

CHAPTER IX

The Governors' Section of the Council of State Governments

The Section of the Central Secretariat which Serves the Governors' Conference

AN outstanding achievement in the development of confidence, good will, and collaboration came to fruition during the year 1936. In July, 1926, the president of the American Legislator's Association attended the seventeenth Annual Convention of the Governors' Conference to address the Conference on behalf of the Association. From that time on, the Association and the Conference maintained a cordial relationship, which was continued through the establishment of the Council of State Governments.

In 1936 for the first time, the Conference, on its own initiative, extended an invitation to the Council to present a statement of its activities and aspirations at the meeting of the governors and invited the Executive Director of the Council to attend the annual meeting in Kansas City as a member of its official party.

In 1935, because of the cordial feeling existing between the organizations, former Governor Cary A. Hardee, of Florida, Executive Secretary of the Governors' Conference, who serves the national office of the Conference in Washington, made arrangements with the Council of State Governments for the use of the research facilities of its Central Secretariat in preparing a series of research bulletins for the Governors' Conference.

A member of the Council's staff was assigned to carry on research for the governors and to serve the Conference in an unofficial capacity by compiling and distributing periodic bulletins. Eleven Governors' Bulletins have been issued on various subjects. To the best knowledge of the Council the information contained in each of these bulletins is to be found in no

other one place. Ten of the bulletins were brief mimeographed memoranda, each with a summary table appended; the eleventh is a small book containing pictures and a biographical sketch of each of the governors in office in October, 1936. These bulletins are distributed exclusively to the incumbent governors and their secretaries through the offices of Governor Hardee.

A page in each issue of the magazine, State Government, is regularly reserved for news of the governors and innovations in the executive departments. Beginning in December, 1935, photographs and short biographical sketches of four governors were published each month. Thus by November, 1936, every governor in office during 1936 had been sketched. This series will continue during 1937, in order that biographies of all governors elected in November, 1936, may be printed.

The Governors and the Council

The relationship between the Council and the Conference is entirely informal. It is an expression of the realization on the part of each organization that both are working toward the same goal—better understanding and cooperation between public officials representing the several states. The Articles of Organization of the Council provide that the president of the organization must be a governor, and Hon. John G. Winant, the first President of the Council of State Governments, was at the same time Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Governors' Conference. The present Council President, Governor Paul V. McNutt, was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Conference for the year 1935-1936.

As a concrete evidence of the relationship existing between the two groups, the Governors' Conference, from its modest income, contributed \$1,000 to the support of the Council, without solicitation or suggestion of any sort.

The Governors' Bulletins

A brief résumé of the bulletins issued by the Council to date, and a sample biographical page and Governors' page from State Government follows:

Number 1. September 23, 1935. "Governors—Some Personal Notes." As an introduction to the series, the forty-eight governors themselves were introduced, and their ages, birthdays, birthplaces, and party affiliations were compared.

Number 2. October 22, 1935. "Governors—Terms and Service." This is a compilation of the inauguration date of each governor, the length of his term, the restrictions on his re-election, and the date upon which the gubernatorial election occurs in each of the states.

Number 3. November 23, 1935. "Veto Powers of the Governors." This compilation compares certain of the limitations on the governor's veto power: The length of time after which a bill becomes law unless vetoed; the length of time after adjournment of the legislature at which a bill either becomes law or dies without approval; the proportion of legislative votes necessary to override a veto; and the constitutional prohibitions on the item veto and the veto of initiated and referred measures.

Number 4. January 28, 1936. "Salaries and Mansions of the Governors." This study compares the annual compensation of the governors, and tells which governors live in state owned mansions, the years in which the mansions were built, the dates of acquisition by the state, their

original cost, and the amounts appropriated for their upkeep.

Number 5. March 11, 1936. "Governors' Messages." From each of the messages of the eight governors addressing their legislatures in January were selected some of the more important statements. These were classified by topics.

Number 6. May 4, 1936. "The Staffs of the Governors." This bulletin lists, for each of the states, the number of employees in the governor's office, classified according to the nature of their duties.

Number 7. June 18, 1936. "Former Public Positions of the Governors." Dividing them into three groups, according to the length of their political service, this study lists the federal, state, local and party offices each governor has held.

Number 8. July 27, 1936. "The Appointing Powers of the Governors." Twenty-three offices found in most state governments were selected and the method by which each officer is chosen was tabulated, in order to give a graphic presentation of the comparative strength of each Governor's appointing power.

Number 9. September 15, 1936. "Education and Former Occupations of the Governors." The college degrees (excluding honorary degrees) received by each of the governors, and the occupations and the interests with which they were chiefly identified during private life are presented.

Number 10. October 30, 1936. "The Governors' Conference, 1908-1935." This is a series of very brief summaries of the main events at each annual Governors' Conference Convention held since the establishment of the Conference.

Number 11. November 11, 1936. "Governors of the 48 American States." Short, 100-word biographies of each of the governors who were in office in October, 1936, were gathered together in this booklet.