

## NELSON PICKS 'BRAIN TRUST'

Bottleneck Expert Nathan  
Will Have 'Thinkers'  
In WPB Setup.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (U. P.)—Robert R. Nathan, 33-year-old expert on national income, will head the three-man brain trust of WPB chairman Donald M. Nelson.

The new head of Nelson's "thinkers" is credited with perfecting the pre-Pearl Harbor victory plan which served as the foundation upon which President Roosevelt constructed his all-out proposals for 60,000 airplanes, 45,000 tanks, and 8,000,000 tons of new merchant shipping during 1942.

The other two members of the brain trust, it was understood, will be Fred Sears Jr., of the War Department and Thomas C. Blaidsell Jr., of the National Resources Planning Board. Mr. Sears has been a civilian consultant on munitions and Mr. Blaidsell has been doing research for the Resources Group on Post-War Planning.

Completion of the planning division for WPB is the last major reorganization planned by Mr. Nelson in remodeling the former office or production management. The WPB chairman announced that the planning division is being organized "to do a lot of thinking."

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## BILL CENSORS ALL 'SECRETS'

Loose Wording of Measure  
Covers All Matters in  
Federal Offices.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (U. P.)—Congress has before it today a Justice Department "official secrets bill" which would substitute claw-tooth penalties of fine and imprisonment for the present system of voluntary censorship.

The bill was drafted merely to provide a penalty for the copying of names from Civil Service Commission records for use as a commercial mailing list. But it is so loosely worded as to cover practically everything pertaining to a Government office.

### Provides Many "Secrets"

The bill is not limited to information possibly of aid to an enemy. If literally construed, a newspaper reporter probably could be indicted, tried and punished severely for publishing a confidential memorandum which proved a Government official to be guilty of moral turpitude.

The bill would enable cabinet officers and agency heads to suppress—for a time, at least—or to demand punishment for publication of anything at all pertaining to their offices which they decided to label "secret or confidential."

### Rules Apply to President

Censorship officials, meanwhile, said that not even President Roosevelt is exempt from new regulations of international radio-telephone calls.

One regulation which the President might circumvent, if he desired, is that requiring that each international radio-telephone call about permissible subjects be monitored by a censor. He could demand that the call not be monitored.

Attorney General Francis Biddle proposed the bill and Chairman Frederick VanNuys (D. Ind.) of the Senate Judiciary Committee introduced it. Justice Department spokesmen denied emphatically that it was a censorship measure. Senator VanNuys said it was.

### VanNuys Sees Censorship

"This is censorship," he said. "There is no question about it. I doubt whether, under a literal reading of the statute, we could subpoena Secretary of Navy Frank Knox to come up here to our Foreign Relations Committee and force him to divulge confidential information."

Inquiry at the Justice Department indicated that the bill was proposed without any intention of obtaining punitive censorship regulation.

### Provides \$5000 Fine

The bill would provide maximum penalties of \$5000 fine, two years' imprisonment or both for unauthorized disclosure of practically anything pertaining to Government.

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