SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1948

## IT'S UP TO THE DOCTORS

No one in his right mind wants any part of out-and-out state medicine; and no responsible U. S. public official, so far as we know, has proposed anything so drastic. Yet, when you listen to the plaint of the American Medical Association, it would seem that state medicine is smack on us. This week, in St. Louis, the AMA viewed with customary alarm several proposals for a Federal health insurance plan and hurriedly voted to assess each of its 140,000 members the sum of 235, or 3,500,000 in all, to pay for a "grass roots" political campaign against any form of compulsory sickness insurance and socialized medicine. In voting the assessment, the AMA declared. We are convinced that it undustry the medical care insurance can and will solve the good many thinking people are convinced that it can solve the problem; but there is good reason, judging from past performance, to doubt that it will. With all due respect for the marvels of modern medicine, there are at least five big problems with have not yet been even partially solved:

1. An insufficient number of doctors,

An insufficient number of doctors. 1. An insurince in number of account partly due to the tight control which or-ganized medicine exercises over the admis-sion of new students to medical colleges, a sort of gentlemen's "closed shop" arrange-

ment.

2. The mal-distribution of doctors, with heavy concentrations in the cities, where there are rich earnings to be made, and a shortage in rural areas, where the pickings

are alimmer.

3. The lack of any protection for the public against backward and ineffcient practitioners. Doctors are notably reluctant to eject from their ranks those members who fall below modern professional standards or who engage in dubious ethical practices, perhaps through an understandable fear of adverse publicity.

The present high cost of medical care, which hits the middle-income group par-ticularly hard. (The rich can afford it; the poor get it free.)

the poor get it free.)

5. The absence of any form of insurance against medical disaster. The voluntary insurance plans of today offer a similate of the second of the of t

Under the American system, doctors are given aimost complete freedom. They run the medical colleges, regulate the admissions thereto, prescribe the standards therefor. They set their own rule-of-thumb ethical standards. They staff the state examining boards, and determine whether or not an applicant is qualified to practice medicine. Having granted doctors such wide latitude, build have been added to the public first and to give more than passing thought to the public interest.

the public interest.

And it is definitely in the public interest to find a solution to these, and other, problems. Yet the AMA, a good deal more reactionary as a body than its members are individually, has always adopted a concerning as "cocalized medicine" every sistering the concerning as "cocalized medicine" every sistering advanced for improving the present system, and has fought them tooth-and-nail. The AMA would serve itself, its members and the public better if it would emulate the doctors of North Carolina, who largely conceived and fought for the Good Health plan, take the initiative and leadership away from "outside reformers" and restore it to the ranks of the medical profession where it belongs.

## A TOUGH PROBLEM NEATLY SOLVED

By a neat little bit of fancy footwork, the Bistate Department of Motor Vehicles has dogged one of the more pressing problems of the day, but in doing so has left unsolved a tough question: At what point in the hierarchy of our State Government do people stop being "high brass" and become plain, ordinary public employees?

plain, ordinary public employees?
For years the Motor Vehicles Division has gotten by with a simple solution to the problem of assigning auto tags with low priority numbers to top State officials. The Governor got No. 1, the Lleutenant-Governor No. 2, the Speaker of the House No. 3. Then came five members of the Council of State—Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Attorney-General. That took up numbers 4 through 8. The Adjustant-General was given No. 9, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court No. 10, and the other asso-Supreme Court No. 10, and the other asso-ciate justices got 11 through 16.

But look. That made the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Labor,

through 20. And that wouldn't do at all, for those gentlemen are members of the Council of State, also, and they didn't like for the Supreme Court justices to have lower numbers. Poor, harassed Landon C. Rosser, Motor Vehicles Commissioner, considered bumping them up in front of the Supreme Court, but then he decided the justices wouldn't like that either.

wountn like that either. So he had a bright idea. He set up a special series for the Supreme Court to salvo-their feelings and keep the Council of Staters happy at the same time. Now the Chief Justice gets No. J-1, the six associates Nos. J-2, J-3, etc.

J-2, J-3, etc.

We are intrigued by the whole idea. Let's set up a whole passel of the things—Give all tax collectors a series starting with TC-1, all weight inspectors one beginning with WI-1, all stenographers 8-1, all filing clerks FC-1, etc. There might be one drawback: janitors would normally draw a J-1 series, just like the Supreme Court justices, but Mr. Rosser could surely find some more euphemistic designation for the public officials who keep our buildings clean.

## MICKEY TAKES A RIDE

MAN'S closest sasceiate—one that searce whis womenfolk and constantly outwits them both—has taken to the first all nettligent citizens of the atomic age.

