

# WASHINGTON GOSSIP

## May Do Away With Fee at Mt. Vernon



WASHINGTON.—The legislature of Virginia is now considering the propriety of enacting a law which will do away with a 25-cent admission fee charged at the gate to Mount Vernon, the home of Washington. Earnest protests have been made by many citizens of the state against the charging of any fee for admission to the grounds, on the theory that the public generally, without restraint, ought to be free to enter the grounds and inspect the many interesting things that are to be found there. The legislature of Virginia originally incorporated the ladies' society which owns the Mt. Vernon estate, and has made it what it is today, and of course an amendment of that sort, cutting out the admission fee, may be made whenever the legislature in its wisdom sees fit. Two years ago, when the legislature was in session, a similar movement was put under way, but there was not legislation. This time the effort has been renewed with increased enthusiasm, and the no-fee bill is now before the house committee on laws,

which has been giving hearings to men and women representing both sides.

The whole country is interested in this proposed change of the articles of incorporation of the ladies' Mt. Vernon society, for in every state there is a chapter of the society, and each of these chapters has had charge of the work of restoring one of the rooms of the old mansion, or one of the out-buildings, or some particular feature of the grounds. The purpose of the society has been to restore the buildings and grounds to the condition they were in the time when Washington was alive. This work has been carried forward pretty well to completion. In the mansion there is now almost 50 per cent. of the original furniture, for instance, while the out-buildings are all to be found there.

The people who want the admission fee abolished say the ladies' society has been making too much money! that it is a close corporation, taking money from the public and expending it without let or hindrance, and presumably piling up a considerable surplus in cash. The ladies' society doesn't plead guilty to these charges. It says the fees are only sufficient to maintain the estate properly, that there are no large surpluses, and that the society has not at any time made it a policy to earn profits from the patriotic impulses of American citizens.

## U. S. Soon to Have Big Army Air Fleet

WITHIN two years the United States army will probably possess 40 aeroplanes. At present it only has seven machines, a number so insignificant as to make comparison with some of the powers of Europe almost impossible. In the development of the so-called "fourth army" of the military service, this country is far behind France and Germany, notwithstanding the fact that the first men to make practicable the flight of heavier-than-air machines were Americans. Even Italy can show greater advancement than this country, although this is due to the fact that she has on her hands a war which gave her an opportunity to demonstrate the usefulness of the flying-machine in actual service. The only thing approaching that opportunity in this country was offered during the period when we massed troops on the Mexican border.



Notwithstanding the fact that our army may possess 40 aeroplanes inside of two years, we will not even approach France in the number of our "avions," which is the name applied in that country to military flying machines. The French war department proposes to buy during the present year 350 aeroplanes, the minister of finance having asked for \$1,000,000 for the extension of aeronautical service. Twenty machines alone were used at

the last French military maneuvers. The new machines will be ordered in lots of 20, 50 and even 100. They will be of different types and will be supplied by all the leading French constructors. The day has passed when the aeroplane is a mere experiment for military purposes. Only a few days ago an Italian army officer, operating an aeroplane in Tripoli, dropped bombs among the Turks and Arabs and was in return wounded by a rifle bullet. He was using a monoplane and had one passenger with him. The most notable feature of the incident was the fact that he was enabled to continue operation of the machine after he had been wounded. His passenger assisted him and the monoplane was brought back to safety to the Italian camp. Not only were projectiles dropped among the enemy, but the aviator and his companion made sketches of the military works over which they passed.

