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Democratic

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R. E. BAUMGARTNER

## EDITORIALS

## Beware Smiling Bandit

While we are extremely conscious of burglaries at stores, there is another bandit who often strikes at this time of year. He is more subtle, but none the less dangerous.

He is the bandit who carried a contract instead of a crowbar. He comes boldly knocking at your door or cheerfully telephoning your home armed with a "special deal" just for you. He gains your confidence with flattery and his pleasant voice and pleasing manner are disarmingly sincere as he describes how you "were chosen to be one of the very few people" to try his product.

This is the person who's had a deal for you on siding, storm windows and doors, roofing, furnace repairs, or whatever home improvement is on the market. He may very likely confide that be-

cause he wants to get started in this area, he will give you a very special rate which is below cost just for the advertising it will give him. He also may have a deal for you in which you may share in the profits of any future sales he makes in the area.

Beware. Don't sign. Investigate.

Check your local dealer just to be sure. The deal that sounds so good may be full of holes. And the price may not be so good when the traveling salesman travels on and leaves you with no recourse if the work is not satisfactory.

A bargain is not always a bargain when you understand the whole deal.

Check with your local dealers first. They will be here tomorrow if you need them.

—The Zionsville Times

## Bayh Amendment

Birch Bayh, Indiana's junior U.S. Senator, continues to gain stature in the eyes of veteran Washington observers and political figures. His alertness, his quickness to seize hold of legislative theory, and his determination to advance the cause of mankind through legislation have all won plaudits.

Not the least of his accomplishments in the 2½ years of the Indiana Senator's tenure in office is the Bayh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would assure the country of leadership if a President should become disabled. The Senate recently passed the proposal by unanimous vote.

By its vote, the Senate decided the wisest way to correct this long-standing fault in our Constitution was to submit a constitutional amendment to the state legislatures. Suggestions that this could be done by statute, a device Congress has ignored since the beginning, were rejected.

The Senate also decided, by this vote, that whatever risks might be involved in the system set up by the Bayh amendment were far outweighed by the danger the country has been risking since 1789—the lack of legal authority for the Vice President to assume the duties of an incapacitated President during his incapacity. There have been scattered fears, for instance, that some Vice President might try to usurp presidential powers on a trumped-up basis.

The Bayh amendment provides that an ailing President may voluntarily turn over his authority to the Vice President.

There would be no doubt in that case.

But if the President is too ill even to make that decision, the amendment enables the Vice President to assume the duties if a majority of the President's Cabinet so certifies. If an ailing President, believing he had recovered, declared himself ready to resume the job and the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet were convinced otherwise, Congress by vote could resolve the issue.

Some fear that Congress might play politics in such a situation, and it might. But with today's instant communication, when the whole country would know every detail of congressional behavior and a President's illness, this risk is reduced tremendously.

"I have more faith in the Congress acting in an emergency in the white heat of publicity, with the American people looking on," said Senator Bayh. "The last thing Congress would dare do would be to become involved in a purely political move."

The Senate, for the most part at least, agreed with Bayh.

Senate action on the amendment is a major step toward removing the question of what would happen if a President were disabled. Now it is up to the House, and prompt action should be paramount.

With most of the state legislatures in session this year, it would be possible to get the amendment ratified within a few months. And that would be none too soon. — The Wakarusa Tribune.

FARM NOTES  
By DON FRANTZ  
County Agriculture Agent

TWO LAWS, one very recent and one passed by the 1963 legislature, are of interest right now due to recent actions.

The 1965 Drainage Law was passed with certain amendments. Questions have arisen concerning cleaning of certain ditches right now. The Drainage Act was amended to not set up a new Drainage Board. The Board of Commissioners will act as the legal body in drainage actions. The important item in the new law is that it was not labeled as emergency legislation and it will not take effect until January 1, 1966. Therefore all questions of cleaning will be handled the same as in years past. We will get a copy of the new legislation and prepare a digest on it as soon as it is published.

THEIR HAVE also been people in the Lakeland area ask what their rights are in the question of Plain. If there is a remonstrance, the annexation goes into effect on the specified date.

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