

## Michigan Mirror

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ous state departments and bureaus and bringing recommendations back to the governor for executive action.

And because his boss, Governor Harry F. Kelly, has some ideas of efficiency himself—witness his inaugural message to the legislature last month—the noise henceforth in the vicinity of the statehouse may consist of loud protests and gnashing of teeth. You may even hear it from your front porch!

For six years Ford has been associate professor of economics at the University of Michigan at

Ann Arbor and also director of the "bureau of government" there, a research agency which studies Michigan governmental and taxation problems.

Like Harold Smith, another university professor who became Michigan's budget director in 1937 and later national budget director at Washington, Ford's Lansing appointment is his first debut in public service. His salary is \$7,500.

It is interesting to note that the legislative act gives Ford the power, with approval of the governor, to consolidate state agencies. He will decide the usefulness of a public job, a function which recently has been performed by the Michigan civil service commission under its powerful constitutional amendment. In this function there

seems to be some overlapping or duplication, but the civil service director is said to have given his blessing to the efficiency expert plan.

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If Robert S. Ford "goes to town" as well as going to Lansing, this 1943 legislative creation may become the most important accomplishment of the Kelly administration. Surely, the possibilities are great.

In his January inaugural message, Kelly asked for consolidation of the corporation and securities commission, state banking department, state department of insurance, building and loan division of the department of state, finance company division of the state treasurer's office, and public trust commission.

And as for the time-honored custom of creating a new commission at Lansing every time a group of business men want to "protect the public" through collection of fees and issuance of licenses, an obvious method to control competition and prices, Governor Kelly has this to say:

"Many of the so-called regulatory boards and commissions should be brought together under one administrative control resulting in considerable savings in costs and reduction in operating personnel."

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Since the new "deputy governor" is to be responsible to the governor himself and will serve as a new ambassador-at-large, the forth-coming tug-of-war will be interesting to watch.

Governor Kelly will merge the public debt commission and the loan board into a new agency, the Municipal Finance commission. He would eliminate the office of budget director, transferring the duties to the auditor general. (The fiscal feud between Budget Director Leo Nowicki and Auditor General Vernon J. Brown produced conflicting statements and public confusion.)

And then, for good measure, the governor suggests a consolidation of inspectional services which are now performed by various state departments. It is the governor's conviction that one inspector, properly trained, would represent a number of state agencies on a field trip and this could save considerable time and money for the taxpayers.

If the Kelly administration goes down in history books as the "efficiency administration," modernizing of old machinery whereby the public serves itself, the field of potential reforms may be extended.

The state senate has adopted a resolution proposal to amend the constitution whereby the term of a township official would be lengthened from one to two years. Two years would make a township official more efficient, why would not four years make a governor more efficient?

And then as long as we are going in this efficiency business, why not take the offices of superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of agriculture and state highway commission out of "politics" and make them responsible to a non-partisan commission whose members serve long terms of four to six years?

On the highway department front you find two trends of thinking.

One trend is to remove the department from "politics" by creating a three-man commission whose members would be appointed to serve terms of six years. The commission would hire the engineer who would serve at the commission's discretion. Arguing that it would end the "highway department machine," would save money; would make the commission responsible to the governor.

The other trend is to maintain the elective system as it now exists. Republican legislators are confident a Republican will replace a Democrat as state highway commissioner. They don't like the idea of abolishing the office just before the election this spring. They feel it would "hurt" the party to do so. Such is the other point of view.

Governor Kelly is remaining discreetly neutral.

However on the basis of the efficiency philosophy of the governor, we will venture one prediction: If the legislature puts the highway department on a commission basis which is responsible to the governor, Harry F. Kelly will sign it.

points on favorite items that may be scarce, or give up fewer points for those that are more abundant. Since point rationing halts competitive bidding for scarce articles, it eases the pressure on price ceilings, and hence is an important anti-inflation measure.

Major Canning Crops A plan for stabilizing the cost of living and at the same time encouraging farmers to produce sufficient quantities of certain foods for military and civilian needs is being tried out with the four major crops—tomatoes, peas, sweet corn, and snap beans. Under the new program the growers of these crops will be assured of a larger return than they received in 1942, but the difference in costs will be absorbed by the Government through purchase of the output of certain of the crops.

Under the new program the growers of these crops will be assured of a larger return than they received in 1942, but the difference in costs will be absorbed by the Government through purchase of the output of certain of the crops. The plan allows fixed minimum returns to growers. The Government will then resell a portion of the pack, for civilian consumption, to these growers at a discount, so that higher prices will not be passed on to the consumer.

Thus, farmers will receive more for the four major crops, but the housewife will pay no more for the canned products than she paid last year. In order to benefit from this plan, however, canners will have to prove that they paid farmers the price fixed by the Government. This is, in effect, a subsidy at the processing level, but it has certain practical advantages over a direct subsidy to farmers.

Drain On Butter Although very little butter is shipped out of the United States, except for our armed services, there has been a heavy drain on our butter stocks, resulting in widespread local shortages. Butter production last year was more than 2 billion pounds, but much of the surplus was absorbed by the military and civilians ordinarily consume, and these services must maintain reasonable reserves in order to be sure of their supplies.

Furthermore, with civilian war incomes up, more people have been eating larger amounts of butter, and they have been consuming more evaporated milk, ice cream and some of the dairy products—all of them made from fluid milk. Thus cutting into butter manufacture. In 1943, we'll get less butter than usual—an average of about a quarter of a pound per week per person, which is far greater than the butter allowance in any part of Europe.