## Creates Furore in Washington Society

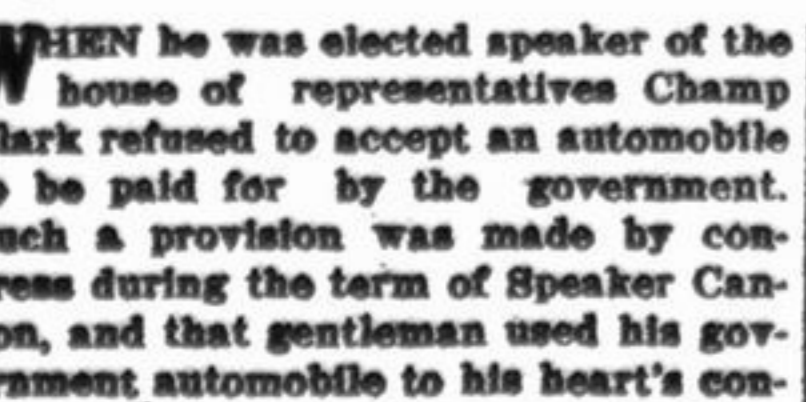


THE greatest furore has been created in Washington society by the advent of Mrs. C. H. Anthony of Muncie, Ind., who may or may not be making herself a dummy on which to display the art of millinery and marvelous jewelry. Suffice it to say, the Queen of Sheba would not be one, two, three in the glass with Mrs. Anthony as to gorgeousness of raiment and lavishness of gems and jewels. For instance, Mrs. Anthony wears shoes so rackingly costly that she has to put them in the bank vault at night. There is nothing baser in the metal about the person of Mrs. Anthony than gold, and she scorns plain gold, and has it set with jewels to match hat, gown, coat, hose and shoes that she wears them with. Real lace is humiliatingly used to heel her slippers, and her head is topped by \$1,000

hats and such like. Her gowns—well, it doesn't take much material to make them, and the least said about them the better. They are of the finest loom and the costliest dyes, and are then overhung with gold and diamonds, turquoise, emeralds, sapphires and pearls. Her coats are the hand-somest and her furs the costliest that have ever been seen in the city of Washington. The heels of the wonderful slippers are set with something like diamonds, and she has these of all colors to wear upon the streets. Mrs. Nicholas Longworth is wedded to cut-glass heels on her shoes and slippers, but has never gone so far as cut-glass solitaires. Mrs. Anthony is wedded to what she terms the "gospel of clothes." There is one thing quite certain, and that is, "Lead us not into temptation" finds no place in her gospel decalogue. With all her love for finery Mrs. Anthony is intensely American, and says American clothes are good enough for her, and she has all her dresses made in Indianapolis.

"American clothes are good enough for me," she declares. "Every gown I own was made in Indianapolis."

## Speaker Rides in an Automobile Now



WHEN he was elected speaker of the house of representatives Champ Clark refused to accept an automobile to be paid for by the government. Such a provision was made by congress during the term of Speaker Cannon, and that gentleman used his government automobile to his heart's content. He became so enamored of the joy of automobiling that at the end of his term he purchased one of his own and puts it to good use.



While Champ Clark does not own an automobile or allow the government to furnish him one, he enjoys riding, and, strange to say, he enjoys riding with his predecessor, Joseph G. Cannon.

Speaker Clark is seen very often riding about the streets and avenues of Washington in Mr. Cannon's machine. The speaker and the ex-speaker are soul good friends.

On his way home at midnight from a recent Democratic caucus, Mr. Clark hung by a strap and was jostled by the crowd in a car that was packed to its fullest capacity.

## Leap Year by Proxy

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"I'm never going to get married," said Kitty to her Aunt Katherine. Aunt Katherine, who was very tall and beautiful, and who was always dressed in sweeping black gowns, looked at Kitty severely through her gold lorgnette.

"And you are 29?" she asked. "Men aren't worth bothering over," said Kitty. "Now, there's Rodney Hodge. He's the only man who will be at the dance tonight who is really worth while, yet I wouldn't be afraid to say that he'll never propose."

Aunt Katherine lighted the candles over the fireplace. It was one of her fads to spend the evening by candle-light. Electricity was for the mob, she said.

"Why should you care?" she asked, "what Rodney Hodge does? You are not in love with him, are you?"

Kitty composed herself. Well, you see, I could be in love with him," she said sagely, if he were not such a clam. "He's so—so fine, Aunt Katherine."

"Yes, he is fine," said the older woman.

Kitty's little face was very grave now, and her little hand was laid in earnestness on Miss Severance's knee.

"And so," Aunt Katherine finished for her, as she took the little hand in her firm clasp, "and so, my little Kitty, if you were a man and Rodney Hodge were a girl, you would ask Rodney to marry you?"

"Yes," Kitty whispered.

"Then—why not ask him—anyhow?" said Aunt Katherine.

Kitty gave her a startled glance.

"Why—Aunt Katherine—" she stammered, "you don't mean—"

"It's leap year."

"Oh, I knew you were joking," Kitty's voice had a note of relief in it.

