

# HATCH MOVES TO CURB LOBBY

Introduces Bill Requiring 2-Year Wait by Ex-Officials.

By THOMAS L. STOKES  
Times Special Writer  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 22.—Senator Carl Hatch (D. N. M.) opened a campaign today to curb a long-standing abuse, now very prevalent lobbying—by former Government officials.

He introduced a bill, drafted after careful study, which would prevent former officials from appearing before any department, agency or independent establishment until two years after they had left Government service. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee, of which he is a member.

The Hatch Bill would broaden by amendment an existing statute which requires a two-year lapse before former Government employees can appear in connection with any claims brought against the Government during their service.

Corcoran Cited as Example  
Senator Hatch feels that the ban should apply to any appearance whatever before any Government department on any matter during the two-year period, as the existing law fails to reach the "influence" practice which has developed here in recent months as an outgrowth of the defense program.

This practice is dramatized in the activities of Thomas G. Corcoran, former key New Dealer, who built himself a flourishing "law" business here by capitalizing upon his one-time Government associates, many of whom he brought into the Federal service.

Mr. Corcoran let very little time elapse after his retirement from the Government before he appeared here in his new role of lawyer-lobbyist, a role which caused resentment among some of the friends upon whom he called. He is not by any means the only former Government official getting rich at this business. The city has many examples.

Biddle Approves  
Part of the surprise over Mr. Corcoran's activities is due to his one-time zealous campaigning, as a New Deal lieutenant, against lobbyists who were active against New Deal reform legislation, and his hand was particularly heavy against those with connections in the Government who tried to use them.

The two-year time lag is not onerous, but represents an attempt to prevent the excesses of the "influence" practice.

Recently Attorney General Biddle gave his tacit indorsement to the new Hatch proposal.

Senator Hatch, who pushed through the law forbidding political exploitation of Government employees, realizes that the achievement of this new reform will not be easy, for powerful pressure will be brought against it from many directions.

Congressmen Exempt

Indicative of such pressures is the failure of the Truman National Defense Committee, or any other committee, to expose publicly the current activities of Mr. Corcoran and others, though earlier in the New Deal congressional investigating committees showed no such timidity in exposing lobbyists.

Senator Hatch advised the Judiciary Committee that his bill applied only to the executive departments, not to members of Congress. A fine of \$10,000 or two years in jail, or both, is the penalty provided for violation.

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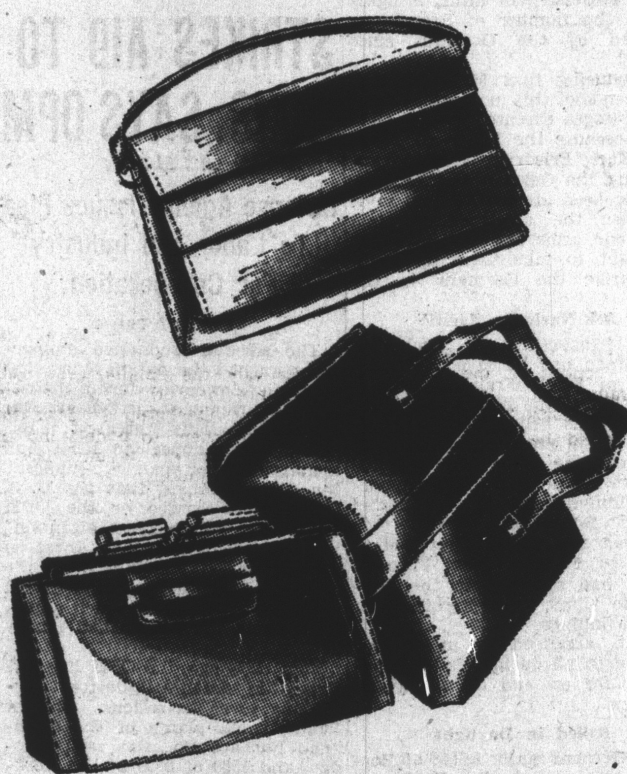


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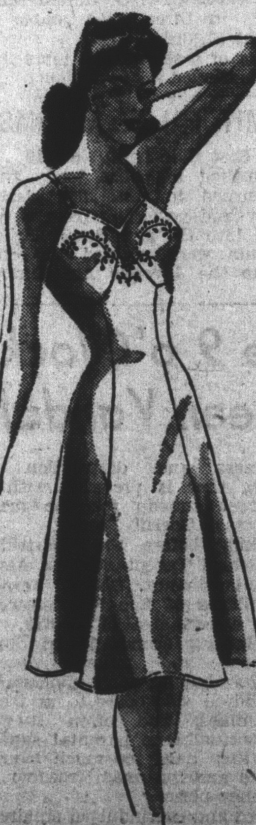
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