American goods sent to our allies are much less in volume than must be set aside for the use of our armed forces, but they are of immense value to Allied fighters of the countries where there are severe food shortages. One of these is Russia, which lost huge areas of its best farm lands to the Nazis.

Food For Russia Since the start of our aid to the Soviet Union in October 1941, the United States has transferred to the U.S.S.R. supplies which cost more than a billion dollars—almost all of them of a military character. From now on, however, food shipments to the Soviet are expected to be larger than Lend-Lease food deliveries to all other parts of the world combined, including may elect to "spend" more coupon the United Kingdom.

## Victory

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civilians will have to get along with less of some foods retailed in these forms, although they will not be stinted in buying fresh fruits and vegetables, fish, poultry, and other food products equally nourishing.

The point ration plan is not a scheme for tying up purchases in red tape. On the contrary, it is one of the few reliable methods for spreading fairly the reduced supplies of standardized food items among all classes of consumers. The point method is also a voluntary system, in that each buyer will elect to "spend" more coupon

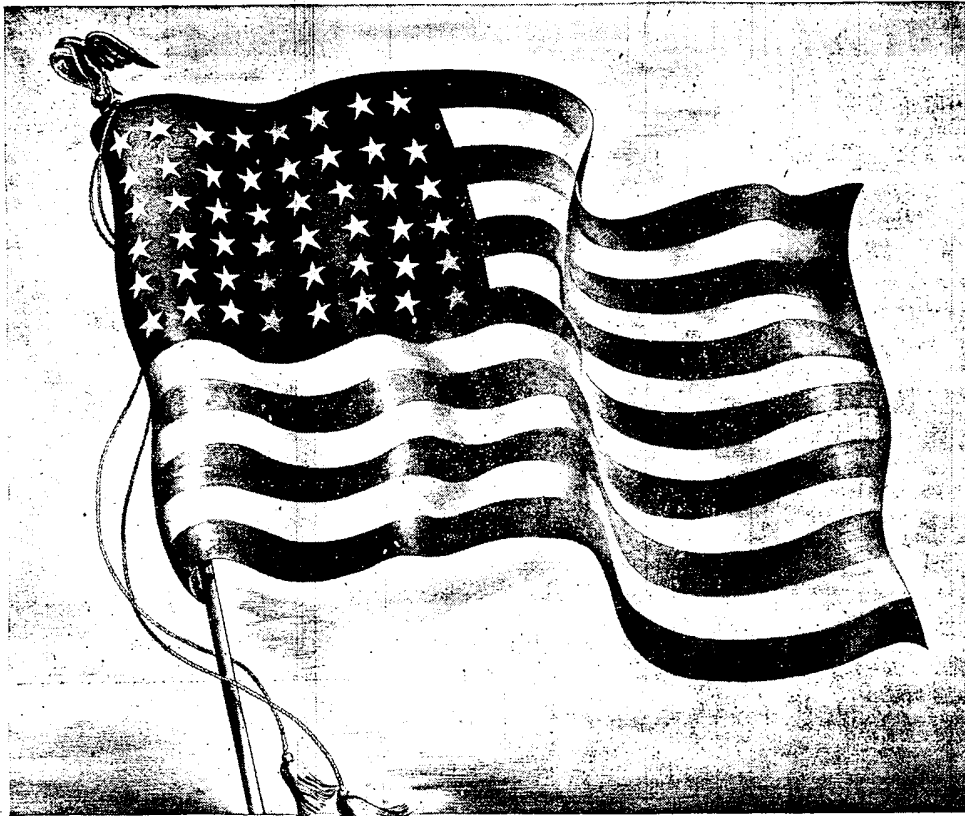
the United Kingdom.



## FOR VICTORY

Keep your stock strong and healthy. Now more than ever before stock is needed for food and to replace hard-to-get machinery. They need the best feed obtainable to prepare them for their part in the war effort.

FARMINGTON MILLS



Just a piece of cloth

That's all it is—just a piece of cloth.

You can count the threads in it and it's no different from any other piece of cloth.

But then a little breeze comes along, and it stirs and sort of comes to life and flutters and snaps in the wind, all red and white and blue.

And then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it.

It has your whole life wrapped up in it. The meals you're going to eat. The time you're going to spend with your wife. The kind of things your boy will learn at school. Those strange and wonderful thoughts you get, inside a church, on Sunday.

Those stars in it—they make you feel just as free as the stars in the wide, deep night. And those stripes—they're bars of blood no any dictator who'd try to change it.

Just a piece of cloth, that's all it is—until you put your soul into it, and all that your soul stands for and wants and aspires to be.

Get that straight—it's just a piece of cloth. It doesn't mean a thing that you don't make it mean.

What do you want to make it mean? A symbol of liberty and decency and fair-dealing for everyone?

Then snap out of it. The enemy's been getting closer every day. Don't let him get any closer. Start driving him back now.

Now?

These aren't enough ships yet. Aren't enough cannons, tanks, planes.

How are we going to get them? Make them, of course.

But how are we going to make them—these people, the way they do in Germany?

No, sir. We're going to pay our way. And you've got to help.

Got to help? No, you don't even have to give up your dough. All you have to do is lend it—at interest. Higher interest than you can get in almost any other way—in U. S. War Bonds.

Interest that makes the Bond worth 1/2 again as much as you paid for it, in just ten years—just at the time you'll be wanting to make that vacation or buy that home in a world that's free and peaceful and swell to live in again.

Yes, that flag is just a piece of cloth until you breathe life into it. Until you make it stand for everything you believe in and want and refuse to live without.

Misner, is it worth plugging 10% of your income for, in U. S. War Bonds?

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