She changed the subject after that, and Kitty went off to her leap year dance happily.

Miss Severance sat long by the fire, then she picked up the receiver of the telephone and gave a number. When the answer came, she said: "Is that you, Bronson? This is Katherine Severance. I want to ask you to come and see me. Yes, tonight. Yes—it's important. You will? It's very good of you. At nine, then?"

She paced the room restlessly, as she waited, and when her caller came, a gray-haired, stately man, she welcomed him with a laugh that was slightly nervous.

"It's about Kitty," she said. She was seated in a high-backed chair which gave her a queenly dignity. "I want to make a sort of leap year proposal by proxy, Bronson."

He looked at her keenly. "You mean Rodney?" he asked.

"Yes, Kitty likes him and I think he loves her. He did years ago, but—but he hasn't asked her to marry him."

"And he will not!" sternly.

"Why not?"

"He shall not suffer as I have suffered," was the quiet answer. "You know how I staked all my happiness, Katherine, on your answer years ago, and you know, too, that I lost. I will not have my boy hurt in a like fashion."

"Kitty—is sweeter than I," said Miss Severance, "and I think she cares."

"No one could be sweeter than you were," the old man turned on her fiercely, "until you learned to break men's hearts."

"And to break my own," said Katherine Severance.

Out of a deep silence he asked: "Then you, too, have suffered?"

"Yes. Do you remember a leap year dance and a girl all in white, with silver slippers and a rose in her hair?"

"You," he breathed.

"And she made up her mind that she would tell the man whom once she had spurned that she had changed—and—and—that he was the only man in the world—for her. But she was proud—and she could not, for he gave her no opening—and, after all, she was a woman—and a woman cannot woo."

"Katherine," he said, and his voice broke; "dear girl, if you had spoken, how much of happiness life would have held for us."

And tonight when Kitty went to her leap year dance, all the past rolled back on me and I wanted her to be happy with a man like you. It is too late now for us—but surely they—"

He laughed like a boy. "Too late? Why, how old are you, Katherine?"

"Forty."

"And I am fifty-two. And we're young, dearest. And the world is before us. Do you think Kitty and Rodney are the only ones in the world who can live and love?"

He took her hands masterfully in his. "Look at me, Kate," he said, "and tell me if you want to leave all the happiness to Kitty?"

That night when Kitty came home she was radiant.

"Aunt Kate," she cried, as her aunt, wrapped in a white silk kimono, met her at the top of the stairway, "I'm the happiest woman in the world."

"No," said Aunt Kate, mysteriously, "you're not the happiest. Because there are others."

# CURRENT WIT and HUMOR



One evening a golfer sat in his grandfather's old armchair, eagerly scanning the stop-press news, when his little son came to him and proudly exhibited a brand new "colonel," which he said he had found over at the links. "Are you sure it was a lost ball, Davie?" cautiously inquired the golfer's sire. "Lost?" said David. "Of course it was lost. I saw the man looking for it."—World of Golf.

### These Cold Storage Eggs.

Bill—Had a funny thing happen up to our house this morning.

Jill—What was it?

"Why, my wife put some eggs in the fireless cooker, so we could have 'em for breakfast, and the eggs must have took the thing for an incubator, for we got young chickens out of the eggs."

### Not a forcible illustration.

"Do you know," asked the abstainer, "that the money which the American people spend for drink in a single year would be sufficient to build a stone tower forty feet in diameter and a mile high?"

"Would it?" asked the man with the spongy nose, "but who wants a silly old stone tower like that?"

### Natural Curiosity.

"A man who was rescued from drowning at a seacoast resort last summer, as soon as he recovered his senses, turned round and stared hard at the ocean."

"What he do that for?"

"He had swallowed so much of it he wanted to see if there was any left."

### OO BAD.

First Tramp—You've got a cold.

Second Tramp—Yes! I went to sleep under a wagon last evening, and during the night some one removed the wagon.

### Any Day.

The girl who shoots And shoots to kill, Can be a star In vaudeville.

### Well Divided.

Two brothers, each of whom is nearly six feet and a half tall, were one day introduced by an acquaintance to a young lady. As she sat gazing up at the pair of giants in wonder and awe, she exclaimed:

"Great heavens! Suppose there had been only one of you!"

