

Recent Activities of Iowans

Since World War II Iowans have continued the traditions established by Daniel Lee, Thomas Dawson, George Brist, and others, performing the many functions related to American foreign relations in a complex world. As has been mentioned, the Secretary of State is responsible for conducting our foreign policy. He is assisted by his office staff and the Executive Secretariat in reaching decisions and carrying out policies.

The Policy Reports Staff, which is one of the principal parts of the Executive Secretariat, furnishes the Secretary with summaries of important international developments. It also assists in conferences that the Secretary or the Undersecretary attend and follows up decisions to see that they are carried out. From 1952 until he resigned in November, 1954, Arthur C. Nagle of Clarion was associated with the Staff, first as Assistant Chief and then Chief. Prior to this he was coordinator for numerous international conferences.

Governmental problems have become increasingly complex in modern times. To coordinate policies on national defense the National Security Council has been established. Although the Secretary of State is the official representative of the

Department on the Security Council, staff work is carried out by personnel in his office. The Department's alternate representative on the NSC Planning Board for a number of years was an Iowan, Bromley K. Smith of Muscatine.

On September 13, 1954, Raymond Hare resigned as Ambassador to Lebanon in order to return to Washington as Director General of the Foreign Service. In this capacity he is a member of the staff of the Deputy Undersecretary for Administration and is responsible for formulating and carrying out all administrative details in the Foreign Service.

Under the general supervision of the Undersecretary and his deputies but responsible to the Secretary of State are ten Assistant Secretaries, one of whom is Francis O. Wilcox of Columbus Junction, Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, who holds three degrees from the University of Iowa.

At the time of his appointment by President Eisenhower on July 27, 1955, Wilcox was the Chief of Staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Previously he had worked for the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the Bureau of the Budget, and the Library of Congress, and in 1945 he was a member of the United States delegation to the San Francisco meeting which founded the United Nations.

Wilcox now heads the Bureau of International

Organizations, which handles affairs at the United Nations and the scores of other international conferences that the United States attends each year. The end of World War II brought a decided change in American diplomacy. Before the war, most of our relations were bilateral in nature, but the establishment of the UN and the many other international organizations has altered this. More and more decisions are being reached and carried out collectively by groups of nations. The Bureau develops policies in this particular field of international diplomacy and prepares instructions for the United States Mission to the United Nations, and to other international groups and conferences.

Iowans have served in numerous other capacities within this Bureau and at international conferences. Leslie Wheeler of Ventura has been a representative at conferences such as the World Wheat Conference at London, the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace at Mexico City, and the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture at Caracas.

Each time a conference is held, the task of securing personnel, such as typists, translators, document clerks, and the many others necessary for a successful meeting, is the responsibility of Mary Friday of Fort Dodge. Typical of the people she secures for a conference is Donna Thompson, from Davenport, who was sent as a secretary for the American delegation to the meetings of the

Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome during 1954. After a conference is over, the minutes, reports, and other important documents are returned to Washington where they are under the custodianship of Ruth Wailes from Dubuque. If they are United Nations documents, they are handled by still another Iowan, Alace Harvey of Council Bluffs.

Another top position is held by Scott McLeod who was appointed Administrator of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs on March 3, 1953. McLeod, who was born in Davenport and graduated from Grinnell College, worked for the *Des Moines Register and Tribune* and the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, was an FBI agent, and assistant to Senator Styles Bridges before his appointment.

Some of the newer functions of McLeod's Bureau include an extensive security program with special emphasis on investigations of personnel and housing for overseas operations. Persons and firms engaged in the international shipment of arms, ammunition, and implements of war are registered and issued export and import licenses. Among the older consular duties for which the Bureau is responsible is the issuance of passports so that Americans may travel abroad — almost a half million in 1955. More than 600,000 visas were issued in 1955 to foreigners wanting to come to the United States. And at all times American citizens and property interests are protected.

Much of the day-to-day business the United States has with other nations is conducted by four regional or geographic bureaus which have almost daily contact with the diplomatic missions from other countries in Washington. They also supervise the operations of the many United States missions abroad. Each bureau is made up of offices concerned with diplomatic matters within a limited area and within each office there are "desk" officers who are specialists on our relations with specific countries. Many Iowans have served as directors of these offices and as "desk" officers. Currently, John Wesley Jones of Sioux City is Director of the Office of Western European Affairs, and Harold Vedeler of Waukon was desk officer for Polish, Baltic, and Czechoslovakian matters until his assignment to Prague in 1955.

