

# ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

**I**n its Weekly Review of last Sunday The Herald took up the pressing problem of reorganization of the Government Departments, a reorganization apparently dictated in the interest of smoother Federal functioning and given the stamp of approval by members of the Cabinet and other high officials.

The Herald asked for the help of the "Best Minds" among its readers in working out a reallocation of governmental branches at present palpably attached to Departments where full co-ordination of interests is impossible. It placed before the public a chart showing the present organization with references as to changes contemplated in the Reorganization Bill of Senator McCormick of Illinois, together with an explanatory article.

**C**ONGRESSIONAL action looms on the problem of reorganization of the government departments. It is indicated that despite the great press of business confronting the special session, reorganization measures will not only be introduced and debated but perhaps molded into a form which will become an act recasting the scores of Federal agencies, by regrouping, modification, elimination and creation of new branches.

Last Sunday The Herald in its Weekly Review presented for consideration of its readers a chart showing proposed changes in the ten existing departments and requested that suggestions along lines of reorganization be forwarded to it by the "Best Minds" among its friends.

Majority opinions will be given publicity in next Sunday's Weekly Review. A symposium, based upon suggestions received, will be printed and this will unmistakably indicate the preponderant thought of careful students of the problem.

**T**ODAY THE HERALD reproduces a chart drawn in line with the recommendations contained in the reorganization bill of Senator McCormick of Illinois and pending budget legislation. This bill is slated for early introduction and the conclusions graphically set forth are based upon long consideration and careful study. The departures from departmental arrangement of the present time may seem startling in some instances but a careful analysis of the functions of the branches indicated for transfer, creation, or division into several parts clearly demonstrate in nearly every case that they are misplaced, necessitated by post-war demands, or nonco-ordinated as regards their interior make-up, as the case may be.

In the chart, it will be noted that many of the agencies are prefixed by one, two, three or four asterisks.

**T**HE outstanding feature of the McCormick plan is the creation of two new departments, those of Public Works and Public Welfare, and the abolition of the Department of the Interior. Thus, as a result of passage of such a bill, there would be included in the Federal executive machinery eleven departments instead of the ten which have comprised the group since the creation of the Department of Labor.

Most of the existing departments would undergo a marked transformation; the functions of some being curtailed or at least compacted into fewer bureaus, and those of others being increased, the result of the healthy growing demands of a great nation. A few would be left almost intact either as regards separations or additions. These are the departments which possess a single purpose and whose activities have never become diffuse.

The rationale of the McCormick plan is more easily grasped by a brief study of proposed transformations, department by department, than by comment of a general nature. For that purpose, the executive branches are herewith given separate consideration.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Closer to the President perhaps than any other Federal branch and dignified by precedent and diplomatic history, this department would suffer no excisions and but one addition. The solicitor would be transferred from the Department of Justice and made an officer directly responsible to the Cabinet premier. It may be noted in passing that the Department of Justice by the McCormick scheme would lose all the departmental solicitors, each going to his respective branch. Another modification which appertains with McCormick to all the departments is the abolishment of ranking assistant secretaries, "First," "Second," "Third," etc. Priorities are to be established by importance of departmental division placed under each.

## DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

This branch would be stripped of its Bureau of Insular Affairs, commented upon in last Sunday's Review as not germane to military governance. The various engineer groups having control of rivers, harbors, Alaskan roads, the Panama Canal, etc., all responsible to the departmental engineer board, are transferred. Thus the land fighting branch would be telescoped into a highly co-ordinated organization, a

thing dictated by the demands of modern warfare and in line with military reductions.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

From the Treasury Department would go the various departmental auditors, the Comptroller of the Currency, the coast guard, general supply committee, the Public Health Service and Bureau of War Risk Insurance. The pending Bureau of the Budget would come into the fold. The Secret Service would shift to the Department of Justice as well as the prohibition commissioner and his machinery. Here again a fine compactness would be achieved.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

No less unified than the War Department would be this branch. The Hydrographic Office and Naval Observatory would pass from its dominance and a Revenue Cutter Service, a component part of the

Suggestions were solicited, suggestions which might conceivably be incorporated in a movement having the most profound results for speeding up and making more efficient and economical the government machine. The response has been gratifying.

In this issue of the Weekly Review is published a chart drawn after careful comparison and elimination by Senator McCormick and contemplated in the McCormick Reorganization Bill and pending budget legislation.

Next Sunday The Herald will publish, as promised in the initial article, a symposium based upon all opinions received, showing which way lies the preponderating weight of public thought as to reorganization.

### Key to Chart.

One asterisk indicates an office affected by the McCormick reorganization bill or by the McCormick-Good budget bill. The double asterisk (\*\*) indicates a unit created by one or the other of these bills. The triple asterisk (\*\*\*) indicates a unit not specifically provided for by the proposed legislation, but which may be established by the department head to perform duties imposed upon his department under the McCormick plan. The quadruple asterisk (\*\*\*\*) indicates a unit, which, under the McCormick plan, probably would be combined with other units by the department head. The parenthetical references indicate the present departmental location of the establishment named, or, in the case of new units, of its predecessors.

