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The Cisco Daily Press

and CISCO DAILY NEWS

Consolidated with Cisco Daily News and Cisco American and Round-Up, Nov. 1, 1937

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How Fares Our Defense Effort?

SIX months ago the American people came to a great decision. Reversing every historical precedent, they decided that they must build great military strength though they were at peace with all the world.

They have not changed that decision. There are differences of opinion as to how we may be forced to use our strength—none as to building it.

How fares the effort after six months? The political campaign being over, we can look at ourselves in the mirror without distortion and ask "How're we doin'?"

WE believe progress has been such that no American need be ashamed. Most of the disappointments with the defense effort have come to those who expected miracles. Those who appreciated the task and faced it realistically are not discouraged, not displeased. By next June, roughly a year after the intensive preparedness drive began, the United States will be able to show military

The Spoils System in State Politics

By GEORGE C. HESTER

This column has made frequent reference to the methods of employing the ordinary personnel in our state government commonly referred to as the "spoils system." In these days of uncertainty, the growing army of job hunters, and the almost irresistible march of spoils, or pressure politics, is reaching alarming proportions in this country.

In Texas there is no civil service statute, although some of the departments have attempted to set up merit systems for employing their personnel.

As a rule, however, the spoils system is wide open. It reaches from the governor's office down, and the attempts of one state official to condemn others for such practices is usually just a matter

of the "pot calling the kettle black." In all fairness it must be said that our public officials are really not to blame for such conditions. The system and its practices have just grown up, the ordinary official of a department or agency finds himself a sort of victim of circumstance. He must live by politics and he cannot disregard the political pressure exerted upon him.

On the other hand the fact that such a system is not only permitted, but growing constantly worse, is a travesty upon our state. A former state auditor, Moore Lynn, estimated several years ago that the spoils system, in its turn-overs, was costing the state at least \$500,000 annually.

But we wonder if this estimate really touches the real costs. A legislator, with a long experience in working on appropriations, estimated for one year that the state's payrolls are padded at least \$20 per cent.

What the average citizen, how-

strength with which no power in the world will be inclined to trifle.

Considering that it takes at least 100 days to build a modern cantonment, the progress of building in the camps, which started only last September, ranges from satisfactory to remarkable.

Housing, clothing, and elementary weapons are ready for the large influx of men to come after the first of the year. Heavier and more complex weapons are not yet on hand in quantity. Instructors for the men are being rapidly trained.

INDUSTRIAL leaders believe that American industry is producing all that could be expected as fast as any realistic person could desire. They express the utmost confidence that production of war materials, once started on a quantity basis, will "surprise ourselves," as Chairman A. W. Robertson of Westinghouse put it. With a very few exceptions the co-operation of labor and management in defense work has been freely offered.

Naval building is proceeding, Admiral Sterling says, "as fast as anyone who knows shipbuilding could expect," though new yards must be built to expand capacity.

In short, in the preparedness effort, there is room neither for chest pounding nor for despair. We are doing the job.

But we must not relax for a moment. The pace is faster. It must continue in rising tempo until we wield such force that American policy may be determined not by what others do, but by what we as Americans decide is right for us to do.

An Oklahoma man deserted his wife and 11 children. They'll probably find him in some nice, quiet spot.

Flanagan, Ill., voted for a new high school but defeated the bond issue to pay for it. Even the teachers can't solve that one.

They're rationing bacon in Britain—but only until the army brings it home.

A serious shortage of people without colds is reported in numerous sections of the country.

A Los Gatos, Calif., couple hope to make orchids as common as the onion. Girls will still cry for them.



and women, prepared or unprepared, employed or unemployed, to seek state jobs by participation in political campaigns. It is the law and practice of politicians for those seeking elective positions in the service of the state to promise their supporters the results of victory at the ballot box. The faithful performance of these obligations has come to be considered the essence of a code of honest politics.

"State employes cannot be expected to remain inactive when they see thousands of outsiders campaigning for the sole purpose of displacing them in their positions. Likewise no candidate for office can be expected to refrain from promising jobs to his followers when he knows that his opponents are trying to defeat him by this very method.

