

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Much Was Surrendered In Income Tax Battle And an Absurdity Was Preserved . . . Control Of Movie Interests Has Important Angles.

WASHINGTON.—Don't underestimate anything that can be twisted into a "moral issue" in figuring what will happen politically. It happens so often in our legislatures and in congress and too often in the direction of injustice, that one sometimes wonders why the framers of our Constitution, who seemed to have prepared against most of the other difficulties into which we have run, did not protect us against this!

Latest example is the surrender of the house of representatives to the senate on practically everything of importance in the revenue bill in exchange—for what? A victory on a comparatively unimportant issue, but which could be classified under the "moral" category.

The senate, on the advice of some disinterested tax experts, had provided that when a couple is separated, and the man is paying alimony to his wife, that alimony can be deducted from his total income in computing the tax. Another phase of the provision provided that the alimony should be considered as income by the wife, would have to be reported just as though it were income from investments, or salary, and a tax paid on it if it were sufficiently large after the deductions.

Immediately there was a hue and cry from certain quarters—it was branded in a "handout" sent to all newspaper men in Washington as well as members of congress as "encouraging divorce."

Just how anyone could figure that men and women would break up happy homes in order to save the difference between one bracket and another on part of their income is difficult for the writer to imagine but that is what this "handout" intimated.

It's a Mystery

It happened several years ago, when the writer's attention was directed to this by a friend, that it seemed possible that the original motive underlying this wording of the law (for it is the letter of the law, and not treasury department regulations) would make an interesting article. The writer talked to Senator Pat Harrison, of Mississippi, then chairman of the senate finance committee, which handles all tax legislation, to treasury officials and others. No one could remember what had been behind the original wording. No one defended it.

Certainly no church had ever advocated it. No church in this country forbids remarriage. It is only against remarriage that the RELIGIOUS objection applies. And it is not the remarried divorced man who is so hard hit. He can claim the full deduction of a married man because he is living with his new wife. He can also claim \$400 deduction for his ex-wife as a dependent, believe it or not. She is no longer his wife, and hence does not come within the prohibition in the law.

Yet the house yielded on nearly everything else in controversy, in order to preserve this absurdity!

Small Group Controls U. S. Movie Interests

The weakness of the movie interests under attack by isolationist senators is not due to their being guilty of the charge of making pro-war propaganda, pictures—assuming for the sake of argument that they are guilty—but because it is so easy to show that a small group of men has the power to say what films shall be shown the American public.

If it were not for this—if it were not for the well-known fact that an independent theater owner has no chance to buck any one of the big movie interests—the charge that a small group of producers, "animated by the persecutions and hatreds of the Old world," is injecting pro-war propaganda into American films, on which Senators Gerald P. Nye and Bennett Clark rely, would be merely a laugh to the country.

Seriously, on this point, does anyone really believe that the big movie producers would turn out propaganda films if they lost money on them—if they were sure in advance that they would lose money?

John T. Flynn, in his argument before the committee against the movie producers, provided food for thought along this line. He attached the "glorification" of the affair between Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton in "That Hamilton Woman." Several comments could be made on that. In the first place many people who pay admissions to movies love to see any film which revolves around an illicit love affair between any bygone persons of sufficient importance. There may have been such a movie which did not yield a fat profit to its producers and the individual theater owners, but if so it has escaped the notice of this writer. And one doubts whether John T. Flynn could remember it.

Coal Was Used in the Bronze Age

The popular legend is that coal was discovered by Joseph of Arimathea who, near Glastonbury in A. D. 67, found a black lump and took it to the monastery where it was thought to be a stone and thrown on the fire. It became known as "seacoals," and was first used generally as fuel in 1228. It is now established that coal was used in Great Britain much

earlier. Sir Cyril Fox, director of the National Museum of Wales, while excavating in the neighborhood of Bridgend, England, came across two cairns, both of the Bronze age. One had buried in it two adults and a child, and fragments of coal found with each set of remains show that coal was used in these cremation burials. It was also established that the burials took place about 1600 B. C.

