

The Federal Diary
by Jerry Klutz

Sweeping Changes Proposed in Use Of Efficiency Rating

The effect of the efficiency rating on the career of the Federal worker would be changed radically in a recommendation before the Hoover Commission. This will give you an idea of how sweeping the proposed changes would be:

- The rating wouldn't be used as a factor in making the automatic in-grade salary raises (the present law requires employees to get ratings of good or better to be eligible for raises);
- The ratings no longer would be a consideration in the lay-off of employees and, of course, they would have no bearing on the present system of retention points;
- The ratings would be used as a "guide" only in making grade promotions. The supervisor would be given leeway on that point, and finally,
- The present system of five adjective ratings—excellent, very good, good, fair, and unsatisfactory—would be changed to a three-point system which could be outstanding, satisfactory, and unsatisfactory, or something similar. It wouldn't make too much difference what they were called.

If my information is correct, the Hoover group would use the rating system to bring about a better working relationship between the supervisor and the supervised. The supervisor, for example, would be required to talk over prospective ratings with the people under him before he decided on them. The ratings, once given, wouldn't become public property.

Also, it would be the duty of the supervisor and other officials to fix job standards for as many jobs as possible so each employee would know his responsibility and what was expected of him. If proper job standards were set up, the employee would know himself in advance what his rating would be. This sort of a system would shift the responsibility from the supervisor to the employee in making ratings—it would take the supervisor off the spot and the employee would have to measure up or else.

Apparently what the Hoover group has in mind is a more wholesome understanding between all classes of Federal workers—a system that would do away with many of the grievances and gripes of employees. There are many people who believe that the present rating system, for example, leads to more trouble than it's worth.

One thing is sure—better job standards and working relations are needed in the Government. The efficiency rating plan may be a long step in that direction. The least we can do is to keep an open mind on this and other problems being attacked by the Hoover group until a final decision is made one way or the other.

ARMY: One top official here who tells friends that he's willing and ready to resign is William H. Draper, jr., the Army Undersecretary. Dr. Draper has been trying to quit for some time. He has a job for the past year or so. However, someone always convinces him he should stay a few months longer. Draper was a general in military government before he took the No. 2 Army civilian job.

NOTES: Dr. Charles R. Sayre, jr., is the new associate director of Agriculture's division of cotton and other fiber crops and diseases. . . . Oliver C. Murray, who retired recently from Civil Service, is now a consultant and adviser on employee grievances, efficiency ratings, lay-offs, classification, etc. . . . Federal agencies should get in their nominations soon for the Arthur S. Flemming Award which will be made to a young Government worker by the Junior Chamber of Commerce here.

COMMERCE: Its Office of International Trade is making a thorough check on all its employees who might be engaged in private business, including dealings on the commodity markets. Also, employees must tell the agency of family members who deal in commodities. The agency has let out several employees who dealt in commodities. Its employees have access to valuable inside information on commodities and exports and the agency doesn't want its people to use it for personal profit.

LOYALTY: The Hiss-Chambers fight is slated to make news again very shortly. Since Alger Hiss sued Whittaker Chambers for libel, attorneys for both men have been taking detailed depositions from witnesses, including the two principals. Some very startling information on who's a liar is reported to have been uncovered.

CONGRESS will have only a couple of weeks in which to raise the President's salary. It must raise it by January 20—before Mr. Truman begins his new term—or any increase voted afterward can't be made effective before January 20, 1953, the beginning of a new presidential term. The Constitution prohibits Congress from changing a President's salary during a term of office.

As reported here last week, a task force of the Hoover Commission has recommended the President's salary be lifted from \$75,000 to around \$150,000. It's also a good bet that the commission will recommend a substantial lifetime pension for former Presidents, around \$25,000 a year.

Patterson Will Accord Sought Prior To Filing Suit

Daughter's Counsel Discloses Futile Effort; Deposition Sealing to Be Asked

Mrs. Felicia Gizycka's attorneys on September 7 unsuccessfully sought an out-of-court settlement of the will of her mother, the late Mrs. Eleanor M. Patterson, they disclosed yesterday.