Coast Guard Service now under the Treasury, would be added.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

A seemingly admirable reorganization is slated for this executive branch by the McCormick plan. Under its aegis would be gathered all the prosecuting, legal defense, land title surveillance and investigative agencies of the government. Internal realignment would be mainly responsible for the changed aspect. A general intelligence division would be a novel and promising addition.

## POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

This department would remain untouched by reorganization except for the assignment of its solicitor to its own domain.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The Weather Bureau, Forest Service and Bureau of Public Roads would be excised from this highly complex division. The only addition would be the supervisory machinery for the U. S. Botanic Garden.

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

This has been since its creation somewhat stunted by Congressional disregard. The McCormick plan would bring it a great stimulus materially and in morale. Under its supervision would come the Patent Office from the Interior, Coast Guard from the Treasury, Lake Survey from War, Hydrographic Office from Navy, National Observatory (a reorganized Naval Observatory), Weather Bureau from Agriculture, and Inland and Coastwise Waterways Service from War. These in addition to the bureaus already making up the department.

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Under the McCormick plan, this branch is given an official bill of health. It would remain in statu quo with the addition of its solicitor.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

This new branch would bulk as one of the largest departments in scope of the whole group. It would be a glorified Department of the Interior and its supervisory powers would extend not only over physical aspects of national development but over the more aesthetic, as witness the inclusion of the Commission of Fine Arts and the supervising architect's office. A careful study of the arrangement seems convincing of the department's need.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

Practical public weal has become an issue only in the past few decades. The second proposed branch would include all agencies at present charged with the hospitalization and training of military veterans as well as a number of institutions for the physically or mentally ill now scattered under various heads.

## INDEPENDENT EXECUTIVE ESTABLISHMENTS.

Many of these would be placed under a departmental head by the McCormick plan, while some would gain independence after long attachment to a department. In this connection, the creation of a general accounting office is called for, wherein would be placed the comptroller and auditors of the Treasury.

## ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION.

These would remain virtually intact under present supervision, the U. S. Botanic Garden alone passing from the group

## Bureaus and Divisions Suggested For Regrouping and Reallocation.

### WAR DEPARTMENT.

Bureau of Insular Affairs.  
Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors.  
Board of Engineers, New York City.  
Supervisor of New York Harbor.  
U. S. Engineer Office.  
Lake Survey.  
Mississippi River Commission.  
California Debris Commission.  
Board of Road Commission for Alaska.  
Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and Washington Monument.  
Inland and Coastwise Waterways Service.  
Panama Canal.  
National Military Park Commission.  
U. S. Soldiers' Home.

### TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Comptroller of the Currency.  
Division of Secret Service.  
Prohibition Commissioner.  
Supervising Architect.  
Coast Guard.  
General Supply Committee.  
The Assistant Secretary in charge of Public Health and War Risk Insurance.  
Public Health Service.  
Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

### NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Hydrographic Office.  
Naval Observatory.

### INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Administration of Alaska and Hawaii.  
General Land Office.  
Office of Indian Affairs.  
Board of Indian Commissioners.  
Bureau of Pensions.  
Patent Office.  
Bureau of Education.  
Geological Survey.  
Reclamation Service.  
Bureau of Mines.  
Government Fuel Yards.  
National Park Service.  
St. Elizabeth's Hospital.  
Freedmen's Hospital.  
Alaskan Engineering Commission.  
War Minerals Relief Commission.  
Division of Capitol Buildings and Grounds.

### AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Weather Bureau.  
Forest Service.  
Bureau of Public Roads.  
Bureau of Markets.

### COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Bureau of the Census.  
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.  
Bureau of Standards.  
Bureau of Fisheries.  
Bureau of Lighthouses.  
Coast and Geodetic Survey.  
Bureau of Navigation.  
Steamboat Inspection Service.

### INDEPENDENT EXECUTIVE ESTABLISHMENTS.

Columbia Institution for the Deaf.  
National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.  
Superintendent of the State, War and Navy Buildings.  
Interstate Commerce Commission.  
United States Geographic Board.  
Commission of Fine Arts.  
Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission.  
United States Board of Mediation and Conciliation.  
Federal Trade Commission.  
United States Council of National Defense.  
United States Employees' Compensation Commission.  
United States Shipping Board.  
United States Emergency Fleet Corporation.  
Federal Board for Vocational Education.  
Alien Property Custodian.  
War Finance Corporation.  
United States Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board.  
National Screen Thread Commission.  
United States Railroad Labor Board.  
Federal Power Commission.

### ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION.

United States Botanic Garden.  
National Forest Reservation Commission.