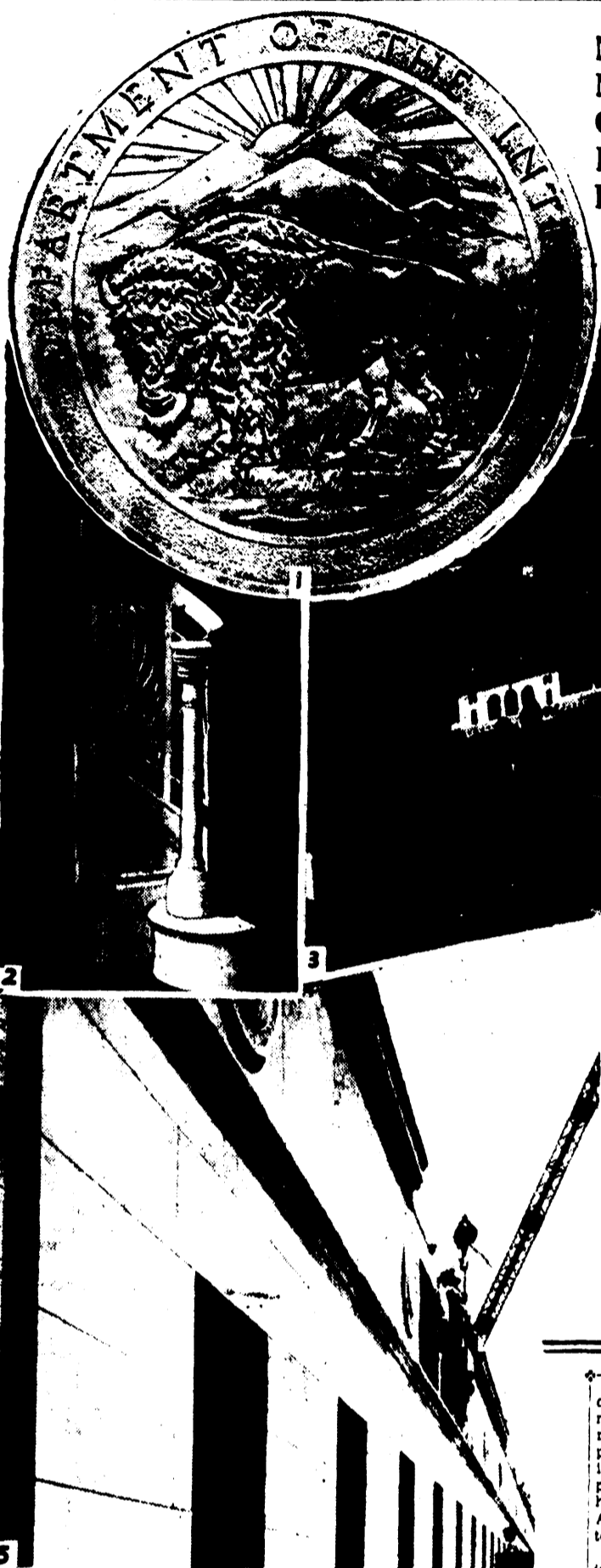


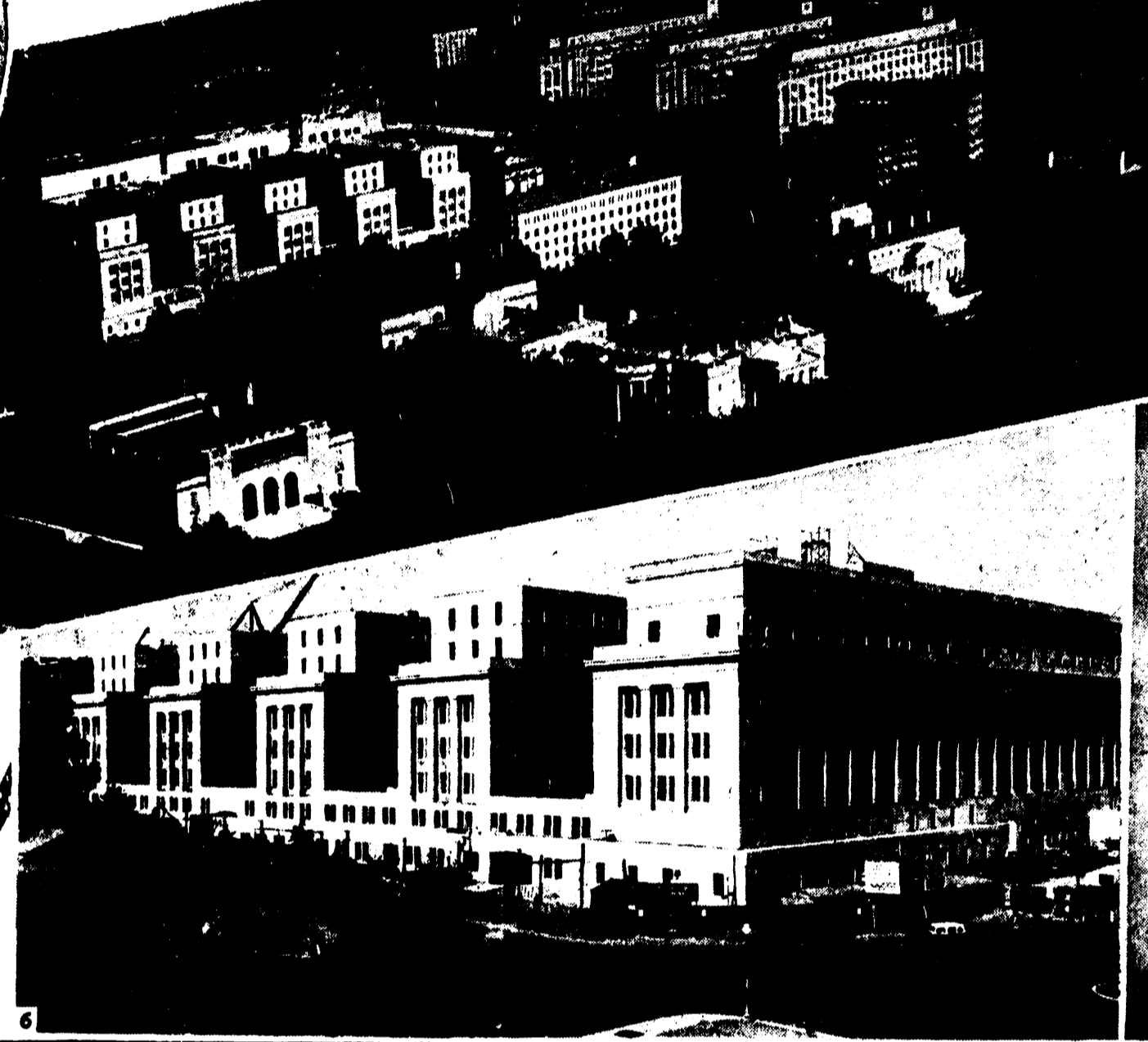
Part 4—8 Pages

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1936.

WASHINGTON TO HAVE WORLD'S FINEST OFFICE BUILDING



New Home of Interior Department Offers Equipment and Building Design Which Will Make Easiest Possible Conditions for Work—Escalators to Prevent Elevator Crowding—Tunnel Aids Transport of Employes and Material. Bureaus Have Been Centralized. Dining Provisions to Approach Perfection.



(1) The great seal of the Department of the Interior, a bronze bas-relief plaque to be placed in the marble floor at the entrance lobby of the new building. (2) Ornamental balustrade of marble and metal. (3) Airview of the Department of Interior Buildings. The new building is shown in the foreground. It joins the old building through a tunnel running under Rawlins Park, the square shown in the center of the picture. (4) Dedication tablet on the corner stone of the new building. (5) Detail view of stone work at set-back on the sixth floor. (6) A view of the building taken from Nineteenth and C streets, looking northeast. (7) Work on the sixth floor level, southeast corner of the building.

THIS BUILDING WAS DESIGNED BY THE ARCHITECTURE OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT... HENRY MORCENHOU JR. