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Civil Service

# LEADER

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# FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE NEWS

By CHARLES SULLIVAN

## Compromise Plan Is Discussed On Federal Pay Controversy

WASHINGTON. — Pay raise developments:

1. The House has approved and the Senate Civil Service Committee has placed its okay on a bill that would raise the base salaries of an estimated 200,000 custodial workers in the Federal service.
2. Congress has approved a joint resolution sponsored by Representative Ramspeck of the House Civil Service Committee which extends the authority of the Army and Navy to pay overtime to September 1.
3. The Administration's bill to pay overtime to all employees earning less than \$3,800 a year has been again delayed because of the refusal of postal groups to

agree to half a dozen compromise plans.

**4.** Yesterday — July 6 — an estimated 250,000 workers in East Coast Navy yards started to work at newer and higher wage levels. The average worker, for example, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, was given an 8-cent an hour boost which will help him offset higher living costs.

### Kicking Around

The custodial pay raise bill, though it passed the House by an overwhelming majority—109 to 7—was given a frightful kicking around by the membership. On amendments of Representative Rees of Kansas (Republican), the bill was amended so as to limit the raises only to the first 8 grades of the custodial group and

the two grades of the sub-professional group.

Eliminated were proposed boosts in grades 9 and 10 of the custodial service—and the starting salaries in these two grades, mind you, are \$2,300 and \$2,600. The Administration proposed to raise them to \$2,600 and \$2,800. Rees said employees paid \$2,300 and \$2,600 were "high-salaried" and they didn't need to be given raises. Rees is from a small town in Kansas and he doesn't seem to realize that the cost of living in Washington and New York are the highest in the nation.

Rees also had stricken from the bill a provision that would have adjusted the salaries in the higher brackets. The higher-bracket adjustments probably won't be approved in the Senate—they are worthy but hard to defend—but the Senate will put back the

raises for the Grade 9 and 10 custodial employees.

### Mead in Forefront

Senator Mead will see to that. He knows that \$2,300 isn't a high salary for the boss of building mechanics. Especially when the boss electricians, machinists and other skilled supervisors can go out and get other government jobs that will pay them more money. Under the bill the journeyman mechanic—these mechanics work on a per diem basis in Federal buildings—would have his base salary boosted from \$1,680 to \$1,860. Mechanics are paid much better salaries than that in the Navy yards and arsenals.

Building guards would have their base salary raised from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Charworkers would be paid 65 and 70 cents an hour instead of the present rates of 50 and 55 cents an hour.

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## Vet Agency Builds Up Rapidly

The Veterans' Administration at 346 Broadway, Manhattan, is bursting at the seams these days.

The Federal bureau is so busy, in fact, it is hiring about 40 persons a day in the clerical field, has increased its personnel from a nucleus of 30 in May to 1,200 and may well hit 3,000 by the end of 1942, you learn after talking to immense, good-natured, efficient C. J. Reichert, domo of the whole enterprise.

They're taking on clerks, typists and examiners at the moment. Here's the situation, says Reichert:

One hundred and fifty vacancies for code clerks at \$1,400 a year.

One hundred vacancies for detail clerks at \$1,440 a year.

Forty vacancies for typists at \$1,400 a year.

A moderate number of vacancies for soliciting examiners at \$1,620 a year, depending on the amount of those now being recruited from the field by the Civil Service Commission.

And here's something important: Men in 1-A may get jobs with the division, according to J. J. Allen, personnel manager. In fact, draft classification has nothing to do with hiring, Mr. Allen assures you.

### Status or Test

Everybody hired must have civil service status. Those who don't have civil service standing may be permitted to qualify for a job. You can get that status by qualifying to take a Commission-provided test. You'll be classified according to your aptitude and experience. The Civil Service Commission has a representative at the Veterans agency itself, but persons interested may apply in Room 214, Federal Building, 641 Washington Street.

Other requirements: citizenship, high school graduation.

All of the recruiting is being done by the Federal Civil Service Commission at 641 Washington Street, where you get your application blanks, and where—depending upon your qualifications—you may be certified and channeled through to the Veterans' Administration personnel section for jobs—a process that averages a few weeks in waiting time, sometimes less.

### Occupies 8 Floors

The total number of employees, Mr. Reichert told The LEADER (Continued on Page Fifteen)

## Professional Assistant Lists Are Established

WASHINGTON — The recent junior professional assistant exam produced 9,657 eligibles. The qualifications of the eligibles have been broken down by the Civil Service Commission so that an eligible who has a combination of qualifications may be taken off the register and certified. When specialized courses aren't necessary, the highest eligibles on the list will be certified first.