"It is axiomatic that state employes cannot efficiently and faithfully perform their duties when they must spend a good portion of their time in an effort to retain their jobs. The result is that the service of the state is neglected and the money of the taxpayers is in fact unofficially appropriated to political activities.

"After elections a wild scramble begins for the spoils. State employes, as well as outsiders, fight to prove that they and their friends and relatives were rightfully responsible for the election of the successful candidates. This frequently ends in the old employes becoming divided and making a house-cleaning necessary even if there is no change in the elective office. The state service is always seriously affected before and after election.

"When the newly elected officers assume their duties, they must spend several weeks in selecting their subordinates under the most bitter and trying circumstances when they should spend their time trying to become acquainted with their own duties. This usually results in a completely new staff of a department from the elective head to janitors, causing the taxpayers to pay for another period of inefficiency and training. In fact the short terms of office and consequently frequent elections prevent the state employes from ever getting much

beyond the training stage, and private business operated on such a basis would soon be in bankruptcy. We are now beginning to see more clearly than ever before that the game of politics can bankrupt the taxpayer.

"This vicious circle of out and in not only tends to keep the service of the state in the hands of incompetents but it threatens the integrity of the ballot box. The ballot box degenerates into a mere job-getting device and the patriotic citizen interested only in a clean, honest, efficient government becomes disgusted and frequently refuses to vote.

BRUCE CATTON'S AMERICAN ROUNDUP

COMMITTEE OF DOCTORS SET UP TO STUDY WAYS OF EASING WEAP AND TEAR ON WARPLANE PILOTS

By BRUCE CATTON

NEA Service Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON—A little-noticed part of the defense program is being carried on by doctors who have been given the job of finding some way of enabling the human body to stand up under the terrific strains which modern high-speed planes impose and aerial warfare inflict on airplane pilots.

A health and medical committee has been set up under the defense commission, with army, navy and Public Health Service experts co-operating. This committee studies routine problems connected with learning what sort of person is best fitted to be a pilot, and also is tackling several brand new riddles made acute by current war experiences.

One of the most pressing of these is the fact that fighting pilots nowadays are subject to the "bends"—that painful and crippling malady familiar to deep-sea divers, sand-hogs and others who work under high atmospheric pressures.

WORK ON PRESSURE SUIT

A modern fighting plane can climb several thousand feet in a minute. The pilot who ascends rapidly from sea level to two or three miles altitude undergoes a sudden change in pressure such as a diver would encounter if he came up from great depths too rapidly.

The army put Capt. Harry Armstrong to work on the problem at Wright Field. The navy called in its expert on deep-sea pressure problems, Lieut. Commander Albert R. Behrke, and Dr. Ben Jones of the Public Health Service. "It's a tough nut to crack. The

diver avoids the bends by coming up slowly, giving his system time to adjust itself to the decreasing pressure. An aviator climbing fast to get above an enemy bomber can't wait. Behrke had found that a diver avoids a lot of trouble if oxygen is mixed with his air but the diver still has to be halfway up, and "laper off," which, again, the aviator just can't do.

Right now the experts are trying to figure out some sort of pressure suit for the flyer. Trouble with that, so far, is that as the flyer climbs his suit blows up and the internal air pressure. If the fabric doesn't give, the thing goes so rigid the man can't bend his arms or legs. Present problem is to find some way of making a pressure suit with articulated joints—which will probably leave the flyer looking like a man from Mars.

FATIGUE ALSO BIG PROBLEM

CENTRIFUGAL force is another queer problem. The ultra-manoeuvrable modern plane gives the pilot a bad beating in that respect. Practical effect of application of centrifugal force is to increase a man's weight. A top plane can withstand 14-G, as experts put it—centrifugal force equivalent to increasing its weight 14 times. The pilot can only stand 6-G. When pressure goes above that—as it can in a sudden turn—abrupt climb, or what-not—the pilot blacks out.

Even when the pressure isn't great enough to make him lose consciousness he's likely to be tired, so that the effort of moving a hand or a foot is almost too much for him.

Plain, ordinary fatigue is still another puzzler. The combination of nerve strain, physical weakness and the fear and excitement of an aerial fight can do queer things to a flyer. The British have noticed this especially. A pilot returns from a raid over Germany clear as night, smooth, well-lighted airport waiting for him. . . . but he cracks up in landing

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