

The President

By Frank C. Waldrop

AND A DANGEROUS
GAP IN OUR PLAN
FOR INTERNAL SECURITY

THE PRESIDENT has just had a particularly cheap trick played on him by somebody in his organization, and a particularly dangerous trick for it makes a gap for serious injury to the national defense.

It has been apparent for a long time that the United States is wide open to trouble from within because of its lax immigration control and absence of a comprehensive system of protection against sabotage.

Last September, the President very wisely made the first moves toward correction when he ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation to set up a general intelligence file on which to list suspected enemies of the nation and placed the FBI in charge of all espionage and counter-espionage in the United States and its possessions.

FORTUNATELY, the FBI had long since begun to prepare itself for this order.

In 1935, it opened a National Police Academy which has to date graduated 500 men, of whom 100 are now chiefs of police. These 500 are a natural chain through which, since September, a national internal defense system has been started.

The FBI has, without any public attention being drawn to the fact, surveyed the industrial system of the United States, issued manuals for plant protection to hydro-electric stations, manufacturing organizations and police agencies all over the nation.

The single instance in which its activities have become known was that of the survey at Boulder Dam, about three months ago. At that time, there was a good deal of snickering among the lighter-minded around

Washington, and some of the Dam officials were quoted pleasantly as saying they didn't need any of Hoover's Boy Scouts to tell them what to do. But today the "Boy Scouts" are at Boulder Dam training the guards there in sabotage control.

Obviously, 500 graduates of the Police Academy and the less than 1,000 regular FBI agents cannot hope to integrate the internal defense of the nation without intelligent help and increased personnel.

They are receiving splendid assistance from local police agencies, as a whole, and are trying to suppress the wild-eyed "parashoots" and imaginative private corps springing up to have fun by roughing up people with short haircuts and red neckties. But many problems remain.

For instance, who will guard railroad bridges, highway inter-sections and other bottlenecks of the national traffic system? Should this be a job for the National Guard, the individual State police, the Army, the Department of Justice, or who? The point must be settled soon.

AND what disturbs people with their eyes on this critical phase of the national security is the threat of trouble through politics, as suggested by the cheap trick just played on the President by somebody who needs his pants warmed.

Mr. Roosevelt recently transferred the Immigration Service from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice, a natural step in view of the close connection between immigration and espionage. Among

the parts of the Immigration Service is a corps of 725 agents in the border patrol who are selected by the Civil Service to stave off illegal entry from Canada and Mexico.

We have no worries about Canada, particularly, but everybody knows all about Mexico. That border needs watching by competent, well-organized men under the strictest sort of realistic control.

Mr. Roosevelt had that idea in mind in making the transfer to, he thought, border patrol under control of the FBI and Hoover.

HOOPER should be in charge of the border patrol to train it as he has trained his men and to organize protection against sabotage and espionage under one system from the moment an undercover enemy attempts to enter the country.

But that isn't how it has worked out.

A couple of days or so ago, a bowler-hatted, loud-talking party by the name of Major Lemuel Schofield breezed into Washington to take over the border patrol.

MAJOR SCHOFIELD is an ex-chief of police from Philadelphia, a city noted for the inefficiency of its cops, and former head of the Pennsylvania State legislature's committee for investigation of gambling, an organization with a special purpose and an interesting history.

His chief value to the United States is that he is carriage boy for the Hon. Joe Guffey, Pennsylvania Democracy's gift to the Senate. He helped Joe get in and out of trouble in the recent rattle for control of the feed-bag around Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The Major is a cheap trick on the people of the United States, as well as the President, just at this time, and neither can afford him.

Let's give the Major his salary just to go home, if necessary, and get on with the important business of protecting the country by putting that protection in more competent hands, from border to border.



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