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EDITORIAL

GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

Reorganization of the government so as to bring about more efficiency and eliminate the crooks and the grafters is most welcome. In fact the creation of the Fernandez Reorganization Commission and the directive issued by President Quirino to department heads making them responsible for the cleanup of their respective offices have brought a spontaneous favorable reaction from a public which has grown suspicious of every administration move.

That steps so far taken to make the government run more smoothly and at the same time weed it of undesirable elements have not been in the right direction is however very evident. When the Reorganization Commission was formed and given several months to study and recommend measures to streamline the government, it was hoped that no temporary set-up that would tend to confuse rather than clarify governmental positions would be created before its report is submitted and studied. Yet a new executive department has just been created, positions shifted or abolished and mergers effected without proper study.

There is undoubtedly much need for placing all government corporations under the supervision of a ranking official with cabinet rank, perhaps. The government has sunk and is sinking money it can ill afford to lose in these business ventures. Perhaps one of the reasons for losses in government corporations

is the lack of adequate and stricter supervision and coordination in them. But it certainly is waste of effort if not money, to establish an arrangement that may later be junked in the overall reorganization plan, which from all indications, calls for a reduction rather than an increase in executive departments.

Again with the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, many offices by virtue of the operation of the new budget, will be abolished or merged. Hardest hit is the department of foreign affairs where some honest and efficient career men who have sacrificed their time and fortunes have been given the gate simultaneously with others whose activities in connection with their duties have not been altogether becoming of their positions. This rather unhappy situation has destroyed rather than enhanced our precarious prestige abroad, not to say afforded injustice to some career men. There has been an unfortunate mix-up of reorganization for efficiency and reorganization to rid the government of the undesirables. In many cases there has not been any explanation or the explanation has not been enough to leave no room for doubt in the public mind.

But perhaps the most unfortunate thing in this so-called reorganization is the fact that the bigger crooks in the government have not been punished let alone exposed. We have the integrity board to which individuals may file complaints. We have the permanent congressional committee to which an injured public may air its grievances. But before the public will avail itself of the opportunities these bodies offer, there must be the assurance that complainants will be entertained with dispatch and erring officials against whom the public have complaints must be punished if the charges are proven.

In other words, the reorganization should be carried out with sincerity and methodically in accordance with duly accepted principles of good government.

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