

### Government Competition Bill Sent to Congress

A bill designed to check unfair governmental competition with private enterprise, along lines recommended by Government Efficiency Commissions headed by former President Herbert Hoover, was introduced in Congress recently by U.S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel of California, the Assistant Republican Leader.

With warnings against "a constant trend of the government to minimize and, in some cases, abolish the competitive system," the Senior California Senator proposed to limit "interagency contracting" between Federal departments and bureaus for technological services, primarily in engineering, architectural and surveying fields. The measure would put emphasis on advertising for competitive bids or on competitive negotiation with non-governmental concerns.

In pointing to the need for such action by Congress, Kuchel mentioned dangers of "conflict of interest," condemned "moonlighting" of Federal workers, and deplored the tendency of Federal corporations and business-type enterprises to "perpetuate themselves."

Seeking to amend the National Economy Act, the California lawmaker complained that "the services of one agency by another have been utilized with all too-uncanny ease." He said "interagency contracts are often contemplated as easily as one picks up the telephone. Sometimes they are awarded to Federal agencies whose primary function lies in another area and who may not even currently have the necessary facilities and personnel to perform the desired work adequately."

As examples of asserted unfair government competition with private enterprise, the Republican Whip cited an Army Map Service-Air Force agreement for aerial photography in Ethiopia, a Coast and Geodetic Survey-Reclamation Bureau arrangement for a silt-range survey on the Colorado River, below-cost sales of air navigation charts, and Reclamation Bureau performance of engineering work for irrigation and water districts. Other instances of similar activity have marked conduct of foreign air, Kuchel said.

In discussing unfair governmental competition, Kuchel disclosed he has learned the Justice Department is examining the possibility that certain Patent Office employees may be guilty of conflict of interest because of outside employment during after-work hours. Previously the California called upon the Commission of Patents to forbid persons in that agency to do "moonlighting" for private patent-attorney firms.

Kuchel said tightening of the National Economy Act to control interagency contracting is necessary because true costs are not figured and the Federal Government in the end loses tax revenues.

#### GARDEN CLEAN-UP

#### EARLY CAMELLIAS

Garden clean-up is a November project which C.A.N. nurserymen take seriously. The idea is to remove fallen leaves from lawns and flower beds before they become soggy from rain and smother plant life or provide hiding places for insects. Faded annuals should be uprooted and bloomed out perennials should be cut back. Much of the raked up material can be composted, but be sure to burn any that is infested either with fungus or insects.

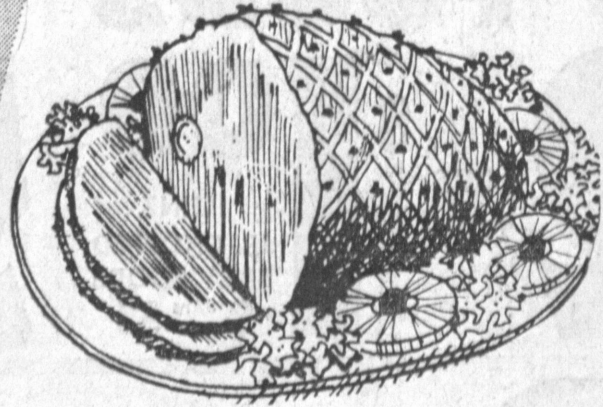
Many of the early camellias are already in bloom — both sasanqua and early japonica varieties. Others will not show color until spring. These latter should be disbudded now if you want maximum-size blooms. C.A.N. nurserymen suggest thinning buds to about three or four inches apart. Be careful during the process not to damage buds which are adjacent to those you are pinching off.

Use Classified. DA 5-1515

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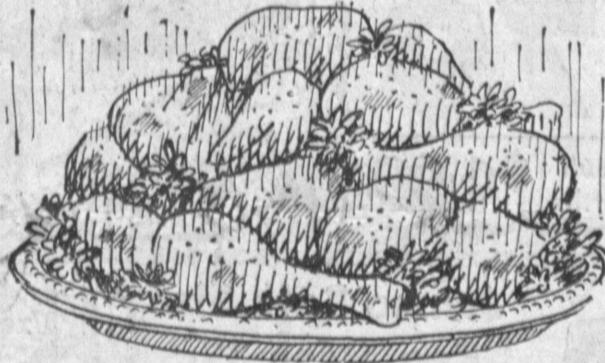


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