Uncle Phil Says:

A Hint From Nature
Our ears are not made to shut, but our mouths are.
Make sure your train of thought isn't merely a string of empties.
Doting parents are bad for children. So are don'ting ones.

Satisfying Both
Diplomacy has been defined as the art of letting someone else have your way.

Blunt people are generally the ones who come to the point.

There is something wrong when you only go home because there's nowhere else to go.

A lot of us are surprised at where we are because we forgot to look where we were going.

'Trials by Touch'

As late as the Seventeenth century, America held "trials by touch," in which the defendant in a murder case was made to touch the corpse to see if it would give some indication that he was the guilty person, says Collier's. In one such trial in Virginia in 1663, several members of a family had to touch the body of a former Negro servant. But they were acquitted because Uncle Joe "gave no sign."

An Important Statement About Rubber in National Defense

AND WHAT YOU AS A CAR OWNER AND A LOYAL AMERICAN CAN DO ABOUT IT

Among the strategic raw materials so vital to national defense, rubber is one of the most indispensable.

Airplanes, scout cars, tanks and trucks — as well as thousands of vehicles necessary for transportation in defense industries — require tires, tubes, and hundreds of other products made from rubber.

And while no other nation in the world has such vast natural resources as the United States, all of our rubber must be imported across thousands of miles of ocean.



Map showing routes that rubber travels to the U. S.

With world conditions as they are today, we must face the growing possibility that this country may be cut off from its principal sources of rubber supply.

Realizing the dangers of a single source of supply, Harvey S. Firestone began years ago the development of a huge million-acre tract of land in Liberia for growing rubber. Today, an ever-increasing amount of highest-quality rubber is being shipped to Firestone from these plantations.

At present, this country has on hand or in transit only enough crude rubber and finished products to last 13 months at present rate of consumption.



Comparison of rubber supply on hand and amount needed for one year at present rate of consumption.

Every month part of the rubber imported is used by the government to build up a reserve. The remainder is allotted to the rubber companies who must FIRST manufacture products needed for defense. They then use the rest to make the thousands of rubber products needed by automobile and other manufacturers and by the public.



New Firestone synthetic rubber factory

Fully aware of these serious conditions, Firestone has taken many steps to conserve and increase America's supply of rubber. In cooperation with the government, Firestone is now building another factory for the manufacture of synthetic rubber. This will greatly increase present capacity.