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY... HAROLD L. ICKES SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR... ARNO B. GAMMERRER DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE... A. E. DEMARAY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE... CHRISTIAN JOY PROPLES DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY... W. EUGENE REYNOLDS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY... LOUIS A. SIMON SUPERVISOR... NEAL A. MELICK SUPERVISOR... WADDY B. WOOD ARCHITECT... 1935

By Vesta Cummings. THE finest office building in the entire world is the new Department of Interior Building, now nearing completion, is described by those who are creating it and experts who examine it.

supplement the dinner hall and offers an attractive spot in which to open it. "I am an admirer of good architecture," said Frederic A. Delano, chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, when the corner stone of the structure was laid this Spring, "but I am quite hostile to those architects who design buildings with little regard to the requirements of the building and the functions it is to perform."

Each detail of planning, construction and decoration—every bronze doorknob and block of marble in the magnificent building is dear to Secretary Harold L. Ickes' heart, say department officials who bring their ideas to him for consultation and approval. The Secretary succeeded in having the building erected as P. W. A. project No. 4, when he was unable to obtain funds from Congress.

Thomas Jefferson. It is done with the greatest simplicity to blend with the Lincoln Memorial in the vicinity. The design has no columns, but the north and south entrances are marked by a recessed porch, with large posts three stories high.

