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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1937

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO FARM BETTERMENT

Improvement in agricultural conditions this year has been largely due to two factors: First, there has been a continued strengthening of the cooperative marketing movement. Second, cooperatives and other agricultural organizations have been working with large scale retailers to move crops with maximum speed and at minimum cost.

The result is not only increased farm income, but wider and stabler markets.

ANOTHER TAX ON THE NEEDY

A minority group in the state of Oregon is now urging that the next legislature pass a special chain store tax. Curiously enough, the tax is advocated as a logical means of raising part of the revenue required to benefit the old and needy.

As a matter of fact, a chain store tax—or a tax on any other distribution agency—is felt first and most seriously by the needy, the elderly with fixed incomes, the low-income wage-earner, and the white collar employe with a moderate salary. Like all other taxes, it is passed on to the consumer by the stores, which merely act as collectors for the state. And the items whose cost is increased to meet the tax, are the items which are essential to the most modest household—primarily foods. Such a tax is basically a tax on the poor. A man with ten dollars a week eats a loaf of bread as quickly as a man with a thousand—and a difference of a cent or two in its cost is infinitely more important to him.

However, if the people of Oregon are in accord with those of other states, the legislature will find that a chain store tax—or another tax on necessities—will have very little public support. A year ago, Oregon's southern neighbor, California, voted down a similar proposal at a referendum. In the last legislative season, a number of states refused to ratify proposed chain store taxes—and in other states, existing statutes with a time limit were allowed to expire without renewal. The public has learned, at great cost, that when it passes punitive legislation aimed at the channels of distribution, and especially those distributors who make a point of minimum cost, the great sufferer is the consumer.

No special or class tax is justified. Chain stores and all other types of stores should pay all the taxes levied against business in general, which they do—and no more. To make them the butt of additional taxation is unsound public policy—and the people, especially the people whose budgets must be carefully planned, bear the harsh brunt of it.

YOUR ACCIDENT BILL

Accidents account for about 30 per cent of America's total motoring costs!

This is the estimate of National Safety Council statisticians. They figure that the expense of an average 100-mile trip is $2.60, divided as follows: Gasoline, $1.50; oil, 20 cents; tires, 19 cents; accidents, 71 cents.

The direct cost of last year's accidents, according to the same authorities, was $1,640,000,000. That is enough money to build or pave 550,000 miles of road, at a cost of $3,000 a mile—or to buy 1,640,000 automobiles worth $1,000 each.

It is statistically impossible to accurately determine the indirect costs of automobile accidents. But all experts agree that they are substantially greater than even the vast direct costs.

Here is a gigantic, totally unnecessary drain on the nation's economic resources. And, bad as that is, it is nothing compared to the human waste that the reckless and incompetent driver causes. In 1936, traffic accidents killed almost 38,000 human beings. They injured 1,300,000 mroe—of whom a large number will eventually die as a result of the accidents. Blasted careers, parentless children, ruined homes—these are but three of the consequences of a heavy foot on the throttle, a drunk at the wheel, an incompetent in control of a lethal machine weighing thousands of pounds.

We are now entering the winter season, in which the accident rate has always risen in the past. The most dangerous driving days are just ahead, with rain, ice, snow and early darkness to add to the always-present hazards. Yet it is within our power to revoke precedent, and make winter a safe season. All that is needed is the cooperation of each motorist and pedestrian. Do your part!

A short time ago this column commented on the belief of a number of Washington writers that the New Deal is tempering its course, and is being steered in a more conservative direction. Recent events add authority to that view.

The President is talking of budget-balancing, and there has been a cut-down in Federal activities, notably in the relief field. And the sentiment of Congressmen, who are worried by the stock collapse, is generally in favor of taking a cautious line.

A continuance of this trend could do as much as anything to encourage business.

ARMISTICE DAY, 1937

IGNORANCE IS BLISS—SOMETIMES

When a housewife of any one of a number of states walks into a grocery store to buy food for her family she is obliged to pay a direct state sales tax on virtually everything she purchases. As a result of this form of taxation, the people of those states are, to some extent at least, tax conscious.

Saturday afternoons when Mrs. Consumer is stocking up on groceries for the week ahead, one may often observe her haggling with a weary clerk over an error of a paltry penny in the sales tax. She is paying a direct tax, knows it, and resents it because it forces her to pay a premium on the necessities of life. But, ironically, she is serenly oblivious to the fact that the sales tax represents only a small fraction of the total tax which she pays on all of life's necessities, as well as on luxuries.