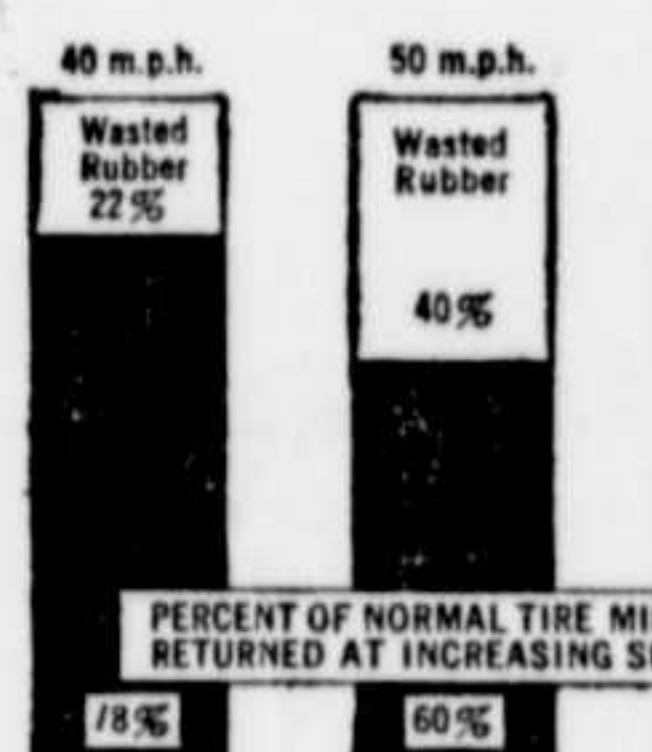
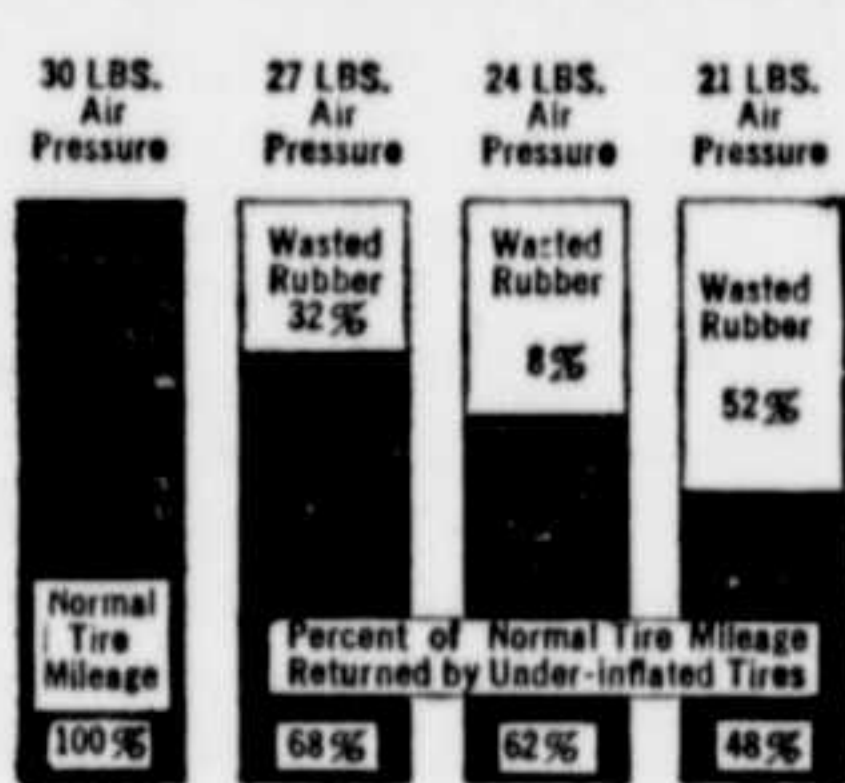
As a further step in conserving rubber, Firestone scientists and engineers recently developed the new wear-resisting Vitamic rubber compound, which enables car owners to get much greater mileage from their tires and thus save more rubber.

HOW EVERY CAR OWNER CAN HELP CONSERVE RUBBER

Today's conditions stand as a challenge to the loyalty and patriotism of American motorists. Here are a few common-sense rules of tire care which will save millions of pounds of rubber annually for your country — and save money for you.

UNDERINFLATED TIRES WASTE RUBBER

Look at this chart — if a tire with 30 pounds of recommended air pressure is run at 25 pounds, 32% of normal mileage is sacrificed! Save money and save rubber by having your tires checked every week.



SPEED WASTES RUBBER

Chart shows excessive speed is the greatest thief of tire mileage. An increase in speed of 50% may mean a 50% increase in the cost of operating your car.

QUICK STARTS AND SUDDEN STOPS ARE COSTLY

In quick getaways, wheels spin against the pavement, wasting rubber. Sudden stops cause your wheels to slide. Save rubber by starting and stopping slowly.

CHECK WHEEL ALIGNMENT AND HAVE BRAKES BALANCED

A wheel only 1/8-inch out of line is dragged sideways 87 feet per mile, scraping off tread rubber. Unbalanced brakes are equally wasteful of tire mileage. Save rubber by having your wheel alignment and brakes checked regularly.

CHANGE TIRES FROM WHEEL TO WHEEL EVERY 5,000 MILES

The diagram at the right shows how the tires on your car should be changed from one wheel to another every 5,000 miles. This plan of inter-changing tires saves rubber by eliminating uneven tire wear.



SAVES YOUR TIRES . . . SAVES YOUR CAR SAVES YOUR MONEY!

In every community there is a Firestone Dealer or Store that will gladly perform these services without one cent of cost to you.

INSPECT YOUR TIRES AND CHECK THEM FOR CORRECT INFLATION

Your tires will be properly inflated free at any time. Nails, glass or other objects are removed from the tread. Breaks in the tire body are located so that they may be repaired before damage occurs. These simple precautions increase tire mileage.

