

FROM WHERE I SIT

By A. E. CAHLAN

The appointment of John C. Page as "acting" reclamation commissioner is interesting to southern Nevada residents for more reasons than one. First off, Page is exceptionally well qualified to hold the post. He knows the reclamation bureau from one end to the other, is a master of engineering detail, and in addition has the knack of meeting the public, a vital consideration for one in this important spot. From him Nevada can expect a square deal. He understands the problems of this state after several years residence, and is sympathetic. He is fearless, honorable and constructive. He will work out well in this spot.

Just what his elevation means in the case of Congressman Jim Scrugham is a matter of conjecture. There is NO question whatsoever, that the former Nevada state engineer and governor could have had the post if he wanted it. Perhaps he still can. Maybe Page's appointment as "acting" commissioner, means that it will be held open until congress finishes its labors and then tendered again to Scrugham. Maybe Page will be named to the big job later on after a few months "trial."

Whatever the situation, Scrugham would find it difficult to withdraw from congress at the moment. He holds a position of vast importance on the appropriations committee and his continued presence there is vital to the state of Nevada. That quite probably influenced his decision on the reclamation bureau post. Whether he would accept it if offered again later depends, probably, on the same set of circumstances.

Friends of the Nevada congressman point out that he is now fifth ranking man on the most important committee in congress, and that he is in line for the chairmanship before many more years have passed by. Chairmen are chosen by seniority. The big job on important committees, is to get on in the first place. And the chairmanship of the appropriations committee is the most powerful spot in the house, outside of the speakership, and one of the most powerful in either house. Should the Nevadan give up his chance for that important spot to accept the reclamation bureau post? That is indeed a tough decision.

No one from this state ever came close to either one before and it will probably be a long time before it happens again. The final answer will probably be written on the one point: in which post can the Nevadan best serve his state. My reply would be, in congress, because of the

diversity of things over which he would have control. He has demonstrated that ability already.

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Somebody with a yen for digging for answers to funny questions, has discovered that the only letters of the alphabet which have not been used in naming bureaus of the government are Q, X and Y. There's something wrong about that. For the republicans think some of them are Queer. X has always stood for the unknown quantity and reading some of the comments out of the national capital there are those who profess to believe that many of the bureaus are just that. And then there are the thousands of yes-men in these bureaus who make the need for a Y in the set-up rather far-fetched. So all in all, the alphabet is well taken care of, though there is much doubt as to just where the Z fits in unless there's a WPA bureau for renewing the stripes on the zebras of the nation's zoos.

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And say, if you're looking for a pet peeve I'll loan you one of mine. Why is it, that with this swell climate we love to boast about, we allow it to be putrefied regularly with smoke? Not from vast industrial plants, or necessary chimneys, but from the back yard of somebody who finds it much easier and more economical to burn the debris from his back yard than to haul it away himself or pay somebody else to do it. Or maybe it doesn't bother you. In SOME cities, it is unlawful to burn things, so I'm not all by myself in insisting it's a nuisance.

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If you don't agree with me on that one, maybe you can find a tear to shed for poor Jimmy Cagney, who not so long ago was jerking soda or something for a few dollars every now and then, and working hard at the job. Now he's a big shot movie star drawing a mere \$4,500 a week and insists that making five pictures a year is too much work. Yes sir, for \$180,000 a year, Jimmy says he should only have to make four pictures. "That's enough pictures for any actor whose career has advanced as far as mine," says Jimmy.

Well, big shots may come high, but there ARE people in the world who would make five, or even six pictures a year for \$180,000. But then, of course, they wouldn't have the drawing power of the honorable James Cagney. He sounds as looney as Dizzy Dean, although Diz is holding out for a mere \$40,000 a year. Anyway, that's ONE thing you and I don't have to worry about, whether or not we're being overworked for the \$180,000 we'll receive this year. N'est-ce-pas?