

Washington Patterns Future After Original L'Enfant Plan



Spring Brings Influx Of Tourists to Capital

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

The spring tourist trek is descending on Washington. The Capital City has changed so rapidly in the last decade through a \$200,000,000 government building program that even those who live there have difficulty keeping track of the shifting scenes.

The problem faced by the commission of fine arts and the builders of the new Washington is twofold. In carrying out the plan of 1901, worked out to incorporate virtually all that was feasible in Major L'Enfant's original plan, they are striving to produce the most beautiful capital in the world and at the same time to provide suitable quarters for the ever-increasing bureaus of the federal government.

To erect a truly graceful building large enough to house the thousands of employees of one of the major departments, such as commerce, interior, or agriculture, is a task so difficult as to challenge the most skilled architects. There must be hundreds of offices, all with outside windows; no gloomy medieval castles will prove satisfactory. Hugeness is a physical necessity, grace an artistic obligation.

Federal Triangle Large. To their everlasting credit, the architects who have designed the new edifices have mastered seemingly impossible difficulties. The federal triangle, where are concentrated more official activities than in any other capital, covers an area of about 20 city blocks from its Fifteenth street base, the enormous department of commerce building, to its Sixth street tip, the Apex building, which is to be occupied by the federal trade commission.

Within the nine buildings of this group are offices for more than 25,000 government employees; yet, despite the vastness of the structures, the development has genuine architectural attractiveness and dignity.

Fortunately L'Enfant planned a Federal City with room to expand. Even the largest edifices can be made to look graceful if surrounded by grounds sufficiently spacious, and the new buildings are so framed by pleasant parks and plazas that they escape the charge of crowded awkwardness.

With its new south extensible section, the department of agriculture building has become the largest government office structure in the world, housing in its 4,292 office quarters 6,450 employees; yet even in such a commodious building only about a third of the department's Washington personnel can be brought together.

Wings Added. Constant expansion of activities requires an increase in government office forces too rapid to be taken care of in any single structure, even though it be extensible by merely adding wings and be placed, as is this, in a 35-acre park.

One of the latest of the new structures to be occupied is the new interior department building, into which some 3,000 workers recently moved. Designed by Waddy B. Wood, in consultation with Secretary Harold L. Ickes, this building departs somewhat from the classical style of its neighbors. No pillars adorn it, but setbacks providing outside walls for its many wings give the appearance, at a distance, of Doric columns.

Building Has Electric Stairway. This gray stone giant, just north of the marble edifices that form the frame for the Lincoln memorial, is the first government office building to be equipped with electric stairways. Two of these have been installed to carry passengers between the C street and E street levels and to relieve congestion during the rush hour when lunch is being served in the big cafeteria in the basement. Besides the moving stairs there are 20 high-speed elevators and 11 complete stairways. Like others recently constructed, the building has

WASHINGTON OFFICIAL-DOM—A typical departmental home, quarters of the United States Department of Agriculture. Photo shows the administration building at the left, with east and west wings, and the south building at the right.

a completely automatic air-conditioning system. The structure is virtually a city within a city. It has a telephone system now handling 2,200 main lines and 1,100 extensions. At a peak, 2,600 main lines can be served. The system is equivalent to one serving a city of 30,000.

Along the north side of broad Constitution avenue, across from the munitions building, stand the white marble edifices described by the commission of fine arts as the frame for the Lincoln memorial. Erection of a home for the federal reserve board between Twentieth and Twenty-first streets completes this composition, and when eventually the temporary buildings, result of wartime haste, are removed, one of the major dreams of L'Enfant will be realized.

Pan American Annex Planned. Other splendid buildings in this "frame" are those occupied by the National Academy of Sciences, the public health service, and the Pharmaceutical association. Plans for an annex to the Pan American union have been prepared.

Although a short sight-seeing tour seldom includes a trip through the public health service, that bureau is one that will richly repay a special visit. Within its laboratories men are constantly at work, seeking out causes of diseases that menace life.

Here Dr. Edward Francis discovered the nature and origin of tularemia, or "rabbit fever." Here he is now conducting a study of intermittent fevers. He has exposed him-



TROPICAL SETTING?—The famous Washington monument stands out in severe contrast against a black sky, apparently in the midst of a Florida palm grove as Independence day fireworks burst overhead.

self to the bacteria of so many diseases that it seems a miracle that he still lives. Other earnest scientists are his colleagues. They work tirelessly, risking their own lives for the safety of others.

The late Andrew Mellon, former secretary of the treasury, in presenting to the nation his collection of art, together with a \$10,000,000 building to house it, made a gift valued by experts at probably \$50,000,000. For a site, the location across Constitution avenue from the Apex building has been chosen. Mr. Mellon's magnificent gift is not to bear his name, for he has asked that it be called the National Gallery of Art.