TEST YOUR BRAKES WITH THE MOST ACCURATE MACHINES

Balanced brakes prolong tire life. Firestone electric brake machines scientifically balance each wheel. Your Firestone Dealer or Store will gladly test your brakes free.

CHECK YOUR WHEEL ALIGNMENT WITH MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT

Pigeon-toed wheels that waste so much rubber and gasoline can be quickly aligned. Your car should be checked regularly for alignment — another free Firestone Service.

INSPECT AND TEST YOUR BATTERY

Your Firestone Dealer or Store will gladly test the battery free upon request. And their efficient equipment will tell the exact condition of each cell so that you may avoid annoying road delays.

TEST YOUR SPARK PLUGS

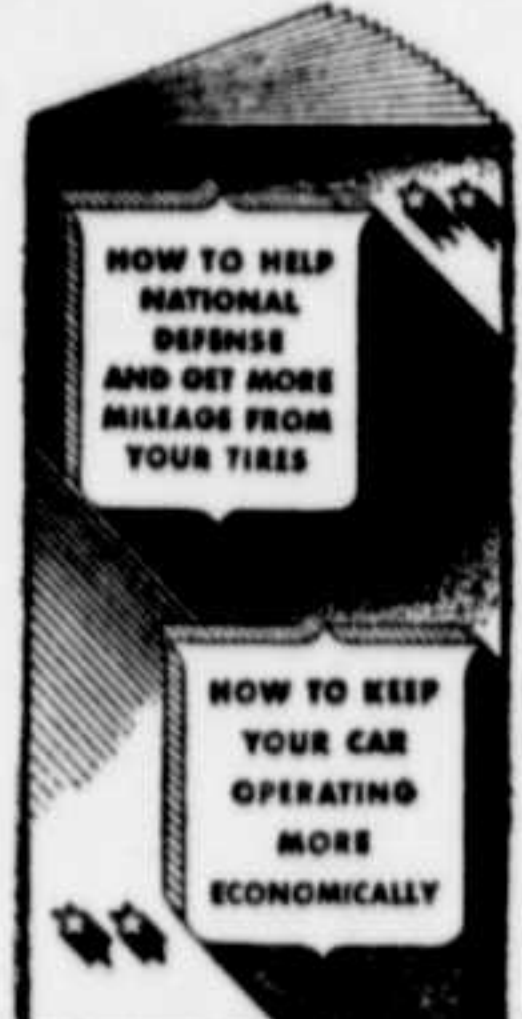
Unless your spark plugs have full firing power they waste gasoline. Your motor will fire unevenly and cause increased wear on running parts. Have your Firestone Dealer or Store test your plugs every 4,000 miles. There is no charge!

SAVE RUBBER BY RETREADING YOUR SMOOTH, WORN TIRES

If your smooth tire has a safe body, a rugged, tough, long-wearing, non-skid Firestone New-Tread can be applied at amazingly low cost, which will give up to 80% of the mileage built into the original tread. This is one of the best ways to save rubber.