That date was six days before Mrs. Gizycka filed suit challenging validity of the \$16,586,571 will of the late owner-publisher of the Washington Times-Herald.

William A. Roberts, attorney for Mrs. Gizycka, said he arranged a conference with executors named in the will, "for the purpose of seeing if we couldn't compromise the matter."

Details Are Withheld

He declined to disclose any details involved, saying the conference "was terminated by them" (attorneys for the executors, who are defending the will), Louis G. Caldwell, counsel for the executors refused to make any comment on this.

In another development, Roberts said that upon completion of the pre-trial questioning of Mrs. Gizycka—which today enters its third day—he will file a motion to "seal" the deposition she is making.

This deposition is being taken behind closed doors by the executors' attorneys, who late yesterday concluded their portion of the questioning. Today, Mrs. Gizycka's own attorneys will cross-examine her, to get some of their points into the deposition record.

Sealing the deposition will prevent publication at least until the will trial, and the trial judge may order all or part of it permanently sealed. The deposition is believed to involve intimate details of her mother's life, in connection with Mrs. Gizycka's reasons for challenging the will.

Two more motions yesterday were injected into the case. Harold A. Kurtz, Roberts' associate, filed one motion to gain access to 129 folders and documents from effects of the late Charles B. Porter, former Times-Herald treasurer, who plunged to his death September 14.

These items were referred to in a deposition by C. F. R. Ogilby, court-appointed collector for Porter's estate, made public last week.

The material they seek, said Mrs. Gizycka's attorneys, was accumulated by Porter for a biography of Mrs. Patterson, "and there is a reasonable probability" it "contains evidence material to this case." This motion will be argued later.

The second motion, approved by Judge James W. Morris, permits Mrs. Gizycka's attorneys to take a deposition from G. Bruce Brooks of New York, who was an attorney with Mrs. Patterson. As approved by Judge James W. Morris, the motion excludes from Mr. Brooks' deposition any questioning of a confidential lawyer-client nature.

Paul, a Fast-Dresser, Waits for Jerry, Carol and Susie...



FINISH OF THE PAJAMA RACE—Any weekday afternoon you may see this homey little scene in the daycare nursery of Georgetown House, 3224 N. st. where 3-to-5-year-olds spend the day while their working parents are busy. This, as you might guess, is at noon—time for Jerry, Carol, Susie and Paul to take their naps. The youngsters are taught to put on their own pajamas. Of course, the one who gets his or hers on first is to be looked up to. And yesterday that suave 4-year-old, Paul, got his on first and waited with an air of nonchalance while those "small fries" struggled into theirs. Georgetown House is another of the worthy Red Feather agencies of the Community Chest, which will have to curtail its services if the Red Feather drive fails. To help the Chest reach its goal, let's give

Education Board View On Strayer Plan Asked

Recommendations On Construction, U. S. Loan Sought By Commissioners

The District Commissioners yesterday asked the Board of Education to prepare recommendations on the Strayer report calling for \$37,901,816 in school construction.

Particularly the school board was requested to give its views on Strayer's proposal that the program be financed by a noninterest-bearing Federal loan.

The board also was asked how far it goes along with proposals made by Dr. George D. Strayer on individual construction projects that differ from those proposed by Engineer Commissioner Gordon R. Young in a six-year program for the development of Washington.

To Hear Strayer Today

The information was requested by the Commissioners in a letter to the school board in a meeting today will hear Dr. Strayer. The Strayer report is based on a survey of local building needs requested by Congress.

Dr. Strayer, who was scheduled to appear before the board yesterday, will appear instead today at 4:15 p. m.

General Young said that the Strayer program and the Commissioners' program agree on 32 projects as to both location and scope, and agree on eight projects as to location but differ as to scope.

Eleven projects on the Commissioners' program do not appear in the Strayer recommendations and eight projects approved by Strayer are not part of the Commissioners' plan, Young said.

