

Fifteen Specialists Who Dig Out Basic Facts for Legislation . . . Mr. Walter's Power as Head of War Veterans in Congress

A self-effacing, scholarly staff of 14 men and one woman now is supplying Congress with basic information for its work. As individuals, the members of this group are experts in one or several of the growingly complicated fields that are subjects of legislation. Their aim is to provide whatever members of Congress may lack in exact, detailed and applied knowledge of the many intricate questions that must be decided.

Newly created by the Legislative Reorganization Act, which is just going into effect, this expert staff has become the starting point of the legislative process. Its quiet influence upon the future of the nation can be significant. Conservatives already are accusing some of the experts of overly liberal leanings. Who these congressional advisers are, what their careers have been, what they are doing and what they expect to do, consequently, is of importance to the country.

Studies. The experts are at work on a number of studies that may prove the foundation of laws affecting many people. One staff member is deep in the problem of labor legislation and restrictions on strikes. Taxes, the national debt, housing and rent controls also are under scrutiny, and a report is being made on the effect of the atomic bomb on naval strategy.

A report on any subject is made at the request of any Congressman. In addition,

studies are begun independently when it is apparent that an issue is becoming a subject of hot dispute. Also, the experts are working within the committees of Congress, keeping the members current on developments and new ideas in the particular committee fields.

Impartiality. The purpose is to give Congress all the facts on any issue, and to provide them impartially. Information usually comes from the Government's executive departments or from the representatives of business, industry or labor. Often the data so received are one-sided, and overlook details, large or small, that do not support a preconceived position.

The experts, however, are in a position to comb and condense the entire field of source material. They are to criticize figures that come from outside sources, to analyze testimony, suggest questions to be asked of witnesses at committee hearings. It is intended that all this shall be done impartially. All sides of a question are to be presented, and recommendations are to be avoided, unless specifically requested.

Appointees. Congress turned the appointive power over to the Library of Congress and its Legislative Reference Service. Much care has been exercised in selecting the experts. Professional crusaders have been rejected automatically. The jobs, paying \$10,000 annually, have gone largely to

men who have spent years in research. Some have worked for New Deal agencies. Some have been members of the Library's staff for long periods.

To look at them individually and what they are doing:

Ernest S. Griffith, a Rhodes scholar who has taught in many American universities and who heads the Legislative Reference Service, is in charge. Mr. Griffith, enthusiastic about his staff and its prospects, is planning big things for it. Congress has authorized increased funds for the next two years, and the work is to be spread into fields not now covered.

Mr. Griffith, a scholar of mid-road economic tendencies, makes the assignments and edits most of the reports, with an alert eye for any unintentional bias.

Bernard Brodie is making a highly confidential study of the effect of the atomic bomb on naval strategy. Mr. Brodie, who has taught at Dartmouth and at Yale, is a longtime student of naval tactics and strategy, and the author of numerous books and articles on the subject. He was in the Navy himself from 1941 to 1945, first in the Bureau of Ordnance and later in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

In making his report, Mr. Brodie is canvassing Army and Navy opinion, and the atomic scientists. Their views are to



—Harris & Ewing

FACT FINDERS FOR CONGRESS: Seated, left to right: Hugh L. Elsbree, Howard S. Piquet, Ernest S. Griffith, Francis O. Wilcox, Theodore J. Kreps, Miss Dorothy Schaffter. Standing, left to right: Meyer Jacobstein, James P. Radigan, Gustav Peck, John Kerr Rose, George B. Galloway, Raymond E. Manning, W. Brooke Graves. Not present at time photograph was made: E. A. Goldenweiser, Bernard Brodie.

be presented in words of which they approve. Views and opinions from around the world, as they are received at the Library, also are to go into his report.

Writing in the Yale Review, Mr. Brodie stated what he called "inescapable" conclusions concerning the bomb: Any city can be destroyed with one to ten bombs. No adequate defense exists and the possibility of developing such a defense is exceedingly remote. The atomic bomb greatly extends the effective bombing range of existing aircraft. Superiority in air forces fails to guarantee security. Superiority in numbers of bombs is not in itself a guarantee of superiority in atomic-bomb warfare. In relation to the destructive power of the bomb, raw goods for its production are abundant. Other nations will be making atomic bombs in five to ten years.

Francis O. Wilcox already has established himself solidly as the guide and adviser of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Wilcox, a serious-minded student of international affairs, and long a staunch internationalist, has been in the Legislative Reference Service since 1945.

He attended the San Francisco Conference as an aide to Senator Tom Connally, then chairman of the Committee, and has assisted Mr. Connally at most international meetings since. Now, the new Republican chairman of the Committee, Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, announces that Mr. Wilcox will continue in the same capacity with him. Mr. Griffith thinks this illustrates the nonpartisan nature of the service.