For example, taking the nation as a whole, invisible but traceable taxes are 6.4 per cent of the retail price of bread; 8.14 per cent of the price of beef, and 18.3 per cent of the price of sugar. Mrs. Consumer does not realize this unpleasant fact. Likewise, she probably does not realize that, if her husband is an average $18-a-week laborer or clerk who owns no property, they pay $116 annually in these hidden taxes—Federal, state and local. If she and the majority of consumers did realize it, the Federal debt would not now be in the neighborhood of $37,000,000,000.

"ENTERTAINMENT" "ON THE AIR" ★

INSURANCE companies have ruled that Charlie McCarthy is a good risk but that Betty Lou Barry is not. Betty Lou is the little girl who exists only in one of the voices of Tommy Riggs, the comedian of the Vallee Hour.

Tommy Riggs

When Tommy found out that Edgar Bergen had insured Charlie against fire and theft for $10,000, he tried to get a policy on his "other voice." Underwriters ruled that there was no real Betty Lou.

Kate Smith's "Command Appearances" on her weekly hour show are expensive items. The three winners on those portions of the program get a total of $1,750, one of the most lavish awards in radio.

Ozzie Nelson has been finding parking tickets on his car out in Hollywood after rehearsals and broadcasts, so he asked a policeman about it. The officer finally uncovered practical jokers in Ozzie's band who had collected a bunch of old tickets.

Until she made a hit in "Stage Door," the movies had always given Ginger Rogers light comedy roles.

GINGER ROGERS

Last year, Radio Theatre gave her a dramatic part which she played remarkably well. This year, of course, she hit a new high in "Stage Door" and Radio Theatre booked her again for "A Free Soul." Now it looks like a versatile future for a girl who can play drama and also keep up with Fred Astaire's dancing feet.

Mary Margaret McBride, CBS commentator, uses up at least five notebooks a week jotting down items for her broadcasting chats. She is saving the filled notebooks for magazine story material.

Carson Robison entertains his "Buckaroos," composed of John, Bill and Pearl Mitchell and Frank Novak at his 125 acre "ranch" in Poughkeepsie, New York, every week-end.

Two of the first three plays offered on the "Sunday Afternoon Silver Theatre" were Faith Baldwin stories. One was "P. S. She Got the Job" and the other was "Honesty's Policy." The latter starred Jane Wyatt of the cinema who will make a return appearance on the program in December due to popular demand. "Sunday Afternoon Silver Theatre" is directed and produced by Conrad Nagel.

JANE WYATT

Clarence Muse is a busy baritone. He's making personal appearances, is supervising production of the new Joe Louis picture and is penning his own material for his forthcoming radio show, "Aesop's Fables."

Seymour Simons, maestro of "Romantic Rhythms" over CBS, is noted for his discovery of stellar vocalists. Among his singers have been Dorothy Page, now doing well in the movies, and Mary Jane Walsh, currently starring on her own commercial. That's why the experts predict big things for his present singers, Barry McKinley and Sally Nelson. They say that Simmons' magic touch will pave the way for brilliant futures for the two young warblers.

Barry McKinley

VIOLATIONS OF LOTTERY LAWS CONTINUE, BUT WHAT OF IT!!

Solicitor Karl A. Crowley, of the U. S. Post Office Department, announced on February 27, 1937, that the Department intended to bar from the mails all publications containing accounts of the Irish Sweepstakes and other lottery drawings. The ban was to apply to the publication of the news of lottery drawings, as well as the names of winners and their pictures.

The regulation on which Mr. Crowley based his announcement is as follows:

". . . no newspaper, circular, pamphlet or publication of any kind containing any advertisement of any lottery, gift enterprise or scheme of any kind offering prizes dependent in part upon lot or chance, or containing any list of the prizes drawn or awarded by means of any such lottery, gift enterprise or scheme, whether said list contains any part or all of such prizes, shall be deposited in or carried by the mails of the United States or be delivered by any postmaster or letter carrier."

Notice of the Federal Post Office Department's ruling barring the publication of any lottery news in newspapers having a second-class mailing permit was sent, it was stated, to newspaper publishers throughout the United States. The publishers were advised that the ruling prohibited the publication of stories containing Sweepstakes news, and that the ruling was applicable whether the published matter was sent through the mails or was delivered by other means, such as by train, automobile or carrier, or was sold at newsstands. Grounds for this ruling were based on the fundamental postal law requirement "that a publication seeking the second-class mailing privilege shall consist of mailable matter."

Two Irish Sweepstakes drawings have taken place since the Post Office Department issued its ban. Many newspapers continue to publish the names and pictures of persons who win at these drawings, which is a violation of the postal regulations, whether or not they omit the Sweepstakes matter from editions they send through the mail, which some claim is being done.

If the Post Office Department has enforced the postal regulations, or has taken any steps to uphold the dignity of its own ruling in the matter, the fact is being kept under cover.