### Not Enough Fans, Maybe.

"I thought it was reported that Mr. Bluffera, the millionaire philanthropist, would give away a large sum to charity on the first of the month."

"It was announced that he would do so, but it seems that he couldn't get the act of donation properly staged."

### The Other Fellow.

"Why do you always frown when I say 'we must economize?'" asked one statesman.

"Your grammar is at fault," replied the other. "You shouldn't use the first person plural. You should say, 'they must economize.'"

### Ignorant Let.

"And so you found the western cowboys disappointing," remarked the stay-at-home.

"Terribly so," replied the girl who reads all the magazine stories. "They don't even know enough to speak their own dialect."

### Reason Enough.

Fig—Don't you wish you could live your life over again?

Foo—Well, I should say not. I've got a 30-year endorsement policy on living this month.

# PROMINENT PEOPLE

## SELECTED FOR SUPREME COURT



The nomination of Nathan Pitney, chancellor of the state of New Jersey, to be an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, was sent to the senate the other day by President Taft. He will succeed the late John M. Harlan of Kentucky.

The president also nominated Julius M. Meyer of New York city to be judge of the United States district court for southern New York, and Ferdinand A. Colger of Cassville, Wis., to be district judge for the eastern district of Wisconsin.

The statement that Chancellor Pitney would be named as the successor of Justice John M. Harlan was made at the White House subsequent to a call by John W. Griggs, former attorney-general of the United States, and a delegation of New Jersey lawyers, all of whom spoke of Judge Pitney in the highest terms.

The fact that Mr. Taft would likely select Chancellor Pitney for the Supreme Court vacancy came as a surprise, and did not become known until the night previous to the nomination, and then it was discussed only among some of the president's closest friends. Unusual efforts were made to guard the secret.

Judge Pitney has already made a name for himself in state and national politics as congressman and president of the New Jersey state senate. His elementary schooling was received in his home town, after which he entered Princeton, from which he graduated in 1878. He received the degree of master of arts in 1883 and that of doctor of laws in 1895.

## HELPS COOK AND SERVE MEAL

Girls employed in the Outlook of



Boes held their heads high the other day and regarded with a somewhat superior air the other girls in the same building in New York. No less a personage than Miss Ethel Roosevelt took luncheon with them in their combined dining room and kitchen on the second floor.

Miss Roosevelt not only said she enjoyed the luncheon, but she also had a lot of fun waiting on herself and helping to cook things of the gas stoves. She was no stranger to the 75 Outlook girls. She attended their Christmas party, and she knows most of them by their first names.

