

THE POVERTY BILL?

An Editorial

Goodell Reports From Washington President Orders Closing Of Bath V. A. Center

Our area has long been proud of the Bath V.A. Center and the magnificent service it has rendered our veterans. The V.A. Center includes a 273 bed HOSPITAL, built in 1937 and worth more than \$6 Million, a DOMICILIARY that has had a standard capacity of 1350 beds, and 223 acres of beautiful land in a peaceful, pastoral setting. As late as 1959 the Federal Government built a brand new theatre-recreation building there and has spent more than \$3 Million to renovate and improve facilities in recent years. It is the only domiciliary in Northeastern United States, serving a 10-state area containing more than .9 million veterans. Veterans without a home and with no one to care for them have always found a warm welcome and the finest of care at Bath. The more aged and infirm may be moved to and from the hospital and domiciliary as needs require in an ideal arrangement.

On January 11th, I ferreted out information that secret plans were underway to close Bath and some other V.A. facilities. I immediately protested. At first V.A. officials claimed no knowledge of such plans; then within 24 hours they confirmed that President Johnson was ordering an arbitrary reduction of \$23 Million in the Veterans Administration proposed budget. During my years in Washington, I have fought continuously for economy in our government but I have resisted false economies that hurt our people and cost more money in the long run. The closing of the Bath V. A. Center is a cruel and shortsighted action. It is the FALSEST KIND OF ECONOMY. After closing Bath, the Administration plans a massive program to build more hospitals and nursing homes for veterans. Does it make sense to abandon a \$20 Million facility now serving our veterans effectively, force the veterans to go to Ohio or Wisconsin for domiciliary care, and then start building new and far more expensive facilities? There are several aspects of the Bath V.A. closing that have not been discussed much publicly as yet:

First, the V.A. seems to be taking a new computerized approach to veterans' care, which ignores the psychological and morale factors while stressing vast complexes of urbanized medical facilities tied into Universities. As one Bath V.A. resident put it: "I don't want to be moved, this is my home, it's quiet—the place for a man my age to live out his life. I can go fishing when I want. Fellows my age don't want city life—we like it where it's quiet."

Second, some V. A. officials have been oversold on the notion that a large percentage of aged and infirm veterans can be restored to self-support, which in many cases simply means DUMPING THEM ON THE WELFARE ROLLS.

Third, this is the first affirmative step by the V.A. to close out the 17 domiciliaries in the U. S.

Fourth, V.A. officials have ad-

Eisenhower says: "I believe we should set our faces firmly against federal programs that erode away citizen, local and state self-reliance — Are we, in our communities and states, to be reduced to helpless bystanders? Do we trust a Washington bureaucrat more than we do ourselves to solve problems that rest on our own doorsteps? Or, are we just too lazy to act; too blind to see; or too ignorant to understand? The trend toward centralization can be stopped only by a determined people.

The best answer for too much government in Washington is better government at home."

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50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 12, 1915

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Miss Winifred Porter and Earl C. Bassett were united in marriage Saturday at the Westminster Manse in Hornell.

George Mattison and son have purchased the H. P. Bundy farm a half mile northwest of Andover and will move there in the Spring.

P. C. Berkwater, the new Erie Station Agent, moved his family to Andover Friday and are residing in the Bundy residence on Maple Avenue.

Potatoes are selling this week at 25 cents per bushel.

Atty. C. L. Earley was at Windsor, Canada a few days the first of the week on legal business.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Macaulay have returned from several months stay at Wilbur, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tracy of Rexville were called to Andover the first of the week by the illness of his father, Charles Tracy.

Mrs. Sylvia Mourhers, Mrs. John Deming, Mrs. R. B. Burrows and Mrs. Henry Livermore represented the local W.C.T.U. at the County Institute in Friendship Tuesday and Wednesday.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 13, 1925

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

John Guinn and John Walters were victims of an unusual accident Monday. The men each with a load of lime on sleighs were going up Snyder Gulley when as

mitted privately that in a short time the large wave of World War II veterans will break upon our present overloaded facilities. In some circles I've even heard mention that they might well have to reopen Bath in 3 years or so. If the facilities lie vacant for 3 years, their re-utilization will be EXORBITANTLY EXPENSIVE.

At a time when our government proposes, with the left hand, vast measures to alleviate suffering and poverty, it make absolutely no sense, with the right hand, to force suffering, privation and poverty upon our veterans and upon communities such as Bath. I have met with many people, ARGUED, CAJOLED AND PLEADED, and I will continue to do so in this crusade. Sen. Kennedy has now joined in the fight. Sen. Javits and many Congressmen, both Democratic and Republican, are opposed to President Johnson on this issue. Time is short. The absolute closing is scheduled for June 30th and transfer of personnel and equipment will be underway soon unless something is done. We in the Congress will employ every available legislative or administrative means to reverse this callous and wasteful approach to so-called economy in government.

