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**TODAY and TOMORROW**

**By WALTER LIPPMANN**

The President's Message

WASHINGON, Dec. 6. — The President's message on the depression follow the general lines of his campaign speeches. He still feels that distress is being adequately provided for and that in spite of want "the public health is today at its highest known level." He finds support for this comforting conclusion in statistics furnished by the Surgeon General which show that the death rate this year is somewhat lower than at the height of the boom. These statistics, as Mr. Hoover interprets them, are so contrary to common sense that the public will not believe them. It will be hard to persuade the American people that distress and anxiety are not detrimental to health, and what purpose is served by attempting to promote complacency when there is need of sensitiveness and sympathy and deep concern I do not know. Mr. Hoover still feels, also, that the emergency measures begun last winter are promoting recovery, and that except for a reduction of government expenditures and the reorganization of our banking system, nothing else of a large nature needs to be done at home. His theory is that "our major difficulties find their origins in the economic weakness of foreign nations." Mr. Hoover has not yet become willing to admit that the post-war policies and their consequences in the inflated debt structure of the "new era" need to be revised. We are to go in for "vigorous and whole-souled co-operation with other governments in the economic field, but it is not suggested that such co-operation involves the revision of policies or domestic readjustments to make co-operation effective. Mr. Hoover stands at the end where he stood at the beginning; he hopes that prices will rise again and make it unnecessary to liquidate, reorganize, and revise what remains of the post-war era.

The best that can be said is that Mr. Hoover has remained true to his convictions.

Note on the Perfect Bureaucrat

If the Associated Press has reported the incident correctly, the American Consul General at Berlin, Mr. George S. Messersmith, has probably managed to achieve lasting reeducation. For in future histories of the manners and customs of our times at least a footnote will be devoted to Mr. Messersmith. He will be remembered as the man who summoned into his presence one of the great thinkers of all times and solemnly asked him to prove that his entry into the United States would not endanger our institutions. Mr. Messersmith has made himself famous by the mere effort to do his duty in connection with Albert Einstein's visit to the United States. If ever the law was an ass, it was when Mr. Messersmith undertook to administer the law. For his benefit and for bureaucrats like him all future laws of Congress should contain a clause saying that "this act is to be administered by men possessing at least ordinary intelligence and a grain of common sense."