Major fields in which eligibles qualified and the number in each are as follows: accounting, 307; agronomy, 8; animal husbandry, 3; anthropology, 12; archeology, 2; architecture, 5; astronomy, 1; bacteriology, 25; biology (general), 25; botany, 37; business, 361; chemistry, 181; clothing and textiles, 23; commercial art, 35;

commercial education, 56; dairy husbandry, 5; dairy manufacturing, 5; dentistry, 2; dietetics, 26; economics, 1,037; education, 425; English, 1,526; entomology, 5; fine art, 53; forestry, 6; general science, 34; geography, 14; geology, 34; history, 650; home economics, 469; physical education, 43; philosophy, 23; pharmacy, 17; nursing, 1; music, 53; medical, 4; mathematics, 575; library science, 506; law, 447; living languages, 301; dead languages, 50; journalism, 164; household equipment, 3; horticulture, 11; physics, 45; plant pathology, 2; plant physiology, 1; political science, 489; poultry husbandry, 3; premedical, 4; psychology, 364; public administration, 69; public health, 5; public speaking, 33; range conservation, 4; secretarial, 64; social science, 299; sociology, 424; statistics, 46; theology, 4; zoology, 97, and others, 48.

## U. S. Exams for Lawyers To Be Announced Shortly

WASHINGTON. — Continuance of the Federal program for the selection of lawyers in the Federal Government was assured when the President last week signed the Independent Offices Appropriations Bill for 1943 authorizing the United States Civil Service Commission to provide funds for the Board of Legal Examiners. This Board is responsible for developing and administering a merit system for legal positions in the Federal service.

The conference committee's report on the Independent Offices Appropriations Bill for 1943 stated that the appropriation approved is not intended to give permanent status to the board, and that future appropriations will be contingent on the passage of specific enabling legislation.

The Board of Legal Examiners is composed of the Solicitor General of the United States and the Chief Legal Examiner of the Civil Service Commission, five of the principal government attorneys and four public members, two attorneys in private practice and two law teachers. The board was established in accordance with the recommendation of the Com-

mittee on Civil Service Improvement headed by Justice Stanley F. Reed of the Supreme Court of the United States. Its purpose is to bring to the administration of Civil Service procedures for the professional attorney group the participation and cooperation of the legal profession itself.

### Agencies Still Select

During the past year the board has been passing on the professional qualifications of the lawyers selected by the various government agencies. These examinations have been based on the experience and standing of the individuals selected and in a large number of cases have included an oral examination. These examinations have been given in Washington by committees composed of the chief law officers of the government and attorneys in practice in the District of Columbia. Oral examinations have also been given throughout the country by committees drawn from the Federal and State Justiciaries and leaders of the Bar. All initiative in the selection of attorneys will continue to remain in the agencies until the board can establish registers of eligibles on the basis of nation-wide competitive examination.

The board will shortly an-

ounce its first competitive examination leading to the establishment of a list of eligibles for legal positions in the lower grades, ranging in salary from \$1,800 to \$3,200 a year. Plans for this examination, completed some time ago, have been held in abeyance pending action of Congress on the board's appropriation. Regional committees will be established throughout the country composed of judges and attorneys drawn from the various State bars. Applicants who qualify in a written test of legal capacity will be examined by these regional committees on their experience and ability to handle legal problems. By virtue of this decentralized examination system, it will be unnecessary for applicants to come to Washington in order to gain positions on the register to be established by the board.

The board will also conduct the non-competitive examination of attorneys now in the government service who are recommended for civil service status under the Ramspeck Act. These examinations will be based primarily upon the record of the attorneys in their present work and the recommendations of the general counsels of the agencies in which they are employed.

### 'Green Section'

They have a green section in the Veterans' Administration at 346 Broadway, you learn as you talk to C. J. Reichert, manager of the bustling Federal division.

"We have so many newcomers being classified as detail clerks that we just can't place them at desks and take a chance that they will pick up pointers wherever they are. Instead, we shuffle them together in one big section and scatter a number of tutors among them."

The "green" division consists of long tables with girl after girl seated all along the line. "They're allowed to chatter and have all the fun they like till they learn enough—in about a week—to be placed at a particular job," says Reichert.



























