

A STATE FACES BANKRUPTCY

Dorothy Thompson devoted one of her late newspaper columns to conditions in the state of Washington. That commonwealth, she said, "is now up against the inevitable crisis of the welfare state—the same crisis the British people have had to face, namely, the rude awakening that there ain't no Santy Claus."

The trouble stems from a remarkable measure, called "the citizens' security act," which was passed in 1948. Now, to quote Miss Thompson again, "this prosperous and progressive state faces bankruptcy. Although the people voted to increase the already advanced social security benefits, their representatives have not dared to vote the taxes to finance them. That would explode the happy idea that something can be obtained for nothing. The result is a deficit approaching \$100,000,000

"A study of the condition of this state is recommended to all advocates of socialized medicine and cradle-to-the-grave social security. There are families here who, taking advantage of the multiple possibilities of state aid, are drawing down \$400 per month and refusing, naturally, jobs at \$200 to \$250

"Exactly this policy wrecked the Roman empire."—Industrial News.