Any discussion of Washington art treasures must include at least mention of the Corcoran gallery, the Phillips Memorial gallery, the Freer gallery and the National Collection of Fine Arts, formerly the National gallery. All are distinctive. In the Phillips gallery the pictures are hung as they would be in a home. Washington circles, parks, and plazas are adorned with many memorials, some of outstanding artistic merit. For those interested in sculpture and other arts, the city offers a field for months of study.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

New Deal Democrats talk about possibility of Republican success in 1940 . . . Probably propaganda . . . Whatever is done about the cotton situation will probably be wrong. . . "Appeasement" program apparently profited only two big corporations.

WASHINGTON.—It's rather curious that for some weeks now one hears more talk about Republican victory in 1940 from Democrats, and particularly from New Deal Democrats, than from Republicans.

This is not just a strange situation. There is plenty of logic back of it. Some of it is founded on cold reason. But a good deal of it is propaganda.

The answer to why there is not too much talk of Republican victory from the G. O. P. leaders themselves is that they realize their own weakness. Despite the Republican victories last fall in many states, which had been held by the Democrats for six years, most of the states are still ruled by the Democratic party.

The importance of this lies in organization. It means that the Democrats have the state house crowd, men on the state payroll who want to stay there, and whose main job next year will be carrying their own stakes for the Democratic ticket regardless of who is the presidential nominee and what may happen to be written in the platform.

Most politicians believe that control of the county governments is more important than control of the state government when it comes to carrying a state in an election. And by the same token the Democrats are in control of a tremendous majority of the county governments in this country.

Most Democrats Don't Want A Conservative Candidate

Then, too, a careful survey of the 1938 election does not present the bright forecast for Republican success which some seem to think. If the Democrats in 1940 can only hold the states they carried beyond question in 1938, leaving out such doubtful problems as Indiana, Iowa and Colorado, they will have a comfortable margin in the electoral college.

Moreover, the Republicans don't like the idea of getting too enthusiastic until they know who their leader is apt to be. Thomas E. Dewey is way out in front now, but there is plenty of talk about Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, and Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio, and others.

On the Democratic side there is an entirely different situation. Down in their hearts most of the Democrats, especially of the New Deal variety, believe the Democratic party will be successful again—but they would never think of conceding that the party can win with a conservative as the nominee!

For instance, most New Dealers would regard the nomination of a man like Senator Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia, or Josiah W. Bailey of North Carolina as little short of a catastrophe, and none of them would throw their hats up in the air over the idea of John Nance Garner being nominated.

So the strategy of these New Dealers at present is to keep the Democrats scared about the next election.

Whatever Is Done About Cotton Is Sure to Be Wrong

Only one thing seems sure about the cotton situation. That is that whatever is done will turn out to be wrong. In fact, economists who have studied the situation, who know about the rest of the world as well as about the United States, and whose judgment is not affected by political considerations, say frankly that not one of the proposed plans will work in the long run; that all of them would be expensive as well as futile.

With hindsight, the nonpolitical experts say they could have remedied the situation had they started on it in 1928. Now, they are not sure that anything could be done. But as a matter of fact, this hindsight would have been of no practical value, for the simple reason that even if one could have foreseen the future, back in 1928, it is inconceivable that a politically minded government would have taken the proper course. It would have seemed too brutal—too hard on the cotton farmers—at the time.

The year 1928 is picked not because it was the year before the business crash began, but because in a way it marks the starting of Brazil on its path to becoming one of the great cotton producing countries of the world. It was the year before President Hoover began to worry about the farm problem. It was before the farm board of that administration. For there is no doubt whatever that it has been federal interference with the natural course of cotton growing that has raised the present problem.

Let's look at the history of cotton before that. Every now and then there would be a terrible overproduction, the price would go to pot,

and the southern statesmen would scream their heads off about the census bureau issuing misleading figures, or the gamblers on the cotton exchange preying on the poor farmers, or something of the sort. Then, another season would see fairly good prices, and every one in the cotton states would be so happy that no one up north would even hear that the trouble was over. Every time the rest of the country heard about cotton it was the bad news, not the good.

Scheme Was Set Up Which Made the Trouble Permanent

With the Hoover farm board in action, however, a scheme was set up which inevitably made the trouble permanent instead of just every few years. For a century before that the British cotton mill owners had been hoping to develop some other section of the world as a cotton producer. They wanted something which would prove a check on high cotton prices in the short-crop years.

Every one interested in cotton could see that, with the starting of this idea of the government doing something for the cotton farmers, the period of occasional low prices for cotton had gone forever—that is the possibility of the United States dumping a cotton surplus at very low prices had passed. This was made even more clear when the United States government started paying farmers not to grow cotton.

With this "guarantee" of high world prices, development of cotton growing in other areas grew by leaps and bounds. Uncle Sam was holding an umbrella over them. Danger of cheap cotton from the United States in any particular year was averted.

