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## Family Council To Hear Hoehler

A Midwest conference of the National Council on Family Relations will discuss "A Federal Department of Welfare—Hope or Hazard for the Family" Feb. 27 in the Congress hotel.

Fred K. Hoehler, executive director of the Citizens Committee of Greater Chicago and former head of the Illinois Department of Public Welfare, will serve as chairman.

## PARLEY TO HEAR OF U.S. WELFARE BUREAU PLANS

Health and welfare leaders will discuss the proposed federal welfare department as it relates to the family at a meeting in the Congress hotel Friday under sponsorship of the National Council on Family Relations. Fred K. Hoehler, former state director of welfare and now director of the Greater Chicago Citizens' committee, will be chairman. Dr. Paul B. Magnuson, chairman of the President's commission on the health needs of the nation, will speak at a dinner that will start at 6:30 p. m.

Chicago Daily Tribune - 2-28-53

# Hoehler Urges U.S. Welfare Department

The addition of a department of welfare to the President's cabinet has been recommended by Fred K. Hoehler, former state welfare director.

He suggested the consolidation of the Federal Security Agency and relief programs in a federal welfare department at a meeting of 200 Midwestern social workers Friday.

An all-day conference in the Congress hotel was held to study such a proposal. It was sponsored by the National Council on Family Relations and 12 other welfare groups.

HOEHLER, newly named executive director of the Citizens Committee of Greater Chicago, said such a department would bring reductions in the federal relief bill, despite contrary objections.

"But it won't solve all relief problems. Administration of relief would still remain with the counties and states," he said.

Hoehler also attacked the objection that local independence in relief administration would be threatened.

"As long as the states match federal funds, they will keep their independence in local welfare matters," said Hoehler.

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CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 1953

## HOEHLER SAYS BILLIONS SPENT FOR PUBLIC AID

The federal government today is spending 1 billion 92 million dollars yearly for public assistance and other welfare services, Fred K. Hoehler, executive director of the Citizens Committee of Greater Chicago, and former director of the Illinois department of welfare, disclosed yesterday. Hoehler, as chairman of the day, spoke at the Midwest Conference of the National Council on Family Relations in the Congress hotel before 300 representatives of welfare groups from eight states.

"At one time during the depression, nearly 25 per cent of the families in this country were receiving some kind of governmental aid," he said. "Last month there were still 5,279,000 cases on public assistance, at an annual cost to federal and state governments of approximately \$2,276,876,000.

"Federal public health services cost approximately 352 million dollars. In the mental health field alone the states expend 600 million dollars a year."

# SOCIOLOGISTS SCAN U.S. WELFARE PLAN

## Implications of a Federal Department Discussed at Midwest Conference

Special to The New Mass Trust

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—The creation of a Federal Department of Welfare cannot destroy the essential voluntary services to communities in this country, Fred K. Huebler, executive director of the Citizens Committee of Greater Chicago and former Director of Welfare of Illinois, today told the Midwest Conference of the National Council on Family Relations here.

The conference, attended by representatives of adult educational, social welfare, housing and family study groups from eight Midwestern states, was told by Mr. Huebler that "one of the real factors which we should fear with regard to social welfare, public and private, is the manner in which too many people glibly denounce the welfare state."

He declared:

"Back in the early Thirties many of those who now denounce the Federal programs of the state or even local services, were pleading for help in order to save our economic system.

"They did this," he said, "out of fear and with great sincerity. I am convinced that should we destroy our present program of provision for security we would have similar reasons to fear for the safety of our economic system."

Mr. Huebler called for extension of the provisions of the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Law to "cover millions of citizens who have been left out of the Social Security system."

He added:

"No less important is the encouragement of privately sponsored pension plans. Most important of all," he declared, "is renewed effort to check the inflation which destroys so much of the value of all Social Security payments."

### Educational Weaknesses Stressed

Mr. Huebler pointed to the weaknesses in the structure of public education in the face of growing school populations, especially in the states with low per capita income. He declared the situation called for "careful Congressional study and action."

In commenting on the theme of the conference—"A Federal Department of Welfare—Hope or Hazard for the Family?"—the speaker referred to two studies of Federal services made since 1935.