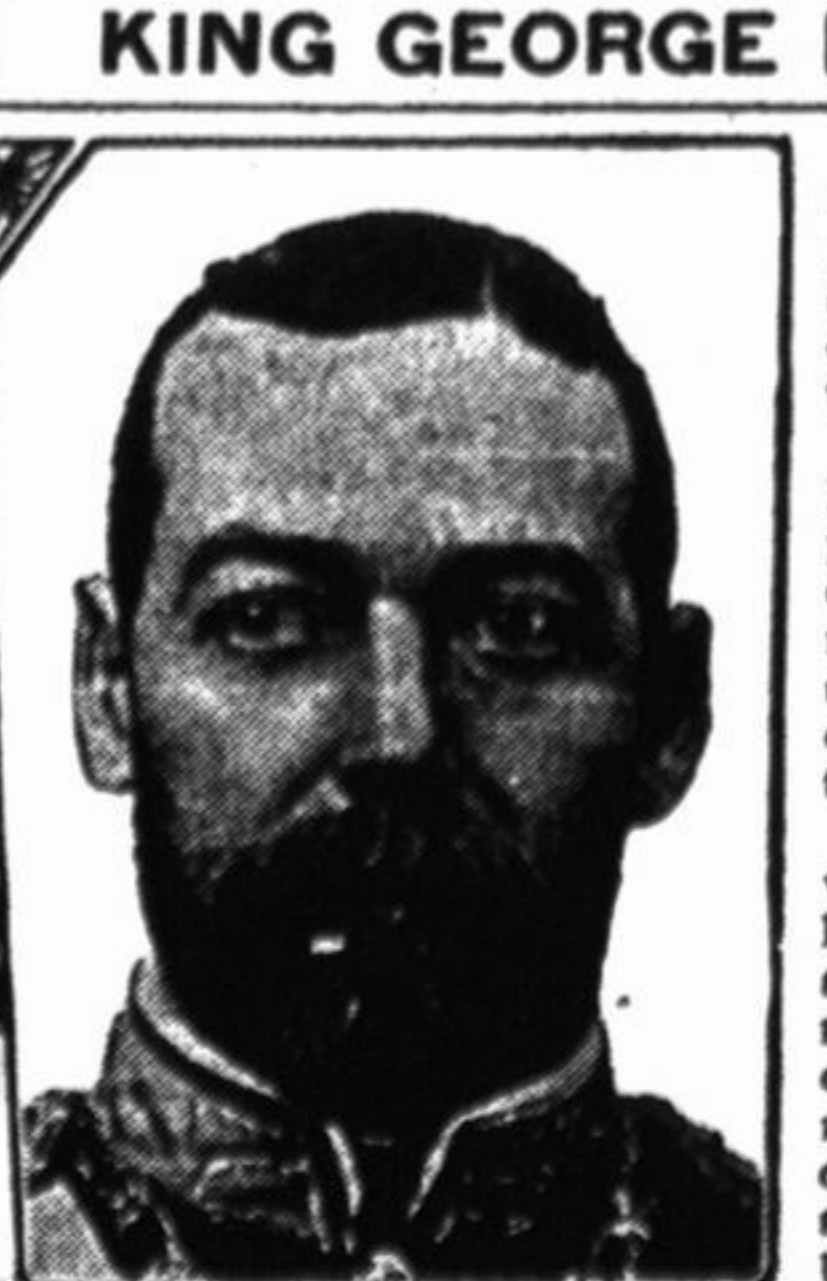
Miss Roosevelt did not say what time she would arrive. Thirty-five of the girls have their luncheon at 12 o'clock and the others at 1. The Outlook company furnishes sugar, milk, butter, tea and coffee, and also the room and stoves, as well as "Irish Mary," who takes care of the room and washes the dishes. The girls go out to markets and grocery stores to buy their food, then bring it back and cook it themselves.

The 12 o'clock squad waited a long while in the hope that Miss Roosevelt would arrive before 1 o'clock. Then they went back to work disappointed. She arrived in a taxi-cab shortly after 1, to the great delight of the second squad of luncers.

Miss Roosevelt went immediately to the lunch room, threw off her fur, and unbuttoned her gloves and announced: "Now, give me something to do."

The girls told her she must sit down and wait till they served her, but the blood of her father wouldn't let her. Not a minute did she sit still. She helped to scramble eggs and make tea and carried the things to her table.

