

### Cities Look to New Sources For Revenue

CHICAGO (AP)—New revenue sources to pay postwar expenses are sought by 300 American cities, the Municipal Finance Officers Association reports.

An association poll of finance officials of the 300 cities shows five problems:

1. Many permanent improvements, some delayed more than 15 years, must be made.
2. The relief load of unemployment during reconversion months falls largely on cities.
3. The new housing program will require big capital outlays for sewers, streets, water mains and other public facilities.
4. Relatively new services, such as airports, veterans' centers and other social services, must be expanded.

5. Increased salaries must be paid to city employees.

Meanwhile, the association says, a new idea in financial aid to cities is gaining acceptance. This provides that revenue shared with cities by state governments or granted outright by the states should be stabilized. The association explains that otherwise the yields from shared taxes may shrink at a time when the cities need them most.

During the war, federal aid was provided to cities for housing, welfare activities, vocational education, highway construction and in some cases for postwar planning, but most of these federal grants are no longer made, the association points out.

Aside from property taxes, the association says, aid from other governments provide most of the revenue received by cities. States which contribute the largest amounts to local governments are reported to be Wisconsin, Colorado, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Nebraska and Delaware.

### Public Works Problem

Most frequently shared taxes are liquor, gasoline, motor vehicle and fire insurance. The major purposes for which these taxes are shared, the association says, are education, highways, public welfare, health and hospitals.

Concerning the prospects for municipal public works construction this year the association says cities have three choices:

1. To attempt to go ahead by paying premium prices for labor and materials.
2. To postpone all but essential projects.
3. To try to get priority controls reinstated so that essential work can proceed with the assurance that materials will be available.

The association reports that cities are getting construction bids ranging from 10 to 138 per cent above engineers' estimates.

### Postal Truck Ruins Girl's Nylons So Government May Buy New Pair

By Frederick C. Othman  
WASHINGTON, (AP)—The House of Representatives has done the honorable thing by Miss Daphne Webb of Spencer, N. C. Now if the Senate kindly will shake its legislative stumps and agree to the appropriation, Daphne gets a new pair of nylons.

And why not? The government ruined her old pair; it came with in a hair of ruining Daphne, too with one of its postal trucks. She arrived in Washington to be a clerk at the War Department when, bang, the truck smashed her.

She put in a bill for three weeks' wages while she was recovering from her bruises, \$3 to clean the mud from her dress, \$4 to pay her doctor and, among other things \$1.35 for her nylons which were total wrecks. Her Uncle Samuel did her \$150 worth of damage; the House passed the Daphne Webb law. The Senate will debate it in another couple of weeks. Then maybe Daphne gets her new hosiery.

Once a month the claims committee sends up a bundle of bills neatly tied in a piece of red tape Hohen, genuine red tape. Mostly these laws are for the payment of piddling sums to citizens damaged by their government and nobody except me, pays 'em much attention. The congressmen dispose of these bills in such a hurry that nobody but a worry-wart bothers to learn what happened. I can't help it. The government knows more ways to get into trouble than anybody. Take the latest session:

Clem and Ida Bryant lived happily on their 116-acre farm six and a half miles from Independence, Kans., until the army built across the road a plant so smelly that they had to move. The army admitted its smells were obnoxious. It sent an inspector (a colonel probably) who reported, and I use his words, that the farm free of odor was worth \$5,000, but with obnoxious odor, only \$4,800. The House ordered the Bryants paid \$800 for the army's smells, plus \$600 moving expenses to a less smelly house down the road.

House Makes Amends

Dr. John A. Logan of Washington put in a claim for \$285 because army troops broke into his summer cottage at Ship Bottom Ocean county, N. J., one winter night for a game of cards. This in part, is what he said they did: Wrecked an heirloom clock, \$50; smashed fine old china and glass, \$65; tore up a mattress, \$15; spilled shoe polish on the rug, \$30; and burned food in the doctor's pots and pans, \$10. The house hastened to make amends.

Mrs. Mary M. Wolf got a job as a stenographer with the home owners loan corporation at Detroit to support her child and sick husband. By the time she'd earned \$3,692.50, the comptroller general discovered that she wasn't an American citizen, but a Canadian

### Ford Motor to Lay Off 35,000 Because Of Steel Shortage

DETROIT, (AP)—The Ford Motor company announced Wednesday that 35,000 employees will be laid off for one week starting Thursday because of the steel shortage.

W. L. Bricker, vice-president

in charge of the manufacturing, said the company was using up steel faster than it could be obtained. Approximately 18,500 employees in the Detroit area will be idle and 16,500 in the Ford plants throughout the nation will not report to work after the end of Thursday's day shift.

"Steel is not yet available in quantities sufficient to meet our sharply mounting production

schedules," Bricker said, "principally because rolling mills which supply us have not yet reached high level output. Our stocks of steel have been almost exhausted during the past four weeks."

Production of cars and trucks in the Ford empire was approximately 3,500 units daily last week.

### FSA Families in County Cooperate in Clean-up Plan

Cleaning up around farm buildings and barnyards is a popular springtime activity around many Cass and Otoe county farm homes, cutting down on fire, accident and disease hazards, Wayman C. Solomon, Farm Security council supervisor, reported this week.

Clean-up programs are sponsored by the National USDA safety council, Solomon said, as a means of reducing the accident toll of 17,000 farm residents killed, a million and a half injured, and ninety million dollars in farm property destroyed by fire.

FSA families are keeping up with other farm families in this matter, and FSA is working with other agencies and groups in promoting the activity. The county supervisor said plans for this year on FSA families, farms are centering on cleaning up rubbish, broken machinery and trash in cluttered barnyards, fixing broken steps, faulty flues and chuck-holed farm driveways, and eliminating health hazards of rat-infested buildings, mosquito breeding pools and improperly covered wells.

Minor building repairs will receive attention on FSA people's farms, and will include such things as defective steps, stairways, porches, broken barn and shed doors and floors, putting new tops on wells, cisterns, and springs where contamination is possible, Solomon said. Further precautions include checking electric wiring, chimneys, flues, oil storage and other fire or accident hazards.

money back. The House passed a law telling the comptroller not to be a Simon Legree.

Wasn't Government's Fault

Lovie Trotter was rolling down the road in her truck at Dawson Springs, Ky., when an army truck hit her. Lovie was not hurt, but her vehicle was wrecked and, she said, that was not all. She still had in the ground \$40 worth of radishes, \$15 worth of green onions. He tried to make her pay the lions, \$25 worth of turnip greens and \$20 worth of spinach. What good were they, she demanded, if she had no truck to deliver 'em?

The army said it didn't mind fixing her truck, but it would be doggone if it would pay for her vegetables. The House ignored the War Department and gallantly appropriated Lovie \$500 for her truck and her salad greens.

The lawmakers balked only at paying Sgt. Charles A. Clark of Buffalo, N. Y., \$500 for running his car off the road. The comptroller said it wasn't the government's fault, two deer strolled in front of him. Congress ordered the claims committee to study that one some more.

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