

## POPULATION

# Changes in Congress

**Seats due to be reapportioned on the basis of 1950 census of population. California will gain seven seats. Missouri and New York lose.**

► UNLESS Congress takes some action soon, the seats in the House of Representatives will be reapportioned among the states on the basis of the 1950 census of population.

The total number of seats will not change; it will remain 435, but each representative will in future represent 345,000 constituents instead of 300,000.

Altogether 14 seats will be gained and 14 lost by various states. California will be the biggest gainer, because of the tremendous jump in the population of that state. The coast state will have seven more seats in Congress than she had before.

California is now second only to New York in population, although in the last census, in 1940, it ranked fifth. The gain in population between 1940 and 1950 was 53.3%; from 1930 to 1940 it gained only 21.7%. Population growth in this one state was greater than for the entire Northeast Region.

Big New York is on the losing end in Congressional seats. That state loses two seats. The President's state, Missouri, and

Oklahoma also lose two seats each. Pennsylvania loses three seats. Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee lose one seat each.

Other gainers are Florida which will have two additional seats under the new apportionment and Maryland, Michigan, Texas, Virginia and Washington, each of which gain one seat.

According to the legal machinery set up in 1941, the President must transmit to the new Congress within the first week the report of the Bureau of the Census giving the distribution of the population as found in the 1950 census and the number of representatives to which each state is entitled. Congress must then act within 15 days either to change the law or otherwise. If they do not act, the Clerk issues a certificate to the governor of each state, telling him how many representatives his state may have. The governor then transmits this information to the state legislature and they take action for redistributing. In case they do not take such action, all representatives are elected at large.

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## PHYSICS

# Defense Gadget Racket

**Most of the devices sold to protect you in case of atom bomb attack will do you no good and waste your money.**

► THE CIVIL Defense rackets are just getting underway. Some people with no scruples see a gold mine in the fears of the American people about A-bomb attacks.

The danger from A-bombs is real. But many of the gadgets and materials that are being sold commercially will do you no good at all should an A-bomb attack come. Some gadgets are being sold in good faith, some private organizations are performing services which they think will be helpful—in most cases these moves are either ill-considered or hasty or both.

Just beginning to be advertised to the general public are several "decontaminating agents" which are alleged to get rid of radiation left around the house after an A-bomb attack. Some of these liquids are good for special purposes — for use in laboratories and industries handling radioactive materials all the time.

However, if an A-bomb bursts over your city and you live through it there is small likelihood that you will come in contact with any lingering radioactivity—because there will be very little. Scrubbing with soap and water will be adequate.

Many booklets, purporting to tell what to do if an A-bomb hits, strongly urge the purchase of a stock of ointment for burns. As a consequence the sale is going up. Don't buy any. Modern medical thinking is that the best thing to do for a burn is to cover it quickly with a sterile bandage or as clean a piece of cloth as possible. If you put ointment on, you limit the doctor in the kinds of treatment he can give to the burns.

Don't buy a Geiger counter, or any other kind of radiation detector. This fall the Atomic Energy Commission counted 180 different types of radiation detection instruments being manufactured. Much of

this equipment is valuable for doing specific jobs—most of them in the laboratory. But don't fall for ads which urge you to buy a "pocket Geiger counter."

Should an A-bomb be dropped, there won't be much lingering radiation around. Trained Civil Defense teams will have the proper radiation detection instruments and will know how to evaluate what they indicate.

Some private contractors are offering to build bomb shelters in the backyards of the nation. If you are in a part of town spacious enough to have a back yard you are probably far enough away from the potential ground zero not to need a shelter. Many of the shelters offered are much more expensive than is necessary. Plans for a comparatively inexpensive home shelter will be shortly forthcoming from the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

There have been proposals for dog tags for civilians to provide for identification and information about blood groups. One veterans organization, in the words of an informed source, "got to President Truman over the bleeding bodies of practically all his advisers in these matters," and the President endorsed the idea. This organization is now distributing dog tags to civilians.

Dr. Leonard A. Scheele, Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, has declared that mass blood typing is unnecessary. Victims of A-bomb attacks will be given plasma and plasma substitutes such as salt water drinks, which require no typing. Mass blood grouping would drain manpower needed for other jobs and perhaps exhaust the supply of typing serum.

Dog tags for identification purposes will probably be necessary. But, according to government officials, they should be standardized as to information and they should be distributed free by the Federal government, so that everybody has one.

One man proposes to manufacture for sale a "flash suit." The idea is that you step into this bag-like article and pull a draw string, just before an A-bomb attack. It will then protect you from flash burns. If you have time to step into the bag you will have time to reach more adequate shelter.

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## PHARMACY

## New Anti-Perspirant Is Less Irritating

► A NEW astringent designed especially to stop perspiration has been developed by Drs. John E. Christian and Glenn L. Jenkins of Purdue University School of Pharmacy. The astringent is aluminum methionate. It is better than other astringents in checking perspiration, much less irritating to the skin and has no harmful effect on clothing, the scientists report (JOURNAL, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, DEC.) Creams or pastes of it do not dry or harden.

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