



# WHY THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT WILL NEVER SUPPORT ITSELF

ANONYMOUS

**D**URING every session of Congress some lawmaker gets up and makes a long-winded speech charging the Postal Department with mismanagement. The speech is usually climaxed with this often-asked question, "Why can't the Post Office Department support itself?"



In a futile attempt to get this department out of the red, bills are introduced in almost every session to raise postal rates. The American public is always angry when rates are increased, and they have every reason to be.

None of the big wheels in Washington seems to understand why the Postal Department continues to lose money, even after the recent drastic hikes in second, third and fourth class mail. I am only a small cog in a small post office in Oklahoma, but I know why the mail continues to cost the taxpayers several millions each year, in addition to the heavy postage they pay.

• I do not deny that we have a few

loafers and politicians in the Postal Department, who are trying to draw their pay while doing as little work as possible. However, during my

seven years as a postal employee, I have marveled at the efficiency and the sincerity of a vast majority of all the workers.

• But notwithstanding some mismanagement and politics in the Post Office Department, we would still manage to operate in the black, and would eventually be able to lower postal rates, if we did not have to deliver the mail, free of charge, for every other department in the government.

• The Veterans Administration must mail several trainloads of mail each year in order to serve our nation's 18 million veterans. As every American knows who makes over \$600 per year, the Treasury Department has to get in touch with him at least once a year. Income tax blanks are mailed out once a year to millions of Americans and many postal clerks

must work overtime, at extra pay, to deliver them.

Most of the mail sent out by our government departments is necessary in order to keep any particular department functioning properly. However, the Department of Agriculture and our Congressmen and Senators continually flood the mail with propaganda that has no legitimate reason to be mailed.

While delivering the mail to 400 families for seven years, I have found that over one-fourth of the first-class mail I deliver travels free. The taxpayers who pay for the delivery of this free mail would be dumbfounded to see how members in both houses of Congress abuse their franking privileges, especially before election.

Several times a year most legislators send out hundreds of thousands of brown envelopes containing copies of speeches they have made on the floor. Their sole object is to convince their constituents that they are doing a good job, and the constituents are indirectly paying the bill.

Because these franked letters are first class, all must be forwarded to people who have changed their address. A clerk can finish with 50 pieces of ordinary mail while he is looking up the forwarding address of someone who has moved away.

Outnumbering all the mail sent out by Congress and all other departments of our government, are the letters, pamphlets and cards sent

free by the Department of Agriculture. Only a small percentage of these come from Washington; perhaps that is why we rural mail carriers know more clearly than most citizens what is going on.

IN ALMOST every agricultural town of 4000 population there is a local County Agent, a Home Demonstration Agent, a Soil Conservation Office, a Farm Home Administration Office in addition to the local Production and Marketing Administration Office.

Many of these jobs overlap, and each office has more people on the payroll than are needed. Therefore, they spend most of their time trying to convince the public that rural Americans simply could not operate without this ever-growing army of agricultural experts.

After handling this tonnage of mail sent out by local agricultural experts for seven years, I am convinced that 90 per cent of their outgoing mail, like that of Congress, is to impress the people of what a good job the department is doing.

As I said in the beginning, the Postal Department is not without its faults. However, before Congressmen and Senators continue to criticize the Post Office Department, they should clean out a few of their own closets.

If the worst offenders would stop "politicking" by mail, the Postal Department would get out of the red, and rates could be reduced.



# In the MERCURY'S Opinion

President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Millions of voters — Republican, Independent and many Democrats — have begun to wonder what they voted for in November, 1952.

Many of these American voters cast their ballots for you, hopefully but with grave misgivings.

It was hard for them to stomach supporting, even indirectly, the ruthless politicians who cried, "Thief," in their bitter determination to defeat one of the greatest Americans of this or any other generation, Senator Robert A. Taft.

Despite doubts, many millions of voters wanted a complete change in Washington. They were sick of the crime, corruption and softness toward Communism which warped and sullied the two preceding ad-

ministrations. It was a sincere hope that you would give the American people a thorough housecleaning of our governmental structure.

Of one thing I am absolutely certain: the voters did not elect you with any thought that major efforts of your administration would be bent toward the political destruction of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy. The spectacle of the shouting and hysteria of your advisers in their determination to "get McCarthy" was not dreamed of by millions of those who went to the polls in November, 1952.

In a recent speech you said, "Through knowledge and understanding, we will drive from the temple of freedom all who seek to establish over us thought control — whether they be agents of a foreign state or demagogues thirsty for personal power and public notice." Your spokesmen let it be known that you referred to Senator Mc-