Projects Are Listed

He listed the 11 new projects as Seaton, Bruce, Giddings, Cardozo, Powell, Bell Elementary, Hyde, Edmonds-Madison, Peabody-Hilton and Bennings schools and a new school administration building.

A new central administration building, however, was a major point in the Strayer proposals.

Dr. Strayer urged that a replacement be built for the Franklin Administration building at an estimated cost of \$1,450,000 or that Central High School be turned into an administrative headquarters.

The eight projects cited by General Young as appearing in the Strayer recommendations but not in the Commissioners' program are Davis, McKimworth and Ketcham schools and five new elementary schools, three in the northeast and two in the northwest.

Two Renamed Pending Rule By Charter

Welsh and Hawkins To Serve Montgomery Until January

Two Montgomery County officials whose posts are abolished under the new charter which becomes effective Thursday, were reappointed yesterday by the County Commissioners.

At their final session as County Commissioners, the board members who will become interim Councilmen under the Charter, reappointed F. Barnard Welsh, legal advisor to the board, and J. Ernest Hawkins, clerk to the Commissioners.

To Get Same Salaries

Both appointments become effective Thursday and the two men will continue at their present salaries.

The action was initiated by County Supervisor I. G. McNayr, for the official's proposed resolution was re-drafted by the Commissioners at their meeting in the Rockville Courthouse.

McNayr stipulated that the temporary appointments expire in January when the elected Charter Council is to take office, but in the resolution finally adopted the appointments are effective until the first elected County Council takes office.

The four Republican Commissioners last week filed a law suit attacking legality of a scheduled Charter Council election in January.

Would Stay in Until 1950

If the suit is successful, the Commissioners would remain in office until 1950, because the legal action is based on a contention that a valid election cannot be held on that time.

The resolution in its final form was supported by President Brooke Johns and Commissioners Charles H. Jamison and Oliver W. Youngblood. Commissioner Wesley I. Sauter was joined by Commissioner George Esworthy in opposing it, it was later declared.

Five Women, Two Men Flee Mt. Rainier Office Blaze

A two-alarm fire, in which flames shot 60 feet in the air, blazed through the offices of a credit company and a basement garage at 3327 Rhode Island ave. in Mount Rainier yesterday.

Five women and two men, employees of the Consumer Credit Service, Inc., fled to safety from the offices, after seizing records and \$1000 in cash. Two men also escaped from the garage, but were unable to remove three automobiles which were being repaired. No one was injured.

The fire broke out between the floor of the credit company offices and the ceiling of the garage shortly before noon and was apparently caused by defective wiring, firemen said.

First alarm was at 11:40 a. m. and Mount Rainier Fire Department sent in a second at 11:44 a. m. by radio as they approached the fire.

It was discovered by Richard L. Deavers of 6406 Kilmer st., Cheverly Manor, operator of the garage, and George Kendall of 5317 Taylor rd. (rear), Riverdale, an employee, both of whom saw smoke coming from the ceiling.

Fire Chief Karl Young of the Mount Rainier department said a sheet of flame apparently flashed up from the ceiling of the garage. There was no explosion, he reported.

He estimated damage at \$25,000. The credit company offices consist of two stores, recently remodeled into one. Most of the office furnishings, which were destroyed, were new.

The three automobiles in the garage and about \$4000 worth of equipment were burned.

Montgomery Funds Sought For Schools

Supt. Broome Asks 'Emergency' Action on Maintenance Needs

School officials in Montgomery County yesterday requested "emergency" action from the County Commissioners on a requested \$60,000 in school maintenance funds.

Appearing before the Commissioners at their regular meeting in Rockville, Dr. Edwin W. Broome, county school superintendent, warned that present maintenance funds would be depleted by January 15.

Failure to provide the requested amount would lead to firing of school maintenance employees, leaving no one to care for the county's multimillion dollar school plant, the official declared.

Investigation Ordered

County Supervisor I. G. McNayr was instructed by the commissioners to investigate the need for the funds and their availability and report his findings.

In his plea, Broome indicate full restoration of a \$67,000 item deleted by the commissioners last June from the 1948-49 budget proposal submitted by McNayr would be desirable.

