

# The Reference Bureau Chief

JAN 24 1934

The Republican leadership of the State Legislature has wisely resisted a temptation to install a politically friendly candidate as chief of the Reference Bureau at the state capitol which during half a century of distinguished service is one of the most famous agencies of its kind in the country.

The legislative officers have announced the appointment of H. Rupert Theobald, a comparatively young man of 33, to succeed the late M. G. Toepel, the generally admired librarian who died unexpectedly last year. Although the responsibility and the rank of his new office are great for a man of Mr. Theobald's somewhat tender years, he has the considerable advantage, not to mention the prestige, of having worked as an associate of the late Mr. Toepel for the last six years. That background and his good showing on a competitive civil service examination made his promotion a logical and expected one.

The Reference Bureau command is a career assignment, and it is one of the most sensitive and strategic in

state government. The most honored tradition in its operations is the inviolable confidentiality of its advisory and investigative work. Republicans and Democrats can deal with it, with absolute assurance that their inquiries and their proposals will be treated with respect and in confidence.

Several other contenders in the civil service examinations were eligible on the basis of their experience and professional attainments. But unfortunately they brought into the competition a reputation for previous partisan activity and association and there was some doubt, even among friendly observers, that they could have shed such backgrounds completely, within the letter and the spirit of the traditions governing.

Mr. Toepel was one of the brightest of the adornments among the professional civil servants in the state government. It is good that his successor is a young man who was trained by him and has therefore absorbed his selfless conception of public duty and constructive technical assistance in an era of increasing complexity of legislative work.