He is the common ordent—the mouse or rat, as the case may be with the same of t

In fact, that's how quarantine authorities knew he took the trip in the first place; the milk was snitched, but the snitcher was never found. Port authorities say this is the first evidence that rats are being car-ried via international planes from one

All of which presents grave problems for quarantine authorities, ever on the alert against admitting such disease-spreaders

to the United States. The job was relatively easy in the old days when everything moved by water. Now officials fear all sorts of new diseases may enter this country via

of new diseases may enter this country via in travel. Much as this newest development de-serves attention from harassed quarantine officials, it still contains an element of humor for Americans who have watched their favorite rodent on the screen. Mickey Mouse, do even more astounding things. There is something remarkable about rat's instinct—the fact thay the about at the contained the second of the contained the rat's instinct—the fact thay the about at the contained the second contained the second properties of the contained the contained the contained the second properties of the contained the cont

Such blind faith! And us living in the atomic age.

## THE NEMESIS OF THE MOTHER HUBBARD

From The Louisville Courier-Journal

THE NEMESIS OF THE MOTHER HUBBARD

It is claimed for Issac Ginsberg of New York that he is the man who put glamor into the house dress. He is to be honored by the National Association of House Dress Manufacturers. While claiming no expert knowledge of Mr. Ginsberg's contribution, we are prepared to hall him as a benefactor of the human race.

Time was when the house dress languished in the class of the Mother Hubbard. It was built on loose and careless lines, and its absile virtue was comfort. The share the properties of the state of the daily work in something that might have been worn by the mother of the drage, on, Grendel, for poking around in the back of the cave. In such an outfit it was nothing short of tragedy for a woman to be seen. Love fiew out of the window when the husband came in the door, if he found his wife garbed in such slatterily weeds.

Then the good Mr. Ginsberg evidently got

'Wait A Minute --- I've Seen These Jokers Before Too'



## A Report On North Carolina

# Employment & Wages Trends 1940-47

S. F. CAMPBELL, Director Employment Security Commission of North Carolina Bureau of Research and Statistics

S. F. CAMPBELL. Director Employment Security Commission of North Carolina Bureau of Research and statistical Commission of North Carolina Bureau of Research and statistical Commission of North Carolina and volume of a commission of the Campbell of the Campbell of Campbe

since 1940 has not been from a cyclical trough, but rather from a reasonably high treed of business.

FMPLOYMENT covered by the Employment Security 1942 has increased from 74.872 workers in 1940 to 822.896 in 1947, a gain of 31 12 per cent; and, and the security of the security of 1940 to 1940

rom?

Government estimates that our increase in population since 1946 is only \$3,000 Yes population since 1946 is only \$3,000 Yes during the same period exceeded death 3 by 1.1 could very well be that the Cooremment.

It could very well be that the Cooremment.

Marquis Childs

## The Dream Vanishes

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Emily Hains tells the absorbing bory in "The Soong Sisters," from at beginning the three went on play vital parts in China's up-

Joseph And Stewart Alsop

## Enter Baldwin's Ghost

#### State Dept. Credited With Army Coup Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

I the government of popular President Hormus CHRINGE AND PRESENT AND THE MET A

speak. What has now happened in Venezuela—and will soon take olace in other Latin-American republica—as the direct product of this incredent all over the hemisphere, in effect have been given the green light by Washington. The political crisis in Venezuela, which becan to shape up some weeks ago, had already been solved, more or less to excryour's satisfaction, when modern the Amy mored as.

How The Military Operated

HERE is the inside story of just how and why they operated

Persident Gallegos, elected by the overscheiming majority
of 2 per cent of the votes, was a personal friend of President

To the week ago Gallegor had refused to be bluffed by an

ultimatum from the opposition (OPE) (Conservative Parx;

supported by half a dozen top Army officers, that he re
COPEE the Galinet and give half the Galinet posts to

utilination aupported by half a dozen we supported by half a dozen we supported the Cabinet and give half the Cabines and Cabinets after refused but did offer COPEI two portfolios, with two others sofing to independents. (His Cabinet since taking office last Pébruary had been composed exclusively of men from his own party. Accton Democratical At the same time, President Culleton since two other goves: 1, he had labor unions throughout the country advised to the country advised

as to what was brewing; 2, he cabled Col. Mario Vargas, Inspector-General of the Army, to come home from Saranac Lake, N. Y., where he was restly nowerful oil workers' union.

Organized labor, led by the powerful oil workers' union.

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Organized labor, led by the powerful oil workers' union would back Callego. The part was the circumstance may require. And Col. Vargas, supposedly loyal to the Government, arrived in Caracas Nov. 23.

## State Department's Reversal

HE sent as once to consult with the President. By then, even the COPEI leaders thought them selves defeated of even the COPEI leaders thought them selves defeated of the control of the c

Only was went been seen as a name comp recognised in VetterCol. Vargas went back to see President Colleges that
evening and asked him if this version of the way Washington handled the Pervivan loans was true. When the President
longer support the Covernment,
One bour later. Vargas was with other Army brass,
planning the coup. It came off smoothly, thanks largely to
COPEI crists was over. Before Venezuelan labor unions had
a chance to raily snywhere, they found themselves facing
tanks and machine gifty at every corner.

Argenting's Joker

WHEN the State Dept. announced it was maintaining re-lations with the Peruvian dictatorship, it cited the reso-

2. Having given our word, why did we break it three days later?

## Merry-Go-Round