ARMED FORCES

From June 30, 1940, to August 31, 1942, civilian personnel in federal war agencies increased at a rate more rapid than in the armed forces. Civilian increase was 530%; armed forces—507%.

On June 30, 1940, the federal war agencies employed 256,569; on August 31, 1942—1,620,972.

Other federal agencies also increased civilian personnel approximately 11%. These include the Federal Security Agency, the National Labor Relations Board, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Federal Power Commission, etc.

On June 30, 1940, these agencies employed 746,251, with the number increasing to 829,786—or approximately 11% on August 31, 1942.

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Employment System Encourages Abuse

One reason for the increase in employees is due to the Federal Classification Act of 1923 which in normal times makes an executive's salary dependent upon the number of persons under his supervision. Under this system, it frequently happens that to obtain a useful executive at a salary commensurate with his skill and ability he is obliged to supervise a force of employees in greater number than necessary.

Another cause for the increase in employees lies at the door of personnel officers for many various government agencies who feel their reputation and pay depend upon the number of persons on their payrolls.

In many instances, additional employees have been so numerous they have handicapped the war effort by getting in each other's way. To relieve this situation, some agencies have created "make-work" programs, including establishment of new questionnaires for business and the public.

Canada's Policy

The Canadian policy is simple but effective in holding government employees in non-war agencies to a minimum.

Before a position can be created, or a vacated position filled in a non-war agency, proof of necessity must be made to the Canadian Civil Service Commission which has strict requirements.

CUT PERSONNEL OF NON-WAR AGENCIES

Non-war agencies of the federal government are huge reservoirs of manpower which can be utilized to help relieve the shortage.

Only a few of many instances where a drastic slash in personnel would be useful without impairing any essential services are cited in the following:

The Federal Security Agency

On October 31, 1942, this agency employed 66,449 persons of whom 20,832 were formerly members of state employment agencies. Deducting the latter figure, this agency employed 45,617 persons as of October 31, 1942, as compared to 27,065 on June 30, 1940—an increase of 68.5 per cent.

This agency primarily was established to assist needy and unemployed. Obviously, expansion was unjustified under existing conditions.

The Federal Power Commission

This agency also has expanded personnel during the past two years.

And, additional thousands of employees will be added to the payrolls if a recent ruling of the agency, changing the basic policy in public utility rate-making procedure, is enforced.

These prospective employees would be principally accountants and engineers who are sorely needed in war production.

Preventive as well as corrective measures should be employed here.

Labor Relations Administration

The administrative agencies in this complete set-up could readily be pruned in personnel. Also, it should be adjusted to a more efficient and economic system that would expedite matters in this vitally important field.

Here is the picture:

Wages and salaries are controlled, and administered in some phases by the following agencies: Wage and Hour Division, Bureau of Internal Revenue, National War Labor Board and Office of Price Administration.

Labor disputes are handled by the U. S. Conciliation Service, the National Labor Relations Board and the National War Labor Board.

In addition, the Labor Standards Division, Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor also have a part in administrative affairs for labor.

These are only a few examples of the "business as usual" attitude of Washington bureaucracy.

OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Congress created the Comptroller General to be its servant. His office has been by-passed for years. Therefore, Congress should restore to the Office of the Comptroller General the authority with which it was endowed originally, to check appropriations and to present data and statistical information to Congress in determining amounts necessary for operating and other expenses.

To make this effective and to implement it efficiently, Congress should establish an agency in the Office of the Comptroller General to do these things:

- 1.** To scrutinize all requests for appropriations.
- 2.** To report whether functions performed by other federal agencies will be duplicated.
- 3.** To determine whether Congress has authorized each activity by previous sanction.
- 4.** To determine whether all appropriations requested in individual cases are needed.

In addition, sufficient funds should be appropriated for the Office of the Comptroller General to investigate administrative agencies, with instructions to report whether savings can be made.

THE SOLUTION

The National Emergency Committee sent an investigating team to Washington recently and after thorough study they report that, while the **ULTIMATE SOLUTION** undoubtedly is the use of the office of the Comptroller-General as Congress intended it should be used, the **IMMEDIATE SOLUTION** lies elsewhere. It consists of implementing Congressional Committees with a very large appropriation—probably several million dollars—to set up machinery for a thorough winnowing and sifting of federal departments and expenditures, both war and civilian. *This machinery should be under the control of Congress and solely responsible to Congress.*

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[*Endorsements as of Printing Deadline April 2, 1943.*]
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