With Americans and American business interests scattered throughout the world, many situations arise that result in claims cases. These are claims of American citizens against foreign governments, claims of foreigners against the United States, and claims of our government against another. The Assistant Legal Adviser for International Claims is Benedict English from Monona. It is his responsibility to prepare legal briefs on the United States' position in claims cases, determine the validity of claims and work out agreements on the settlement of cases. Prior to becoming Assistant Legal Adviser, English held such

positions as member of the joint secretariat, assistant agent, and agent in connection with arbitration commissions settling differences with Mexico, Panama, and the Netherlands.

Some activities carried on by the Department affect all Foreign Service posts. One of these is the Foreign Service Inspection Corps, which serves as liaison between the Department in Washington and the field. Its principal purpose is to interpret new policies and ideas of the Department for the Foreign Service. At each post the inspectors carefully review all activities in order to recommend improvements or changes that will lead to better performance of work. A secondary function of the Corps is to ferret out and correct irregularities. One of the inspectors was Carl Strom, who served from October, 1951, until his appointment as Deputy Chief of Mission at Seoul on June 6, 1954. Strom, a graduate of Luther College, was an instructor there and at the University of Iowa before entering the Foreign Service in 1935.

Another world-wide activity closely connected to all operations of the Foreign Service is the courier system. The diplomatic couriers, whose motto is "None is swifter than these," operate on strict schedules receiving and delivering important messages and documents throughout the world. Donald Mansfield of Cherokee became a courier in 1949, was named regional courier super-

visor in Cairo in 1952, and has been in charge of the diplomatic courier section in Washington since 1954. Dale Field of Muscatine, Frank Durfey of Merrill, Bob Grahl of Des Moines, and John Hollingsworth of Dubuque are also in the courier service.

Not all positions held by Iowans are glamorous or policy-making in nature. The rapid increase of responsibilities in the Department and Foreign Service has also increased administrative work. Only a few administrators can be named.

Roene Brooks, a native of Fort Dodge, has been personnel placement officer, making selections of personnel for assignment to positions in consulates and embassies in Africa and the Near East. Leroy Day from Melrose has the task of making certain that supplies and equipment are properly utilized throughout the Department. To facilitate travel of American diplomats, members of Congress, and government officials, whose jobs take them abroad, is the daily job of Ruth Harvey, formerly of Des Moines. In 1952 she received a Superior Service Award for showing initiative in meeting the extraordinary demands brought on by today's world conditions. Margaret Gates Martin of Ottumwa is executive secretary of the Review Board for Unofficial Publications which reviews manuscripts, including this article, written by members of the Department.

Many Iowans have held high positions in em-

bassies and legations. For instance, Carl Strom and Harold Vedeler are Counsellors of Embassy, the number two position, at Seoul and Prague. Positions of First Secretary, another important post, are held by William C. Affeld, Jr., native of Clarinda, at Ciudad Trujillo, and Robert B. Elwood of Napier at Beirut.

Many GI's are now either traveling abroad or are residents of foreign countries and are receiving educational benefits, disability payments, or otherwise need to maintain contact with the Veterans Administration in Washington. In the larger embassies the Veterans Affairs Officer has been added to handle the many problems of the American veterans. In Paris, Donald Gould of Allerton holds this position.

Occupation of Germany brought new duties for the State Department. One of the principal aims has been to make Germany more democratic. Groups dealing with education, community activities, and religious affairs, as well as women's and youth groups were assisted in developing new objectives and new programs to carry them out. For instance, in the field of education, help was given in writing new textbooks, developing new curricula, and helping the Germans become acquainted with the better techniques of democratic education. Among the Iowans engaged in these activities were Urban H. Fleege of Dubuque, a religious affairs adviser at Bad-Nauheim, Howard W. John-

ston of Traer, an adviser on education at Berlin, and Howard W. Oxley, a graduate of Iowa State College, and an adviser on community activities at Wiesbaden. Liaison was maintained constantly with labor organizations so democratic ideas and forms of labor union organization and practices could be disseminated. Also the extent of anti-democratic and anti-occupation feeling among the labor forces could be observed so that steps could be taken to ensure the security of the occupation forces. Chris Jorgenson from the University of Iowa was labor economist at Frankfort.