The Broome request followed by a only few hours a meeting of the Board of Education with the County legislative delegation on the subject of school needs for the coming year.

Among the subjects discussed, officials said, was the need for extension of a 7 per cent bonded debt limit imposed on the county under the new charter.

Chairman Anders E. Lofstrand, jr., of the delegation, said yesterday the delegation would introduce such legislation at the January session of the legislature. He added that the proposal was under study and it was not yet known what form the bill would take.

Other legislative needs discussed included extension of the State's incentive fund, an educational program for handicapped children, and repeal of a law preventing school authorities from condemning tracts larger than 10 acres for use as school sites.

Eviction Action Cooperative Suit in Hands Of Judge

Chief Judge George P. Barse of Municipal Court took under advisement yesterday a real estate cooperative suit involving the Westmoreland apartments, 2120 California st. nw.

Thirteen purchasers of apartments on the cooperative plan are seeking to evict the tenants of those apartments in the Westmoreland. The case is considered a test of the cooperative system in Washington.

Meanwhile, in District Court today a motion will be heard to dismiss a suit brought by 38 residents of the Broadmoor who are fighting installation of the purchaser-owner cooperative there.

The key question in both cases is whether cooperative members are entitled to possession within the meaning of the District Rent Control Act, it was claimed.

Present tenants in the Westmoreland include James T. Kerr, retired general, and Lynn R. Ruttner, retired Navy commander.

The tenants' attorney, James A. Crooks, argued that the cooperative which bought the 59-unit building housing the Westmoreland was illegally constituted since the 1940 District law legalizing cooperatives here did not specifically include real estate enterprises.

Attorney Herman Miller, who represents the purchasers, including Mrs. Carter Glass, widow of the late Virginia Senator, said that two recent court opinions had upheld the legality of landlord-cooperatives.

Others suing for possession include Hugh D. Butler of the United States Maritime Commission, Miss Lucille C. Brunner of the Justice Department, and Mrs. Nancy W. S. Williamson of the Federal Security Agency.

In Arlington School Job Action Is Rescinded

Outward harmony was restored to Arlington's school system yesterday by these two new developments:

(1) The school board rescinded its November 10 action creating the new post of "associate school superintendent" after a 5-hour closed conference. The job had been attacked as "illegal."

(2) Arlington Treasurer John Locke Green said he would now authorize payment of pay checks to the man named to the post, and to one other school employee whose job had been challenged.

School Consultant E. J. Braun had been given the disputed post of associate superintendent by the board over the open objections of School Superintendent Fletcher Kemp.

Given Identical Duties

By conference action, Braun was kept as school consultant, but given the same duties he would have had as associate superintendent.

Braun thus will be responsible for construction of new buildings, selection and purchase of sites, and hiring of architects in a \$6,500,000 school construction program now under way in Arlington.

He also will develop a system to provide adequate control of school funds. All of these duties, the board said, will be "under the general supervision" of Superintendent Kemp.

Attending the long conference Monday night was State Superintendent of Instruction G. Tyler Miller, who told the School Board there is no provision for the post of associate superintendent in State law.

Row Follows Appointment

The hot fight over the post flared after the board announced its creation and Braun's appointment to the job. Kemp called the job "illegal," and Commonwealth's Attorney Denman Rucker agreed.

Treasurer Green then announced he would refuse to release Dr. Braun's pay check until the matter was settled. He later also held up the check of the board's publicist, Mrs. Art Brown, on the grounds her job also was not authorized. Later, however, it was found that Mrs. Brown's appointment was legal.

Green had strongly opposed a \$4,750,000 bond issue for school improvement voted November 2 by Arlington residents. Mrs. Brown, among other duties, had publicized the schools' need for the money.

D. C. Agency Will Handle War Surplus

District Commissioners yesterday authorized establishment of a 10-man Educational Agency for Surplus Property to handle distribution of a million dollars worth of war surplus school materials.

The new agency will be located in the Public Library Building at 499 Pennsylvania ave. nw, and will be headed by Ralph L. Thompson of the library staff.