These were submitted by the President's Commission on Administrative Management, headed by Louis Brownlow, Dr. Luther Gulick and the late Dr. Charles E. Merriam, and by the Hoover Commission.

Both reports, he said, pointed up that broad public welfare services of the nation had grown in importance and to large proportions since 1931. Both groups felt, he added, that this group of services deserved elevation to Cabinet status.

During the day various panels met to discuss the problem under such headings as education, family security and child welfare, health, housing and recreation.

The one-day conference was set as an "open forum" to stimulate discussion on the part of representatives of the various participating groups.

### Magnum Speaks on Health

The council explained that it was not an action group and that the purpose of the conference was not to prepare reports or to pass resolutions but to "foster inter-professional communication on a proposal which can have far-reaching results for the family."

At a dinner meeting tonight Mr. Huebler presented a report on the "findings of the conference."

Dr. Paul D. Magnuson, chairman of the one-time President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation, delivered the dinner address on "The Federal Government's role in the health and support of the family."

Among the participating groups of the conference were:

Adult Education Council of Greater Chicago, American Association of Social Workers (Chicago chapter), American Institute of Architects (Chicago chapter), Association for Family Living, Chicago Board of Education, Chicago Recreation Commission, Family Study Center, University of Chicago.

Also Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, Illinois Department of Public Welfare, National Association of Housing Officials (Greater Lakes chapter), Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago, the Young Women's Christian Association of Chicago.

**EXPECT IKE TO ACT**

# U.S. Welfare Agency Under Discussion Here

Should there be a federal department of welfare or should there be strong independent agencies in the field of health and welfare?

This issue was debated Friday at an all-day conference in the Congress Hotel called by the National Council on Family Relations and a dozen co-operating organizations.

President Eisenhower is expected soon to ask for a federal department whose head would hold cabinet status.

The President has the authority to do so under the recent renewal of the 1949 reorganization act.

The conference was convened in anticipation of an early showdown on the question.

## TELLS PROBLEMS

"Almost everybody theoretically favors the establishment of a federal welfare department," said Alton A. Linford, professor, school of social service administration, University of Chicago.

"The question is what services should go into it, and how much authority shall be given to the head of the department.

"Those who want to see the Office of Education, the U.S. Public Health Service and similar services protected from all possible political

influences, can argue very convincingly that they should be separate agencies, or that if they are included in a welfare department that they should retain the statutory authority they now have," Linford said.

"Those who believe in co-ordination, and who think that there should be a cabinet member with the authority to make these services work together, favor the department. A strong case can be made for either side."

## SEPARATE GROUPS MEET

Separate conference groups in the field of health, recreation, housing, education and welfare are discussing whether the services in which they are particularly interested would be benefited or harmed by inclusion in a new department.

Since 1923 all attempts to set up a department that would handle all the direct services to people have foundered on this issue.

Ethel Kawin, professorial lecturer at the University of Chicago, cited the need for a national agency to work with parent education.

Fred K. Hoehler, executive director of the Citizens Committee of Greater Chicago, presided as conference chairman.

# Ike Moves to Set Up U.S. Welfare Dept.

## *Mrs. Hobby Would Join Cabinet Unless Congress Kills Proposal*

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Eisenhower has laid before Congress a reorganization plan setting up a new federal department of health, education and welfare. It would take over the function of the present Federal Security Agency.

The White House said the present FSA administrator, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, would become secretary of the new department if, as expected, the plan becomes effective.

Mr. Eisenhower submitted his proposal under a general law permitting him to draft plans for reshuffling government agencies in the interest of economy and efficiency.

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**THIS LAW** provides that such plans, once submitted to Congress, become effective 60 days later unless the Senate or House in the meantime adopts a resolution of disapproval.

To be adopted, such a resolution must have the votes of at least half of the 96 senators or half of the 435 House members.

Some lawmakers have questioned whether the general reorganization act is broad enough to permit creation of a new cabinet-level department.

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**IN A LETTER** transmitting his plan to Congress Mr. Eisenhower said the reorganization would "improve the administration of the vital health, education and social security functions now being carried on in the Federal Security Agency by giving them departmental rank."