Mr. Wilcox has taught at the University of Kentucky and served for a time in the Office of the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs. In 1944-45, he was a naval officer in the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

Gustav Peck, a middle-roader who specializes in labor affairs, is busy with studies on the limitation of strikes and the unionization of foremen. He is to help the Senate Labor Committee as its hearings on these questions proceed. As a congressional expert, Mr. Peck already is the author of a pamphlet on the history of strike-limitation efforts and an analysis of measures to that end then pending. It is a straightforward summary of developments between 1933 and 1946, with a simple statement of what the bills contained.

Mr. Peck has lectured at American University and Catholic University. He was on the staff of President Hoover's Committee on Recent Social Trends. He was executive director of NRA's labor advisory board, and for several years served with the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor. During the war, he was a labor adviser to Donald Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board.

Mr. Peck recently prepared a report, "Communism in Action," which so pleased conservative Republican Representative Everett M. Dirksen, of Illinois, that he gave it wide circulation.

Theodore J. Kreps is the staff specialist in price economics. Many economists consider him outstanding in that field. Just now he is busy with developments resulting from the President's Economic Report.

Possessed of much drive and energy, Mr. Kreps was associated with Leon Henderson in the Temporary National Economic Committee's investigation of monopoly. He has held numerous Government posts, including that of an adviser to the Anti-trust Division of the Justice Department. For a time he was chief economic consultant for OPA and later chief economic adviser to the Board of Economic Warfare, where he was much interested in cartels. He is considered a foe of "bigness."

Howard S. Piquet keeps track of international trade and economic geography, and will grow specially active when the reciprocal-tariff program becomes an issue. He is a supporter of the program. Mr. Piquet served as an economist with the Tariff Commission for nine years and was chief of its economic division from 1937 to 1943. Later he was with the United Nations Interim Committee on Food and Agriculture.

Emanuel A. Goldenweiser is well known in Washington through his service for many years with the division of research and statistics of the Federal Reserve Board. His ideas went into the amalgam that became the Bretton Woods Agreements. He has written extensively on various aspects of the monetary and banking system. Since his retirement from the Federal Reserve Board, Mr. Goldenweiser has been a member of the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton University.

His particular assignment in his new job is the use and abuse of the monetary and banking system in evening out booms and depressions.

George B. Galloway is helping Congress adjust itself to the many changes required by the Legislative Reorganization Act. He helped to draw up that bill himself, as director of the staff of the committee in charge.

His career has been devoted to the problems of government administration, local, state and national. He was an assistant deputy director of NRA, but he also has been associated with such conservatively bent organizations as the Brookings Institution and the Twentieth Century Fund.

Hugh L. Elsbree, specialist in American government and public administration, is working on the legislative budget called for by the Reorganization Act. The legislative budget is a system under which the four revenue and appropriations committees of Congress are to fix an outside figure for appropriations and a minimum that must be raised in taxes. Mr. Elsbree has taught at Dartmouth and Harvard. From 1943 to 1945 he was OPA's principal business economist, and afterward was an ad-

ministrative analyst in the Bureau of the Budget.

Meyer Jacobstein is to co-ordinate the various economic studies. Mr. Jacobstein is a former member of the House, who in the '20s was considered a liberal, but who later found faults in the New Deal. Since leaving Congress in 1929, he has taught economics at the University of Rochester, and been president of a bank and publisher of a newspaper there. He also has worked on the research staff of the Brookings Institution.

Raymond E. Manning is making studies of the \$260,000,000,000 national debt and its management. He has held various positions in the Library of Congress since 1924, and for three years was in charge of its economics section. He already has submitted a report on postwar tax plans, a simple analysis, without recommendations, of proposals that had been made at the time of its preparation.

W. Brooke Graves, specialist in State laws, is preparing a report on State rent-control statutes for the guidance of Congress in dealing with federal control. He has taught at several universities, served with the Civil Service Commission, and was an adviser to the government of Pennsylvania.

Miss Dorothy Schaffter, research counsel in political science, is studying the housing situation, pending the appointment of a specialist on that subject. She has been on the faculty of Vassar College and the University of Iowa. She also was an administrative aide in the National Youth Administration.

James P. Radigan specializes in American law, and his particular assignment just now is the effect of removing war controls. He was in private law practice from 1923 to 1928, and since then has been on the staff of the Library.

John K. Rose is a geographer, now at work on studies of the world food supply. In addition to doing extensive teaching, Mr. Rose was a consultant of the National Resources Planning Board, served with the Board of Economic Warfare and the Foreign Economic Administration, and was BEW's representative on committees of the Inter-Allied Combined Food Board.

Future. Specialists in housing, agriculture, transportation, social welfare and other fields are to be added. Congress in its present state of mind wants to know the facts.

Veterans' Spokesman

FRANCIS E. WALTER, an easygoing Pennsylvania Democrat, heads a potentially powerful group of Congressmen. Representative Walter is chairman of an organization that has styled itself War Veterans in Congress. More than 130 members, or nearly one third of the total membership, attended the WVC's first