

IT IS a carefully guarded secret inside the State Department, but the forced ousting of Sumner Welles has been followed by a purge of other liberal diplomats, especially those who sided with Loyalist Spain against Franco or showed too much sympathy with General de Gaulle.

They are being transferred, or resignations are being requested. Telephones have been tapped, and anyone who shows continued devotion to Sumner Welles or his liberal policies is warned by the clique which now has the ear of Secretary Hull.

Not since the days of Frank B. Kellogg, when the Career Clique deliberately framed one of the... Department. In Kellogg's day, the lobbying by which certain privileged diplomats were promoting themselves to favored positions was exposed by a certain consul inside the State Department. Soon he found himself confronted by his enemies, with a trumped-up sex crime, with faked affidavits, publication of which would have ruined him. He was forced to resign.

Today, stories of divorce, domestic infelicity and sex rumors have been spread regarding certain progressive members of the State Department whom it is sought to purge. Once these stories circulate to enough people through the gossip underground, the target of the gossip is told by his superiors that his usefulness is over and he must resign.

Never has the State Department been more in need of drastic overhauling. One Cabinet member, who has constant relations with the State Department regarding the war, has told the President that it was almost impossible for him to do business with the department today.

All this comes at a time when we are hoping to win the peace after the war.

Synthetic Tire Tests

BIG BILL JEFFERS is in Washington today, but his eyes are fixed on San Antonio, Tex., and Phoenix, Ariz.

In or near those cities the Government is conducting road tests with the new synthetic tires produced under the rubber administrator's program. Areas in the Southwest were selected because the roads are hot, and this provides conditions of the greatest strain. To increase the strain, the trucks are purposely overloaded.

First reports Jeffers received indicated that the synthetic tires wore out in about 3,000 miles. But due to constant changes in the formula and the manufacturing process, the latest synthetic truck tires stand up for 12,000 to 14,000 miles, compared with 18,000 for natural tires undergoing the same tests.

NOTE: These new truck tires, and all heavy duty tires, are only 70 per cent synthetic, the rest being natural rubber. Synthetic rubber cannot stand up alone in heavy duty tires. Passenger tires will be almost entirely synthetic and will not stand it anywhere near as well.

Army Red Tape

HERE IS the type of letter which makes Army men see red: "To Commanding Officer... Engineers, Atlantic Beach, Fla.

1. The following enlisted man, your organization, has violated uniform regulations: Koval,

A; Private First Class, 32261814... Engineers.

"Soldier had his pocket unbuttoned. Place 115 Pablo st., Jacksonville Beach. Time 2125 (9:25 p. m.)

2. You will take the necessary action to correct this situation. By order of Colonel LeClunet; "Fred L. Gassman, CWO, 144th Inf. Adjutant."

Capital Chaff

THERE is a lot of grouching inside the Army because the new age-retirement order which forces the ouster of 60-year-old but very experienced men... Elmer Davis and Bob Sherwood went to the White House after the spanking to OWI's "Moronic Little King" broadcast and asked the President to be kinder publicly to OWI... Senator Sheridan Downey of California has told intimate friends that he doesn't want to run for reelection. This has stimulated a lot of heart fluttering among possible contenders... Here is a list of the men who are likely to enter: John N. Scott, former Congressman from the Eighteenth District, now one of the most efficient members of the War Production Board; Jack Tenney, State Senator from Los Angeles; Bob Kenny, Attorney General of the State of California; John M. Costello, Congressman from Hollywood; Harry R. Shepard, Congressman from the Nineteenth District and Ellis Patterson, former Lieutenant Governor and perennial political candidate.

Jeffers vs. Ickes

The speech Interior Secretary Harold Ickes delivered before the New York Sales Executives Club, in which he assailed dollar-a-year men for "bungling" the war effort, produced one repercussion in official circles that didn't get into the news. Rubber Administrator William Jeffers was so infuriated by Ickes' comments about the industrial weapons who are running the War Production Board that he complained to the White House.

Jeffers phoned Gen. Edwin "Pa" Watson, the President's military secretary, and complained that Ickes was disrupting morale on the home front by heaping the blame for war production shortages and the tape on the shoulders of dollar-a-year men.

If the President's order against the Government... Jeffers established some new ground rules," Jeffers protested. Watson promised to refer the matter to the President. Apparently, he did so, because Jeffers later received a phone call from Bernie Baruch, a top White House counselor.

However, what Baruch had to say did little to soothe the rubber chief's outraged feelings.

"Bill, you'd better stay out of this," Baruch suggested diplomatically. "It's a little out of your line. Maybe you'd better let me handle these situations."

Jeffers promised to restrain himself in the future, so far as White House protests are concerned, but he has been doing some loud squawking behind the scenes to friends about Ickes' speech. He says it was an attempt to clear the Administration's skirts for 1944 by fixing the blame for production delays on GOP dollar-a-year men.