

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# Senate Group Aids Health

Report of subcommittee tells about attempts to cut the nation's \$8,000,000,000 annual sickness and accident bill.

► HOW A SENATE subcommittee labored for three years to improve national health and cut the nation's more than \$8,000,000,000 annual sickness and accident bill is revealed in a report by Sen. Claude Pepper, of Florida, chairman of the subcommittee on health and education.

Working with him on the subcommittee were the following Senators: Elbert D. Thomas, Utah; James E. Murray, Mont.; Lister Hill, Ala.; James M. Tunnell, Del.; Robert A. Taft, Ohio; George D. Aiken, Vt.; H. Alexander Smith, N. J.; and Wayne Morse, Ore.

If you are a white collar worker and had your salary raised to meet increased costs of living in 1944 or 1945, you have this committee, in part, to thank for it. As a result of a special hearing to investigate the health and economic problems of Americans with fixed incomes resulting from the wartime increased cost of living, the subcommittee recommended that the War Labor Board cease applying the Little Steel formula to sub-standard salaries and wages.

"Hundreds of local governmental units and the Federal Government as well followed by granting cost-of-living wage and salary increases to their employees, as recommended by the subcommittee," Sen. Pepper reports.

If your child stopped running the streets, playing truant and pilfering from neighborhood stores because he was finding fun in a new teen-age club where there was wholesome amusement after school, or if you were able to get aid from a child guidance clinic, you may have the subcommittee to thank. Various of its recommendations on juvenile delinquency, based on hearings, were carried out in local communities by health, child welfare and educational authorities.

You or some member of your family may in future be helped to escape mental illness or to recover from it more rapidly, partly through activities of this subcommittee. Passage of the Mental Health Act to speed research, training and facilities for the control of mental illness followed hearings and a report by the subcommittee.

Among results from other investigations of the subcommittee and its staff, Sen. Pepper lists the following:

Closer collaboration at the community level of various federal agencies through the work of the President's Committee on Congested Areas and expansion of public health work in such areas was effected.

The American people learned the full and shocking truth about the inadequacies of our medical care system and about our generally low level of health compared to what we can achieve.

The need for a broad national program of medical research was revealed.

The subcommittee recommendations for nation-wide expansion and coordination of hospital and health center construction resulted in the passage of the

## FORESTRY

# Lumber Shortage Is Bad

► PRESENT lumber shortages, a key factor in the nation's housing plans, may get worse rather than better, the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture warns. The reason: we are not growing enough trees.

Estimating that the U. S. will need 42,000,000,000 board feet of lumber a year for the next 10 years, the Forest Service declares that "it will be difficult" to push lumber output above 33,000,000,000 board feet each year.

"Meanwhile," the Forest Service predicts, "the average farm or home owner is going to have difficulty getting all the timber he would like to have."

Some wastes can be avoided by better cutting, marketing and milling practices, while protection against fire and pest losses may help some, it was reported.

"But in the long run, we shall have to grow more timber than we do now if we are to supply the needs of a prosperous nation," Service officials said.

Painting a bleak picture of the nation's lumber prospects, the Forest Service reported the regional lumber supply situation as follows:

West: Many established sawmills will run out of logs in a few years. New

Hospital Construction Act of 1946.

Specific reforms recommended in the subcommittee's report on veterans' health problems were put into effect by General Bradley, the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

It aided in the passage by the Senate of a resolution to establish an International Health Organization, an indirect result of which was the formation of a tentative international health organization within the framework of the United Nations.

Disclosure of the pressing problem of ill health of mothers during maternity and of children brought about an increase in the appropriation for maternal and child health and welfare under the Social Security Act.

The American people were informed of the inadequacy of voluntary health insurance plans in meeting the national health problem and of national compulsory health insurance as the most economical and efficient way to assure high quality medical care for all our people.

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opportunities for large-scale operations are limited.

North: Timber depletion has shrunk the lumber industry to a small fraction of its former importance.

South: The stand of fast-growing pines is not sufficient to maintain present output.

East: The whole eastern half of the country now has only about as much lumber as the 6% of the forest area in the Douglas fir region of Washington and Oregon.

During the war the U. S. used more timber than was produced, and the nation is still cutting and burning wood faster than trees grow, point out the forest officials.

With a reserve of only 4,000,000,000 board feet of lumber compared with pre-war stockpiles of 17,000,000,000, the situation is increasingly critical because of the greater postwar demand.

To achieve an adequate timber supply, the Forest Service proposes a three-point program: 1, public regulation of the forests; 2, public aid to forest owners; and 3, more public forests.

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