

# GOP Stuck With Hatch Act, And They Sure Won't Like It

## Will Force Change In Handing Out of Jobs

This will be the first time that a new administration has moved into Washington with a Hatch Act on the books.

And in the opinion of government lawyers it's going to force a drastic change of traditional policy on handing out of federal jobs.

The Hatch Act, passed in 1939, makes it illegal for federal employees to engage in any kind of political activity. There were some weak civil service regulations on the subject before, which hadn't proved very effective.

A series of scandals involving WPA workers engaged in widespread political activity was the immediate cause for the passage of the act.

The late famous ghost writer for Franklin Roosevelt, Charles Michelson, predicted at the time the first thing the Republicans would do when they got back into office would be to repeal the law.

The law puts a kind of reverse twist on the passing out of patronage jobs. It will penalize efforts of the GOP to reward faithful and efficient party workers with federal jobs. Because as soon as a politician gets on Uncle Sam's payroll, he's prohibited by law to continue being a politician.

If they reward a good party

worker with a federal job they are also throwing him out the window for future political help.

The civil service commission estimates that there are about one thousand top-level jobs in the government exempted from the act. Included in this group are the president, vice president, cabinet heads and assistants, bureau chiefs, ambassadors and ministers.

By various official estimates of the federal jobs which the Republicans will be able to fill, they can go as high as 200,000. Filling that many jobs with efficient party workers would do serious harm to party machinery.

Hatch Act restrictions even go beyond federal employees. They include many state government employees whose activities are financed in whole or in part by loans or grants made by the U. S. government or any federal agency.

They cover such activities as serving on political committees, soliciting political contributions, selling party dinner tickets, any work at the polls, the publishing of any partisan letters or papers, taking part in public party political debates and the distribution of campaign literature.

The minimum penalty for anyone found guilty of such action is suspension from their job without pay for 90 days. Maximum penalty is dismissal.

The Civil Service Commission

### MUGGS AND SKEETER



### BY WALLY BISHOP

## Little Red Jail At Ebsenburg Once Served As Cambria Co. Courthouse

The Courts of Cambria County, organized in 1804, were held for many years in what was known as the Little Red Jail in Ebsenburg, the present county courthouse being constructed in 1882 and additions to it built in 1924.

G. L. Roberts of the Bureau of Municipal Affairs, learned from old minute books at Ebsenburg that the Little Red Jail, constructed before 1810, was built of logs. It was erected near a well in the courthouse yard with cells on the first floor and a small court room on the second.

On one occasion, a man arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct was in jail on the first floor while court was in session on the second. He improvised some dramatics from old pieces of wood lying about and played such a lively tune on the stovepipe running through the ceiling to the courtroom above that the Judge was forced to adjourn the court. The record is silent on what sentence the Judge imposed the following day when the erstwhile drummer had sobered up.

In the beginning of the County there were a number of communities which desired to be selected as the county seat. One of these was the Village of Beula, a place no longer in existence, where the citizens were so hopeful their town would be selected that they dug the foundations for a court-

house and began building one of logs. When the choice fell to Ebsenburg, the work on the courthouse at Beula stopped and now nothing remains to indicate there ever was such a town.

**10-YEAR OLD GIRL KILLED**  
West Mifflin — (PNS) — Ten-year-old Ruth A. Wirt was fatally injured when struck by a car as she crossed heavily-traveled U. S. Route 15 near here. Authorities said the girl became confused and darted into the path of the oncoming automobile.

**VANDALS RAID SCHOOL**  
Philadelphia — (PNS) — A 22-room elementary school was ransacked by vandals who set three fires before leaving. Causing considerable commotion, the vandals, among other things, smashed several cartons of eggs in the home economics room.

## Far-Off Lands Come to Life In Yule Toys

**GEOGRAPHY** comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve. In the flood of toys soon to spill out into the nation's living rooms will be the touch of many different lands. Beside a teddy bear, replicas of Australia's marsupial furled koalas, perhaps will stand a carved wooden farm scene from German Bavaria, a South American gaucho doll, or a miniature pagoda made in Japan.