Sincerely,
CHARLES GOODELL

they were about at the top an avalanche of ice, snow and water came rushing down the road filling the road to about four feet deep. The force of the water carried the teams down on the sleds and men, horses, lime and sleighs became a scrambled mess. Luckily no one was seriously injured.

Mrs. Hattie Whitney and Ransom Monroe were married Thursday, February 5th by Rev. C. C. Conrad.

James M. Dean and Augustus Lynch are drawn from Andover to serve on the Jury at the February term of County Court.

Miss Lillian Grossman and Glenn Halsey were united in marriage last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Chase have moved from Andover to DuBois, Pa., where Mr. Chase is freight agent at the B & S Station.

George Cummings, father of Mrs. Bartley Joyce, died at the St. James Mercy Hospital Tuesday. Services were held at the Blessed Sacrament Church, Thursday.

Miss Florence Cocoman returned to Buffalo Sunday to resume her work.

Fay E. Boyd and Max Richardson left Tuesday to attend the Hardware Convention in Buffalo.

Edson Langworthy was called to Newport, R. I., the last of the week by the critical illness of his sister, Mrs. Myra Dawson.

Dewey Northrup of Wylanshing, Pa., came to Andover this week to take charge of the local Dairy-men's League Plant.

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 15, 1935

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Clinton E. Hann, 67, life-long resident of Andover, died February 9th. He is survived by his wife, three sons and three daughters, also a sister and three brothers.

Sheridan Witter of Buffalo, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Witter.

Mrs. Mary Lynch and son, Phillip, were week-end visitors in Ithaca. They report T. Joseph Lynch as recovering nicely from his recent appendicitis operation.

Mrs. Jennie Flint returned home Thursday from several weeks visit at the home of her son in Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. F. L. Hann and Charles Caple motored to Buffalo Sunday, called there by the illness of their daughter and sister, Miss Edna Caple.

Mrs. W. L. Greene attended sessions of Farm and Home Week at Ithaca this week.

Erwin D. Baker and "Rock" Boyce of Wellsville left Monday for Buffalo where they are attending the New York State Retail Hardware Dealers Convention at Hotel Statler.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Phelps of Rochester were week-end guests at the Folsing home.

Chauffeurs License News

The same 100,000 chauffeurs whose New York State driver licenses expire at the end of this month were urged today by Motor Vehicle Commissioner William S. Hults to make their renewal applications in person as soon as possible.

He pointed out that offices of the Department and County Clerks where the renewals are handled will be closed on Monday, February 22 — Washington's Birthday—leaving only eight days in which to complete the process. They also are closed on Saturdays.

All 100,000 were mailed the applications the first of the month and should have received them at least by last week. It is now too late to make the renewal by mail. If, by some chance, the applications were not received or have been misplaced, those chauffeurs should notify their nearest issuing office at once.

Some of the group will be required to take eye tests or otherwise submit proof that their vision meets New York State standards. Their applications will be stamped "Eye Test Required" on the back of Part 3 of the punch card. This group includes persons whose last initials include the letters "A" through "F"

The Port of Buffalo is the greatest port on the Great Lakes in value of tonnage.



Is This What's In Store For All Taxpayers?

In the above depicted cartoon, drawn for us by our young friend Karl Wittie, the Federal Government under the guise of L. B. J. (in the center) is taking money out of the pocket of the worker to hand over to "Sorry Charlie" who is obviously from a "depressed area" and needs the money so that he can go fishing and forget his worries (?) about finding a job to support his family.

Does this seem to be impossible—or—far fetched? Before you give a hurried yes answer to this question—stop and think a few minutes—and then consider a few following facts.

According to figures released to us — Federal, State, Local, and Private Social Welfare Expenditures and a general attack on poverty already exceed \$100 billion a year. This is an amount about equal to the proposed 1965 Federal Budget!

Since these figures are of such astronomical proportions — lets get down to the lowest level that we rub shoulders with every day — our own Allegany County. In this so called "depressed area", around one third of the entire County Budget is spent for County Welfare and Assistance! To be absolutely explicit—of a total budget of \$3,782,613 — \$1,224,750 is spent in this category. Imagine! In our own little, loosely populated County! Think of what this would mean in heavily populated urban areas!

A call for billions more of welfare-state spending in the midst of untold prosperity as requested by the Federal Administration, doesn't make much sense! In 30 years past, we have spent billions on the welfare of the people of this nation — but what has been accomplished? True, it has helped some of the needy — but it has also created a new way of life for the Lazy, and I.W.W.'s (I won't work). Not for just one generation — but now on into the 2nd generation. For after all — when some of their children have seen this easy way of life — they naturally follow in the same footsteps — get married — and go on relief. According to the 3,900 word State of the Union message — this is the "Land of Milk and Honey"!

This leads us to the firm belief that we are fast approaching the age of the "Indifferent Man"!

President Carey of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States fears that we may be in this age also. The "Indifferent Man", in his view, is the sort of individual who finds it safer to "withdraw into the crowd, to surrender his identity, to yield to remote authority the individual responsibility which has come down from the ancient City State of Athens to our own as the stamp of a free people."

We firmly believe in what former President