The same number of people will work there. "Every bit of ornament, unless necessary to draw attention to what occurs inside, has been omitted," Mr. Wood says. The blocks of limestone used are larger in dimensions than those used in most of Uncle Sam's new houses, giving the structure a grandeur independent of decoration.

TO CREATE a "home" department, the Department of Interior was established by act of Congress in 1849 because of problems then arising on the pioneer outskirts of the young republic. The new department first took over the General Land Office, originated in 1812, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, established by the War Department during 1832, and today has grown until 16 bureaus operate under the sign of the buffalo and the rising sun.

Demaray is in daily contact with members of all committees. Generations of office workers will owe the Secretary thanks for working under pleasant conditions, Mr. Demaray says, agreeing that the new edifice is well ahead of its time. Indeed, the enthusiasm of executives and advisory experts planning their new home is reminiscent of that of a bride arranging the house in which she expects to spend her life.

of the corridors in a few months, according to Edwin B. Rowan of the section of paintings and sculpture in procurement, who is in charge of art for the new building. Although no plans for decoration are complete, American Indian work is being considered, Mr. Rowan says. On the Art Committee are William Zimmerman, assistant commissioner of Indian Affairs, chairman; Mae A. Schnurr, assistant to the commissioner of reclamation; Dr. Carl Russell, chief of the museum section of the National Park Service; and C. C. Davison of the chief clerk's office of the Department of Interior.

A gymnasium for basket ball or volley ball, to be equipped with mechanical exercising devices, will be available for those who wish to play games or punch a bag after working hours.

Each detail of planning, construction and decoration—every bronze doorknob and block of marble in the magnificent building is dear to Secretary Harold L. Ickes' heart, say department officials who bring their ideas to him for consultation and approval.

There isn't a light well or closed court in the structure," Mr. Wood says. "It is air-conditioned throughout—the first Federal building to be completely cooled—and the design is adapted to modern needs from early Federal architecture influenced by

After two years of a sort of legal internship, Seal decided to become a firm himself. Just how large a firm he never realized until he found himself the lessee of a huge suite of offices in the Investment Building. It occurred to him as he surveyed his vast establishment that before he could settle down to the practice of law he would have to find some one to relieve the longer of the huge suite, and, more importantly, to share the rent.

He set something of a record on this job, too, in that as an assistant corporation counsel in charge of condemnation proceedings he never participated in a single case of that character.

But his friends insist it is a tribute to his character that, in the course of his work, he always managed to make precisely the right enemies.

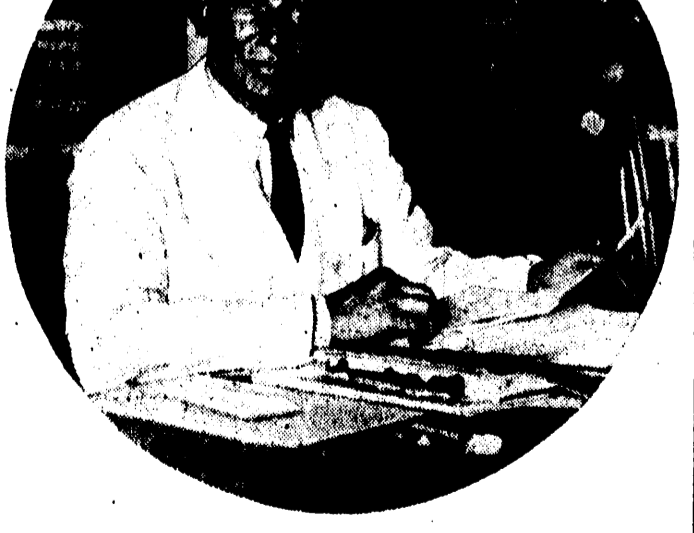
THE new corporation counsel, whose name on the door, interestingly enough, is down pretty far among those listed as assistants, was too close to his predecessors both personally and professionally to come into office with plans for sweeping reform in operating technique. As head of one of the largest law firms in the country—legal department of large municipalities are that in their own way—he figures to be a pretty busy man. He intends, however, to go along the same path that

Plaster, painting, and lighting fixtures bids will be out September 15, according to Charles E. Darnell, construction engineer. Bronze door knobs and fixtures will be in many cases carry the buffaloes motif of the department seal, he says. In the entrance lobby a large buffalo of bronze will be inserted in the marble floor. The building is made of limestone below the stylobate, and of granite below, with marble used in the lower corridors, the great central staircases and the exhibit and conference halls. Quarry tile laid in the corridors is like that used in the new Department of Labor and Interstate Commerce Commission buildings.

