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# Burleson and Lamar Get Absolute Control of All American Papers

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From *The Call's* Washington Bureau.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 [1917].— Postmaster General [Albert S.] Burleson and Solicitor [William H.] Lamar of the Post Office Department will have absolute control over the administration of the press gag feature of the new trading with the enemy act, signed by the President on Saturday [Oct. 6, 1917], according to George Creel, director of the Bureau of Public Information.

No attempt is being made at the White House, apparently, to curb the efforts of the department to create as rigid a censorship and as complete a terrorism of the press in the United States as have marked autocratic government abroad. While a board of five men is to apply the provisions of the law as to enemy trading, the press control is left unregulated. Burleson and Lamar are, in fact, the National Thought Controllers. When they decree that a certain publication, whether Socialist, Republican, or otherwise, is “seditious” in its policy, they can crush that paper. The publishers may sue them in the courts, but until the cases have been carried through the highest courts, and only after a long period of delay, during which the paper probably will be suppressed, the constitutionality of the acts of the censors will not be tested.

It was admitted by administration spokesmen that if Burleson chose to do so, he could easily create an advisory commission of experienced newspaper and magazine publishers and editors, and representatives of press associations, who would pass upon any case of proposed exclusion from the mails, and would at least give some interpretation of press opinion to the censors. But there is not a chance that Burleson will create any such advisory commission.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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