As a result of this, Brazil expanded her cotton growing. She found that she could sell cotton at six cents a pound and make money. There has never been a chance since that she would abandon this expansion, for there is not a state east of the Mississippi where cotton can be produced, at a profit, at any such price.

Appeasement Program Helped Only Two Big Corporations

Curiously enough, apparently the only two big corporations in the country which profited from the "appeasement" program—during this short span of life—were the big electric utility holding companies which President Roosevelt is known to dislike so cordially. One of these is Electric Bond and Share. The other is Commonwealth and Southern.

It will be recalled that one of the most convincing steps in the so-called appeasement program was the agreement on the part of TVA to buy out the interests in Chattanooga of the Commonwealth and Southern, and in Memphis of the Electric Bond and Share (this latter held through a subsidiary).

At the time these agreements were made, Harry L. Hopkins had been talking to senators and members of the house as to the necessity of doing something to encourage business.

One of the main reasons for "appeasing" the electric industry was that Hopkins had been thoroughly sold by the arguments for the preceding 18 months by William O. Douglas, now on the Supreme court, that if something could be done to encourage the electric industry, there would be such a flood of spending that it would be almost enough alone and unaided to produce the return of prosperity.

But a far more important part of the appeasement program, and one which affected all business and new investment instead of merely the electric business, was tax revision.

President Intervenes in Fight for Revision of Taxes

Suddenly the President intervened in the fight for tax revision with an ultimatum which seems to have definitely ended all chance for it. This does not apply, of course, to the postponement of the increase in the social security taxes, but to the levies on corporations.

His ultimatum was that if any reduction should be made in the estimated revenues, this must be made up by adding additional taxes somewhere else—but on the corporations. In short, his verdict is that congress may shuffle the present taxes on business in any way it may deem to be helpful, but that the net result—in estimated revenues—must be the same.

What so many of his lieutenants had hoped, and this goes not only for important members of the house and senate but for the treasury department and the department of commerce, was that the government would take a chance—that it would encourage business by reducing taxes on business, hoping that business would thereupon boom, and the actual revenues of the treasury would be increased by the reduction rather than cut.

This phase of the problem the President ignored completely. He still insists that if estimated revenues are reduced, then government spending, for relief or something else, must be reduced to precisely the same amount. He attacks the problem just as though the federal budget were now balanced, and any reduction of the corporation taxes would throw it out of balance.

This has divided business as to the tax revision, will keep it divided, unless congress forces the gamble on the President, which does not now seem likely.

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Collegiate Gastronomes Challenge Professional



Though Donald Mulcahy, left, of Brockton, Mass., junior at Boston college, swallowed 29 live goldfish to set a temporary record, and John Patrick, right, University of Chicago student, consumed three phonograph records, they are still rank amateurs. Hadja Ali, center, can swallow a walnut, a frog, a bullet and a fish, and without regard to the order in which they go down, return them to the surface in any sequence he desires. Los Angeles medical men proved that he could control his abdominal muscles.

YES, THEY'RE REAL



Juliette Marglen, Hollywood beautician, is a fingernail expert. She should know her business, as her own nails are between three and four inches long, and she seldom even chips one.

Franco Representative Makes Initial Visit



Juan Francisco de Cardenas, charge d'affaires of the Nationalist Spanish government, made his first official call on Secretary of State Cordell Hull recently, inaugurating diplomatic relations between the Franco government and the United States. Left to right: Cardenas, Senor Don Felipe A. Espil, Argentine ambassador, and George T. Summerlin, chief of the division of protocol of the state department.

Biggest Gold Shipment Arrives in New York



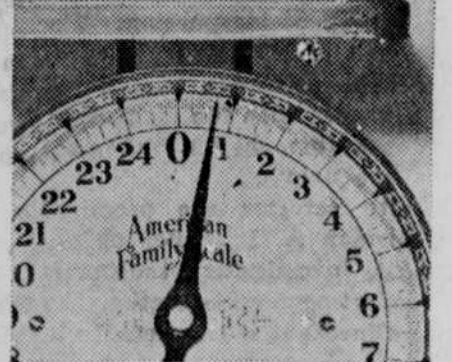
This \$60,000,000 cargo of gold which was brought to the United States from Europe recently is believed to be the biggest ever carried from Europe on a single ship. It was believed to have been made because of anxiety over Chancellor Hitler's new drive in eastern Europe. Although officials refused to divulge information, it was learned from an authentic source that the gold cargo was worth \$60,000,000 or more.

Upper Berth for the Motorist-Camper



One of the latest devices for the touring motorist who likes to pitch camp at night is this tent which can be put on top of the car. It was shown at a recent camping and hiking exhibition in London, and proved popular with the many motorists who prefer the by-paths instead of main traveled roads.

TERRIBLE TERRIER



"Baby Toots," two-months-old fox terrier of St. Louis, Mo., weighs only 11 ounces against the normal average weight of five pounds. His tireless antics point to an otherwise normal condition.