BOBBY SOX

By Mary Links



"Richard, I would like you to meet my cousin—and I'd also like to emphasize that she's leaving for home next Monday!"

CROSS TOWN

By Roland Coe



"What'll they eat besides whiskers?"

NANCY — By Ernie Bushmiller



MUTT AND JEFF — By Bud Fisher



LITTLE REGGIE — By Margarita



JITTER — By Arthur Pointer



REG'LAR FELLERS — By Gene Byrnes



VIRGIL — By Lee Klein



SILENT SAM — By Jeff Hayes



The Home Town Reporter in WASHINGTON

By Walter Steed

WNU Correspondent

The Muddle in War Surplus Sales

THE whole machinery of Surplus War Property has broken down and the entire situation surrounding the disposal of more than a hundred billion dollars worth of surplus war material is a confused, disorganized mess.

This is the conclusion of your Home Town Reporter after an investigation, made because we have received scores of letters from readers asking how they can obtain surplus war properties. There have been more than 200,000 applications from war veterans during the past six months, all wanting to buy surplus property, mostly trucks, jeeps and automobiles. Only in rare instances have they been able to do so.

Here's the situation about surplus property. It is now scattered among eight governmental agencies at 100 different points in the country—Reconstruction Finance corporation for consumer goods, producers' goods, war plants and aircraft; U. S. Maritime Commission for marine property; the state department for goods overseas; the department of agriculture for food and agricultural products; the Federal Works administration for community facilities such as sewers and utilities; the Federal Housing authority for housing; and the department of the interior for grazing and mineral lands and all surplus goods in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Then there is the surplus Property administration, presided over by W. Stuart Symington, who, as administrator makes policy, but who has absolutely no authority over any of the other agencies selling the property.

War Assets Corp. Formed

And to make the confusion more complete, President Truman, back in mid-October announced the formation of the War Assets corporation to be headed by Lt. Gen. Edward H. Gregory, the quartermaster general of the army, to take over all surplus property from the other agencies, except the state department, on November 1. Then this was postponed until December 1, then to January 1, and now to February 1. The transfer may take place February 1 under the powers the President has under the new governmental reorganization act, but all facts will be divided on priority, with General Gregory acting as sales manager and Symington as policy head, but with absolute or authority over what Gregory or anyone else does with War Assets corporation.

Reason for much of the confusion and misunderstanding in this divided authority, and the fact that no where is there an inventory of the property which is declared surplus. Whenever, in the opinion of the army or the navy, property is no longer needed, it is turned over to the various agencies as surplus. The agencies then put it up for sale.

What happens when a veteran goes to buy surplus war property? Say he is in the Philadelphia area. He wants 50 or 100 miles to Philadelphia to buy a truck, a caravan and another gadget. First thing he finds out is that some governmental bureau has given him and has taken all the trucks he is use. Then he finds out that there are a hundred other veterans there ahead of him—on the same mission, and further, that what he expected to buy he has more or less on the dollar a month basis and is being sold on a selling price fixed by OPA.

Central Authority Needed

All this after he has been shuttled around between the Surplus War Plants corporation, the RFC disposal agency, the department of commerce, and the navy material Reclamation office. And he comes away sore. Everybody he deals with is mad and disgusted. Very likely he returns empty-handed.

Whether moving all these veterans into War Assets corporation will be a help is a matter of conjecture. Personnel of RFC will still operate the War Assets corporation, and apparently General Gregory is more top sergeant than the reverse, for he is merely on loan from the army.

What is apparently necessary is a merger of Surplus Property administration and War Assets corporation, Symington, if he stays as administrator, would be policy-making head, and Gregory or someone else would be sales manager, but with the administrator in complete charge for centralized authority.

As a matter of fact, surplus property is a war baby that no governmental agency wants. Remembering the scandals in surplus property after World War I, the whole procedure has been lined up to put laws to the officials, for nobody wants to go to jail as a result of "errors" in surplus property sales this time.

It seems to this reporter it is time for the President to make this centralized authority come true, or else surplus war property will be a continual headache for everybody. The government will lose out and so will the veterans.

Space-Saver Racks For Closet Doors

WHY will for more and bigger closets if the ones you have are not organized so that all the space is used? Handy racks on the door add readily accessible space for things and every day moving inside shelves for storage. The racks shown here are certain



to please, to hold the things you use the most, yet they are less than three inches deep.

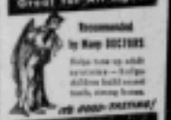
Brownlee has invented a perfect shape for a large four room or 6 room, three story and large attics are left accessible to the open rear which also has a useful roof. These rafter and also used for shelves that will run from one end to the other. If pleased with an ordinary company can from Be this date.

* * *

NOTE — Before Mr. gives authorship saying prefer the of both of him of the article above here. Inventor and describes the something and a list of all materials required are printed. To get pattern Mr. send its one name and address to:

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