

REDUCTION OF NONESSENTIAL FEDERAL EXPENDITURES

FEBRUARY 15, 1943.

Report to: The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
The VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT
OF THE SENATE.
The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In accordance with title 6 of the Revenue Act of 1941, Public Law No. 250, Seventy-seventh Congress, an additional report herewith is presented by the Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures.

The investigation of the cost of passenger automobiles, both owned and rented by the United States Government, convinced the committee a year ago that very substantial economies could be effected by eliminating all nonessential traveling by automobile.

The committee decided last year, and so reported to Congress, that the traveling expenses of the different agencies of Government were exorbitant and should be carefully supervised by the Appropriations Committees, and a substantial reduction required.

The committee now presents to Congress a report on the number of automobiles owned and operated by the various Government agencies, exclusive of those used by the Army and Navy.

Despite the growing automobile crisis, both in tires and gasoline, the investigation of the committee indicates that for the first 4 months of the present fiscal year (July 1, to November 1, 1942) the various agencies of the Government, exclusive of the Army and Navy, continued for the most part to use as many passenger cars, to drive as many miles, and to consume about as much gasoline as did these agencies in a comparable period of the previous year, and this, notwithstanding the efforts of the Government to reduce the consumption of gasoline and to conserve rubber.

The committee believes that the same standard of strictly essential driving should be applicable to Government employees as it now applies to individual citizens. This, the committee is convinced, is not being done, assuming that the latest figures available for the first 4 months of this fiscal year are a criterion for the current fiscal year.

In the last fiscal year the Federal Government owned 17,305 passenger automobiles, exclusive of the Army and Navy, and exclusive of trucks and motorcycles. It now owns and operates 18,953 passenger automobiles, which represents an increase of more than 1,600 cars over the number owned and operated during fiscal year 1942.

In the last fiscal year the cost of operating these passenger automobiles, exclusive of interest and depreciation on the cars, was \$4,243,602. The cost of operating these cars for the first 4 months of