Similarly, the United States, now the world's leading toy maker, sends abroad its wild west costumes, its shiny playtime trucks and cars and earth-moving equipment, its small-scale railroads and sky scrapers to delight children all over the globe.

Toy industries in Germany and Japan are on the upswing again. Germany was among the first nations in the world to make tin horses on wheels, engines that ran, animals that walked, birds that sang. Now U.S. buyers go back to cities such as Nurnberg for the output of ingenious middle-aged inventors.

New toys that startle the world often come from Europe. One such is a German duck which, when set on an incline, proudly walks down the slope. Another is a recent gadget from Denmark called a "tippe top," a wobbly sphere about the size of a small apple that suddenly flips upside down and continues spinning on its stem.

Winston Churchill was intrigued by the top when he first saw it. In Stockholm, the King of Sweden, a cabinet minister and an atom physicist, a Nobel Prize winner, got down on their hands and knees at a banquet to study the mysterious flip-flop action.

As a mirror of mankind's culture, toys reflect the progress of civilization. Yet an amazing similarity can sometimes be seen between the toys of long-forgotten eras and the playthings of today.

## Speech, Hearing Centers In State

Three Speech and Hearing Rehabilitation centers have been established throughout the state since the 1951 session of the Legislature authorized creation of such centers, the State Department of Public Instruction said this week.

The sum of \$150,000 was set aside by the legislature for financing such centers, which are established by the department.

A center is staffed with two types of professional personnel—the audiologist and the speech and hearing therapist. The Centers supply services to hard of hearing children in the schools of the area, and to pre-school children known to be hard of hearing.

When a child is referred to a Center, he is examined to determine the exact amount of residual hearing remaining and the extent the child uses that hearing. The child is then trained in the use of his residual hearing in proper development of speech, in the use of amplification as supplied by a desk hearing aid and later by a standard hearing aid. These services are supplied free to such children.

## Footloose At 96



FORMER national walking champion James H. Flocking takes things easy at his 96th birthday. He had planned to celebrate with a 20-mile stroll, but his doctor and son intervened. During the past year, Flocking walked 2,554 miles, which makes a claimed lifetime total of more than 250,000 miles.

## Man of Bethlehem

Jesus Christ is a God whom we can approach without pride, and before whom we may abase ourselves without despair.—Pascal.

As the print of the seal on the wax is the express image of the seal itself, so Christ is the express image—the perfect representation of God.—Ambrose.

The devotion to the person of Christ that steers clear of the doctrines and precepts of Christ, is but sentimental rhapsody. — Herriek Johnson.

This is part of the glory of Christ as compared with the chiefest of His servants that He alone stands at the absolute center of humanity, the one completely harmonious man, unfolding all which was in humanity, equally and full on all sides, the only one in whom the real and ideal met and were absolutely one. He is the absolute and perfect truth, the highest that humanity can reach; at once its perfect image and supreme Lord.—Freuch.

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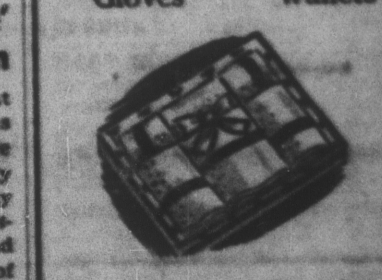
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## Christmas 'Open House' Was Early Saxon Custom

AT CHRISTMASTIDE, the great hall of the Saxon lord was thrown open to peasant and noble alike—all mingling, democratically and exchanging gifts and hearty cheer during a great feast and festivities composed of dance and song. With a tremendous burst of shouting, the Yule Log was dragged into the hall and placed upon the open fire pit. These democratic Christmas festivities lasted until the last dying embers of the log.

In our south, prior to the Civil War, the slaves, following this Saxon custom, would soak a log in the cypress swamps to extend the length of their Christmas freedom.

**PROPERTY TRANSFER**  
Judith J. and Emma Becker of Hastings have purchased from the Estate of the late Hiram J. Fritz, properties in Susquehanna Township containing 63 acres, for \$2,000, according to a deed filed in the county recorder's office.