SEAL SEEN AS FATE'S CHOICE FOR CORPORATION COUNSEL

Every Step in Legal Career Pointed Him for Municipal Post He Now Fills.

By F. Jay Carmody. TWO years ago Elwood Seal was an assistant corporation counsel for the District. E. Barrett Prettyman was his chief. Seal had a small office and a large law library. Prettyman had the reverse combination. So Seal sent his library over to decorate the otherwise comparatively bare walls of the spacious room which Prettyman occupied. Recently Prettyman resigned. Seal was appointed his successor. It meant reunion with his law library and it also meant a lot of ribbing from his friends, who are praising him these days for his system of advancing in public life behind a barrage of law volumes. They are curious to learn where next he is going to send the books. Probably nowhere. The books and their owner have an appearance of familiarity, sitting there in that spacious room on the southwest corner of the District Building. Now that it is a fait accompli, it is difficult to see how the combination of circumstances which led Seal to his present office could have done otherwise. There seems always to have been a quality of inevitability about it. Seal's first contact with the corporation counsel's office, so the story goes, indicated that he was a "natural" for some place in the public legal set-up. As a practicing lawyer back in 1922, and extremely fresh out of law school at the time, he had a case which brought him before the corporation counsel's office, represented on this occasion by Howard Boyd, who had been a professor of Seal's at Georgetown Law School. Seal laid his argument before Boyd. The latter listened, reflected a few minutes, outlined his own viewpoint, then asked his former pupil: "What would you do in my place,



Elwood Seal, Corporation counsel for the District of Columbia. "They named a milk bottle after him—the 'Sealtest.'" Talliferro had stated his problem. It was far more than Talliferro had hoped and he departed with quite a burden on his mind. At the end of several months the calendar was cleared and Seal had built up a reputation for nolle prosequing cases which probably would stand as a record if any one kept comparative performance charts on the activities of public prosecutors. Some of these cases, he found, were six and seven years old; nothing more than dusty, decayed documents of minor immorality which the municipality could better forget with finality than fight with success. Arresting policemen, who had gone

on arresting a great many other offenders in the years between, had only the most vague memories of some of the elderly documents. Cases of this character were dropped. Others were prosecuted. After months of high-pressure work, Seal and his associates on the job were just two weeks from the heels of the heels they had to prosecute. That was that.

He was not to get away from the corporation counsel's office, however. It finally was almost four years later that Tom Cameron, an assistant corporation counsel, was stricken with an illness which forced him to take a leave of absence. Cameron had been working on condemnation cases. Evidently Seal was to take over his work. Seal agreed, but only on condition that he might submit his resignation, effective within six months, on the day he took the job. He set something of a record on this job, too, in that as an assistant corporation counsel in charge of condemnation proceedings he never participated in a single case of that character.

THE resultant bickering, Seal feels, might be reduced to the vanishing point if groups of different sentiments (Continued on Sixth Page.)

WELFARE and recreation experts all over the city were asked for advice about the many innovations in the new set-up, according to Arthur E. Demaray, assistant director of the National Park Service and chairman of the Building Committee, so that those who live there from 9 to 4:30 will be happy and comfortable. Persons to occupy all sections were consulted about their needs and asked to make suggestions.

"The interior of Interior was largely planned by its future occupants," Demaray says. "It was built from the inside outward." The first Government building to be so planned, the new citadel of conservation promises to be a working paradise for those laboring to fulfill its functions.

Seal's first contact with the corporation counsel's office, so the story goes, indicated that he was a "natural" for some place in the public legal set-up. As a practicing lawyer back in 1922, and extremely fresh out of law school at the time, he had a case which brought him before the corporation counsel's office, represented on this occasion by Howard Boyd, who had been a professor of Seal's at Georgetown Law School.

Seal laid his argument before Boyd. The latter listened, reflected a few minutes, outlined his own viewpoint, then asked his former pupil: "What would you do in my place,

Arresting policemen, who had gone

THE resultant bickering, Seal feels, might be reduced to the vanishing point if groups of different sentiments (Continued on Sixth Page.)

Plaster, painting, and lighting fixtures bids will be out September 15, according to Charles E. Darnell, construction engineer. Bronze door knobs and fixtures will be in many cases carry the buffaloes motif of the department seal, he says. In the entrance lobby a large buffalo of bronze will be inserted in the marble floor. The building is made of limestone below the stylobate, and of granite below, with marble used in the lower corridors, the great central staircases and the exhibit and conference halls. Quarry tile laid in the corridors is like that used in the new Department of Labor and Interstate Commerce Commission buildings.

An average of 1,300 men have been employed on the project, Mr. Darnell says, and 30 engineers were kept busy (Continued on Seventh Page.)