

## Fiction of Washington Santa Claus Keeps Bureaucrats Working Full Tilt

**C**HILDREN no longer have a deep, widespread belief in Santa Claus, but their parents do.

The American people believe that Santa Claus lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., and that he has 535 elves up the street in Congress manufacturing money for bureaucrats to distribute to the people, free of charge.

The American people don't want to wait for Christmas for the goodies, either. They demand them the year around.

Americans are smart enough to know that this can't be done, but they enjoy believing fairy tales told by politicians and so appropriations have become legendary.

We believe in Santa Claus when we think government can spend more than it takes in without becoming insolvent.

We believe in Santa when we imagine we can take more and more from workers and give it to non-workers without increasing the number of nonproducers.

We believe in Santa when we think

our cities and states can accept cash from Washington without losing local government.

We believe in Santa when we assume we can handle such benefits without becoming entangled in fish hooks of regulations and controls that never turn loose.

We believe in Santa Claus when we suppose that Congress can hand out such goodies without increasing taxes.

We really believe when we assume that the government can hand out taxpayer rebates without borrowing money for it.

We believe in Santa Claus when we expect the government to provide national health care without collecting money from the public to pay for it, plus the cost of administering the program.

We believe in Santa when we think union workers can be paid more and more for doing less without raising prices.

We believe in Santa if we think we can solve unemployment just by putting more people on government payrolls.

We believe in Santa Claus when we think we can have more by encouraging workers to produce less.

We trust in Santa when we think wages can be raised without increasing prices of food and other necessities.

We believe in Santa Claus when we imagine we can give the bureaucracy control over business and private property without destroying free enterprise and our liberty.

We believe in Santa when we think we can boost Social Security payments to a growing number of retirees without collecting larger contributions from those not retired.

We believe fairy tales when we assume we can make deals with Communists and come out ahead — or even!

Santa Claus was an invention devised to titillate children at Christmastime by making them think they could get something for nothing. Most children have learned differently, but American voters have not.

As a famous politician observed when the New Deal was handing out its goodies, "Nobody ever shoots Santa Claus!"

Nobody will shoot Santa this year, either. We believe!