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Red tape hits again; check back 7 times

waite has never seen a day of military service, but she's discovering the meaning of red tape. She has a government check that she can't cash, can't destroy and can't seem to give back to the government.

Four weeks ago Mrs. Postlethwaite received a Veterans Administration check made out to a Ronald Lee Vest. She put it back on

victory that would wipe the disease

number of cases in India and the

three other countries-Ethiopia,

Pakistan and Bangladesh-still af-

flicted by the ancient and deadly

The drop has been so dramatic

remaining pockets of infection so reduced that specialists predict they

can eliminate the disease altogether

Once gone, smallpox would be

unlikely to return, since it can be

communicated only by human be-

ings. Health authorities say such a

victory would mark the first time a

wide-spread disease has been eradi-

North and South America were

1973, 28 months after the last case than 100 a week

by early next year.

cated from the world.

War on smallpox

smallpox say they are nearing a final United States was in 1949.

nears final victory

Doctors directing a massive war on Hemisphere. The last case in the

An international campaign to end of December," said Dr. Donald

track down the scourge and halt its A. Henderson, head of the World

spread has drastically reduced the Health Organization's smallpox

over the last three months and the 55,127 cases worldwide in May,

declared free of smallpox in August health officials are finding fewer

up on his next round.

"I got it back four or five days later, in a different envelope," she said Monday. When she telephoned the VA office, Mrs. Postlethwaite. was told to send the stray check

But that didn't work. She received it back again, in the same

Next she tried sending the check

'I would put it at 80-85 per cent

Henderson, interviewed during

-Smallpox fighters recorded

The medical teams knew of 8,300

-Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the two

an Indian inspection trip from his

Geneva headquarters, pointed to these statistics to buttress his claim:

48,800 in India alone. Only 5,300

cases were recorded in September,

outbreaks of one or more cases in India last June. They now know of

Indian states considered the world's

most infected area, had 959 new

outbreaks a week last May. Now

certain that we will be at zero by the

eradiction program.

4,823 in India.

partment office in Kansas City, along with a certified letter saying she "did not know this person and this person did not live here.

The check was again returned, in a different envelope.

Then I took it down to the White Rock postal station and gave it to the postmaster," she said.

It came back again. Then I took it down personally to

the Veterans Administration, again-and I got it back again. "This was last week, and they told me to mail it to state VA headquar-

ters in Waco. And this morning I received it back again. After the seventh delivery, Mrs. Postlethwaite phoned the Dallas VA office one more time. "They just said, 'Well, I don't know what else

we can do,' " she said. "If nobody wants this back, I'll be glad to use it, because our medical bills are phenomenal.

But she's hesitant to try that. At one point she says she called the Secret Service and told an agent she intended to destroy the check. She says she was told, "You can't destroy it; that's government prop-

All right, she'd keep it, she told the agent. He replied, "You can't keep it, it's not yours.

Mrs. Postlethwaite is awaiting further instructions

Bentsen campaigns in N.H.

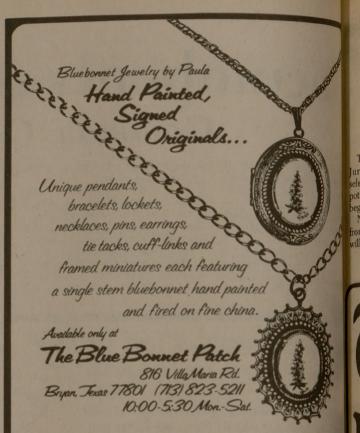
NASHUA, N.H. (AP) - Democratic U. S. Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen of Texas was to sample his presidential potential Wednesday in New Hampshire, the state with the nation's leadoff presidential prim-

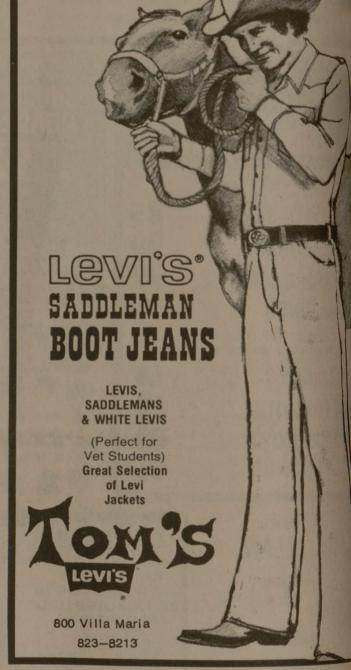
Bentsen, on his second visit to New Hampshire since March, was to spend 11 hours campaigning for the state's Democratic candidates for governor, the U.S. Senate, and

Bentsen, 53, a relative newcomer to national politics, was elected to the Senate in 1970. He served six years in the House from 1948 to

His schedule Wednesday included a news conference, speeches at colleges in Nashua and Durham, tours of a factory and a veteran's club in Manchester, and dedication of a hospital in Nashua.

The candidates in whose behalf Bentsen was to campaign were Richard Leonard, the gubernatorial candidate; John Durkin, the U.S. Senate nominee; and Helen Bliss and Norman D'Amours, candidates for the House





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