Three paid officials will be appointed by the District government to assist in the operation. They are a director of surplus property at \$5905 a year, a secretary to the director at \$2394 and a heavy duty truck driver at \$2020.

Arthur L. Harris, chief of the surplus property utilization program of the Federal Office of Education, said the equipment available is valued at a million dollars and will be distributed free of charge. It includes cafeteria facilities, furniture, and electronic and mechanical equipment suitable for vocational training.

On the recommendation of Auditor J. P. Filckerton, the Commissioners decided the expense of handling the equipment, now located at nearby defense installations, will be apportioned among the receiving agencies "in the same proportion" as the value of the materials received.

Va. Democrat Gets His Wish, Shakes President's Hand

By The Associated Press

A Virginia Democrat who plugged for President Truman's election when scarcely anyone else gave him a chance, called at the White House yesterday to shake the Chief Executive's hand.

Clarence Magee of Portsmouth, Va., contractor, told newsmen after seeing Mr. Truman that the President "had given Virginia up," but was pleasantly surprised to find that he carried the State.

"I was the only Democrat in the Second Congressional District to come out in the open and support the President," Magee remarked.

He said yesterday's meeting with Mr. Truman was arranged by the Portsmouth Star after he told the newspaper he would like to go to Washington and shake hands with Mr. Truman.

Small Loan Returns Seen Inadequate

The present 6 to 8 per cent returns on small loans are not enough, Willard A. Holbrook, executive vice president of the Federal Service Finance Corporation, told representatives of the Corporation Counsel's office yesterday.

Holbrook's comments came as he testified at a hearing into proposed new District regulations affecting loan agencies, held at the District Building.

Holbrook declared that small loan companies bridge an "economic gap" existing between banks and usurious loan sharks by helping those who cannot secure bank loans from falling into the hands of "sharks."

But, Holbrook contended, finance companies cannot operate successfully under present limitations.

Only other person to testify yesterday was William R. Lichtenberg, counsel for the Washington Association of Finance Co.'s.

Lichtenberg asserted that conditional sales contracts should not come under the proposed regulations since such contracts (which cover much installment buying), are not, in fact, loans.

Sprouse Gets 15 Years For Slaying Attorney

Buckingham, Va., Nov. 30 (AP)—Judge Joel W. Flood in Buckingham County Circuit Court today sentenced Landy Richard Sprouse to 15 years in the state penitentiary for the shotgun murder of a Charlottesville attorney, Montague U. Dixon.

Mrs. Mildred Goode, the daughter of the 58-year-old farm laborer whom the court on November 12 found guilty of second degree murder, and Dixon's widow, both of Charlottesville, were among some 50 persons in the courtroom when the judge pronounced sentence. Also present were John M. Dixon, brother of the attorney, and Mrs. Lena Watts, a housekeeper on Dixon's farm, who had been called during the trial as a witness to the shooting. Dixon died from a shotgun blast on September 14.

Tuck Backs Pay For Merit Rather Than Longevity

Richmond, Va., Nov. 30 (AP)—Governor William M. Tuck told his advisory committee on personnel today he was more interested in seeing State employees rewarded with pay increases for merit than by longevity in service.

He addressed the committee as it convened here for a conference with Dr. Harris Hart, director of the State Division of Personnel.

The Governor stressed his interest in the development of the merit raise approach and said that only employees of proven efficiency should be granted pay raises.

'Blue Baby' Rests Well After First Tests at Hospital

Claude Sine, 13-year-old "blue baby" from Mountain Falls, Va., underwent the first of several tests to determine whether he can undergo a heart operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore yesterday.

A hospital spokesman reported he was resting well. The spokesman said results of the tests will not be known until this weekend.

Claude was born with an obstruction in the pulmonary artery which reduces the amount of blood carried from the body to the lungs for replenishment of oxygen.

Yule Gifts for Wounded

Baltimore, Nov. 30 (AP)—The Legion of the American Wounded said today it will try to mail a Christmas package to every Government hospital patient who was wounded in combat.

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