The local representative of the State Department in Germany from 1949 to 1952 was the Resident Officer. He coordinated relations between the United States and allied military and civilian agencies and the local German authorities. The Resident Officer helped Germans develop democratic ideas and practices. The officer stationed at Stuttgart was Harry Brockman of Sioux City.

For many years the German courts had been under the domination of the Nazi Party and with the defeat of Germany were greatly in need of revitalizing. As an interim measure the courts were placed under the jurisdiction of the Allied High Commission. Each occupying power was responsible for operating the courts within its zone. The Associate Judge of the courts at Nuremberg was Carl W. Fulghum of Mason City; Ambrose Fuller of Sheldon was District Judge at

Munich, and Homer M. Lyon of Valley Junction was District Judge at Augsburg.

The Iowan holding the highest position in the International Cooperation Administration has been Mrs. Dorothy D. Houghton of Red Oak, Assistant Director for Refugees, Migration, and Voluntary Assistance. During her period of service, from April 1, 1953, until her resignation on August 31, 1955, Mrs. Houghton directed and greatly expanded the Escapee Program, a plan for finding new homes for men, women, and children who had found life in Communist countries unbearable. She also worked with voluntary agencies that provide material and technical aid to underdeveloped areas of the world. In addition her office has aided the mass migration of peoples throughout the world. Her secretary was Kathleen E. Sharrin of Des Moines.

Other Iowans have been participating in extending technical assistance to underprivileged areas. Marion Bock, who was born in Dubuque and attended Grinnell College and Iowa State College, has been participating in the agricultural program in Paraguay. She instructed home extension workers as a part of Paraguay's plan to raise the farmers' economic and living conditions.

Dr. Warren P. Jurgensen of Sioux City has been assisting the Iranian government in its efforts to bring better living conditions to the village people. Besides demonstrating modern sanitation

methods, sponsoring safe wells, and instructing persons on health matters, Dr. Jurgensen's group in 1952 took part in the malaria control program, which, by the use of 1,200 tons of DDT, protected more than 9,000 villages and 3,500,000 people.

Iowa methods of increasing production through use of hybrids and other agricultural developments that have led to better farming conditions are being taught in many lands. Marion Olson of Mason City, an expert on soils and corn breeding, has been on an agricultural development mission in Iraq. John M. Aikman of the Botany Department at Iowa State College has been a research adviser at an agricultural experimental station in Ecuador. Richard Bernhart of Oelwein has been chief of a rural improvement mission in Iran. The list could be extended to nearly every country in South America and the Near, Middle, and Far East. The wide variety of specialties includes railway construction, animal husbandry, nutrition, community planning, and vocational agriculture.

Another group of specialists attached to American embassies are the agricultural attachés. They study and report on agricultural conditions, farm labor problems, and many other aspects of agriculture in foreign countries which may be of importance and interest to the Department of Agriculture and American farmers. The agricultural attachés are also responsible for developing markets for American farm products. Roy Olin West-

ley of Panora is attaché at Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Democratic ideas are spread in many lands by personnel of the United States Information Agency. One such is Harold G. McConeghey of Newton, who has spent four years as Provincial Public Affairs Officer in southern Formosa. As the only civilian representative of the United States government in that area, he maintains an information center at Kaohiung, a library at Tainan, and reading rooms at two other towns. Basically, he provides a library service, photo exhibits, motion pictures, and similar things to explain the United States, its goals, and its policies. McConeghey speaks Chinese well and maintains cordial social relations with the Chinese and Formosans, generating goodwill constantly by the many acts he performs for Chinese industrialists, engineers, and others. Thus he is helping to make America better understood by its Chinese allies.

The story of the activities and accomplishments of Iowans in the State Department and the Foreign Service covering a century of time could be greatly expanded. The contribution of each one has had its place in the general development of American foreign policy. Each has participated, in some manner, in history-making events or has assisted in making many decisions that affect relations between the United States and other nations.

HOMER L. CALKIN