"Such action," he said, "is demanded by the importance and magnitude of these functions, which affect the well being of millions of our citizens."

Mr. Eisenhower's plan calls for the head of the new department to be assisted by an undersecretary and two assistant secretaries.

As federal security administrator, Mrs. Hobby receives \$17,500 a year. A cabinet officer's pay is \$22,500. An undersecretary receives \$17,500.



# CABINET STATUS FOR FSA ASKED BY EISENHOWER

BY LAURENCE BURD

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, March 12—President Eisenhower proposed to Congress today that the federal security agency be given cabinet status as the department of health, education, and welfare.

Congressional leaders predicted the reorganization plan, the first one submitted to Congress by Mr. Eisenhower, will clear both houses with little opposition. It would take effect in 60 days unless disapproved by a majority of the membership of either house, or it could go into force sooner on affirmative approval by both houses.

The proposed new department would take over the 2 billion dollar a year FSA machinery with Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, \$17,500 FSA head, receiving cabinet status at \$22,500 a year.

## Expects Saving to Taxpayer

In transmitting the plan to Congress Mr. Eisenhower said it would result in more "efficient responsible administration" and bring eventual, tho not immediate saving to taxpayers. He said the saving cannot be estimated now.

The new department would raise the cabinet to 10 members and would be the first brand new cabinet office created since 1913, when the labor department was born. The defense department was originated in 1947 but was a unification of the war and navy departments, plus the air force. The 1947 change reduced the number of cabinet posts to nine.

The health, education, and welfare department, which alphabet fans promptly shortened to HEW, would take over bodily the FSA setup, including the social security administration, public health service, office of education, and food and drug administration.

The President said the administrative machinery would be improved by giving the cabinet secretary power to "centralize services and activities" in the subordinate agencies.

## Only Woman in Cabinet

Mrs. Hobby, who would be the only woman cabinet member in the administration, would have an undersecretary at \$17,500 a year and two assistant secretaries at \$15,000 each. They would be named by the President subject to senate confirmation.

A new office of special assistant to the secretary on health and medical affairs would be created at \$15,000 a year. The assistant, to be nominated by the President with senate concurrence required, would be a leader in the medical field with "wide nongovernmental experience," the President said.

Mr. Eisenhower also proposed separate legislation for an advisory committee on education. It would be named by the new secretary from persons outside the government.

Mr. Eisenhower said the committee's function would be to recommend education programs that would keep the responsibility for public schooling in state and local the national interest in education thru appropriate federal action.

## Call Hearings Monday

The heads of the three major sub-agencies, social security, public health, and education, would be named by the President subject to senate confirmation. The only change here is that the social security head is now appointed by the FSA chief.

On Capitol hill sen. McCarthy (R., Wis.) and Rep. Hoffman (R.,

## New Job Slated

(Story in adjoining column)



Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, federal security administrator, who is to become a cabinet member as new secretary of health, education, and welfare in event the Congress approves Presidential recommendation.

(Associated Press Wirephoto)

Mich. I. chairmen of the senate and house government operations committees, scheduled hearings for next Monday on the plan. Both predicted congressional approval, possibly by an affirmative vote that would put it into effect before the 60-day waiting period elapses.

Hoffman introduced a joint resolution that would make the plan operative 10 days after approval by both houses. House Democrats applauded the President's proposal, but some of them contended the idea was borrowed from former President Truman, whose plan for making FSA a cabinet post was rejected by Congress in 1949. Republicans retorted that the proposal originated with the Herbert Hoover commission on government reorganization.

## Orders Postmaster Exams

Mr. Eisenhower, meanwhile, was reported to be drafting an order requiring new civil service examinations for about 3,000 postmasterships. Most of the positions are now held on a temporary basis by Democrats named by Mr. Truman but not confirmed by the senate. The order would not affect 37,000 other postmasters who have civil service status.

Under the selection procedure applicants take civil service tests but the President may choose from the top three in each test. Under the Truman regime few Republicans took the tests, because a Democrat usually turned up in the top three and was appointed.