GET THIS BOOK FREE

It will help save rubber for defense and money for you



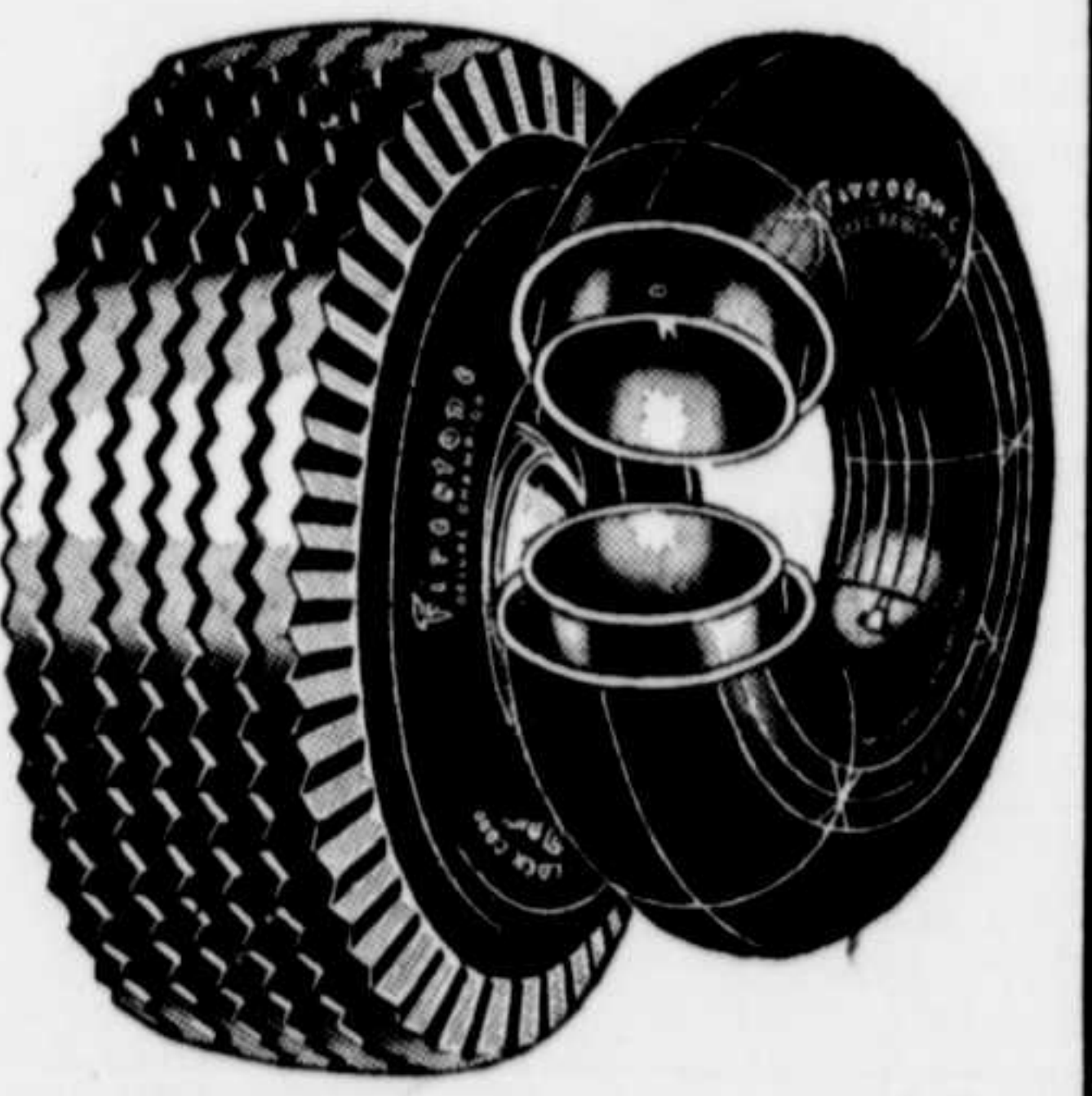
Join in the campaign to conserve rubber for defense. Get your copy of this new FREE booklet at your nearby Firestone Dealer or Store or from The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio.

WHEN YOU NEED NEW TIRES . . . IT'S ALWAYS GOOD JUDGMENT TO BUY THE BEST

One of the most effective ways to save rubber — and at the same time save money and save precious human lives — is to equip your present tires with Firestone Life Protectors, the new-type tubes that out-wear three sets of ordinary tubes.

With Firestone Life Protectors on your car you can drive your present tires safely thousands of extra miles without fear of blowouts, because these tubes make a blowout as harmless as a slow leak.

And after your present tires are worn out, replace them with the safest, longest-wearing tires that money can buy — the new Safti-Saved Firestone DeLuxe Champion Tires — the only tires made that are safety-proved on the speedway for your protection on the highway.



You are invited to listen to the Voice of Firestone with Richard Crooks, Margaret Speaks and the Firestone Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Alfred Wallenstein, Monday evenings, over N. B. C. Red Network

Firestone

BEST IN RUBBER