## KING GEORGE MAY VISIT U. S.



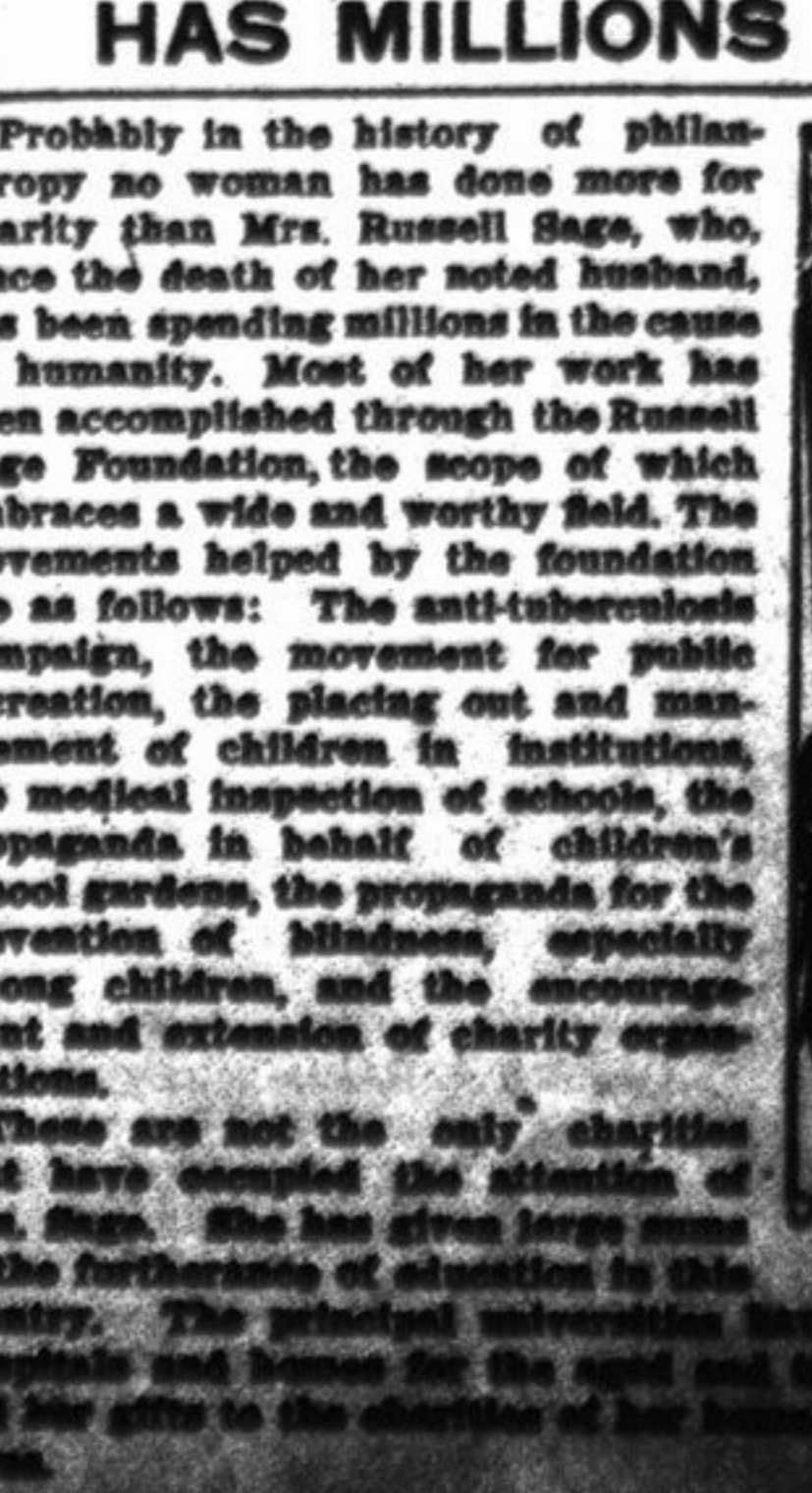
That the plan to have King George visit the United States this year or next will be submitted to him soon seems assured, though in official circles not a word is being said about the subject.

There is a feeling in court and political circles that such a visit, if practicable, would present many very desirable features. But there are many difficulties in the way, not insuperable, but presenting for the diplomats and the statesmen a task that they regard as prodigious.

As is understood here, the plan would contemplate a visit by both king and queen to Washington, just as, according to ancient usage, the newly crowned sovereigns are required to pay their respects to the rulers of the European states. This custom might in effect be described as the returning of the calls made by the heads of other countries or their representatives upon the king and queen at the time of the coronation. At once a matter of etiquette arises—namely, that should the king and queen make such an after-coronation visit, the president of the United States would be expected to in turn visit London and the other European capitals after his inauguration. Whether such a thing would be approved by the American people is very doubtful, for no president, as such, has ever crossed the Atlantic.

In any event it is believed unlikely that a royal visit to the United States could take place this year owing to the king's recent prolonged absence in India.

## HAS MILLIONS FOR CHARITY



Probably in the history of philanthropy no woman has done more for charity than Mrs. Russell Sage, who, since the death of her noted husband, has been spending millions in the cause of humanity. Most of her work has been accomplished through the Russell Sage Foundation, the scope of which embraces a wide and worthy field. The movements helped by the foundation are as follows: The anti-tuberculosis campaign, the movement for public recreation, the placing out and management of children in institutions, the medical inspection of schools, the propaganda in behalf of children's school gardens, the propaganda for the prevention of blindness, especially among children, and the encouragement and extension of charity organizations.

These are not the only charities that have occupied the attention of Mrs. Sage. She has given large sums to the furtherance of education in this country. The national universities have such grants. She has also given large sums to the National and Bureau for the Blind and the National Association for the Blind.