In this age of rackets even in some lines of business, there is something to be said in defense of the person who from ignorance of moral law, or even the laws of the land, gambles at sweepstakes or other prohibited games of chance. But what can be said in defense of a publisher who will deliberately violate the laws established to protect ignorant persons against their own destructive thinking and habits?

What can be said in defense of an Executive Branch of the Federal Government which neglects or is dilatory in its duty of enforcing Federal statutes, even after it has warned against violations.

There is hardly a state whose constitution does not prohibit gambling by lottery, and there is no state which does not have laws against the operation of gambling devices. What can be said in defense of the law-enforcing powers of the states where it is definitely known that certain persons have violated the law, the prima-facie evidence of which is the allegation that prizes have been won by certain persons named as the winners?

The English people developed a moral understanding against the lottery, based on several centuries of experience with it. This background of experience was gained when lotteries were legally operated in England, then in the Colonies, and later in the states. They were used, in many instances, to raise money for laudable purposes, but their vicious effects upon the morals of the people finally resulted in their being banned by Parliament, the laws of the state, and finally, by the Federal Congress.

If our moderns do not wish to profit by the experience of their ancestors, they have the right to abolish the laws set up for their protection, but the law-enforcing officials of the Federal Government and the states are certainly culpable if they ignore flagrant violation of those laws which are still on the statute books.

A few impeachments might go far toward "persuading" others to do their sworn duty.

As for certain publishers, they may continue to justify the publication of the names of lottery winners on the ground that they are thus furnishing valuable information to the income-tax collecting branch of the Treasury Department. But such an excuse seems hardly creditable, either to the newspapers or to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and certainly forms no valid ground on which the Post Office Department may neglect to enforce the Nation's laws.

Officers Chosen For Milk Producers' Association

At a meeting of the delegates from the various locals in Cecil County to the Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative convention to be held in Philadelphia, held at the Howard Hotel here, officers were chosen for the ensuing year as follows: President, Howard Brown of Rising Sun; vice-president, Alexander Wilson Cecilton; secretary-treasurer, John Gifford, Bay View; director for Cecil County, District 10, R. E. Bowers Chesapeake City.

You Fix The Odds

As a motorist, you fix the odds in favor of, or against, the safety of your driving.

So says the Keystone Automobile Club of Maryland on the basis of an analysis of the records of 100,000 drivers who made the odds against themselves sufficiently high that they had accidents.

Out of these mishaps, club statisticians have developed figures which show how the driver increases the odds against safety by various types of traffic law violation.

The apparently most dangerous practice is that of cutting out of line, which raises the odds in favor of an accident to 50 to 1.

Speed, of course, is recognized as an accident factor. But just how much of a one? The club's statisticians have figured it out that driving more than 40 miles an hour raises the odds against safety to 25 to 1 as compared with proceeding at a normal pace.

Passing another car on curves increases the chances of an accident 21 times, while passing on an upgrade multiplies them by 10.

With reference to another common failure of drivers, neglect to give signals for turning or stopping enhances the chance of an accident five times.

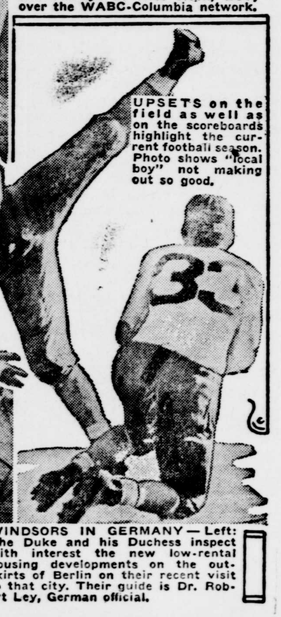
CAMERAGRAPHS

FINAL CHECK ON NEW DE SOTO—George Rumford, Operating Manager for De Soto (right), watches a workman put the final "O.K." ticket on one of the new De Soto's for 1938 as it rolls off the line in De Soto's modern plant in Detroit. The new car, on a longer wheelbase than before, is smartly styled—reaches new highs in riding comfort, safety and luxury.

AIREPORTER MARY MARGARET McBRIDE taps out notes for her radio column of the air in the workshop of her New York apartment. She is heard Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:00 Noon, EST, over the WABC-Columbia network.

GLITTERING GLAMOUR—Paula Stone, daughter of the well known character actor of stage and screen, Fred Stone, shows what may be the "vogue" for the coming indoor season.

MEN SERVING TIME in Pennsylvania's Eastern State Penitentiary supplement study of correspondence courses supplied by the International Correspondence Schools with practical experience obtained in the shops of the prison school. The prison school is a part of the State's rehabilitation program.


UPSETS on the field as well as on the scoreboards highlight the current football season. Photo shows "local boy" not making out so good.

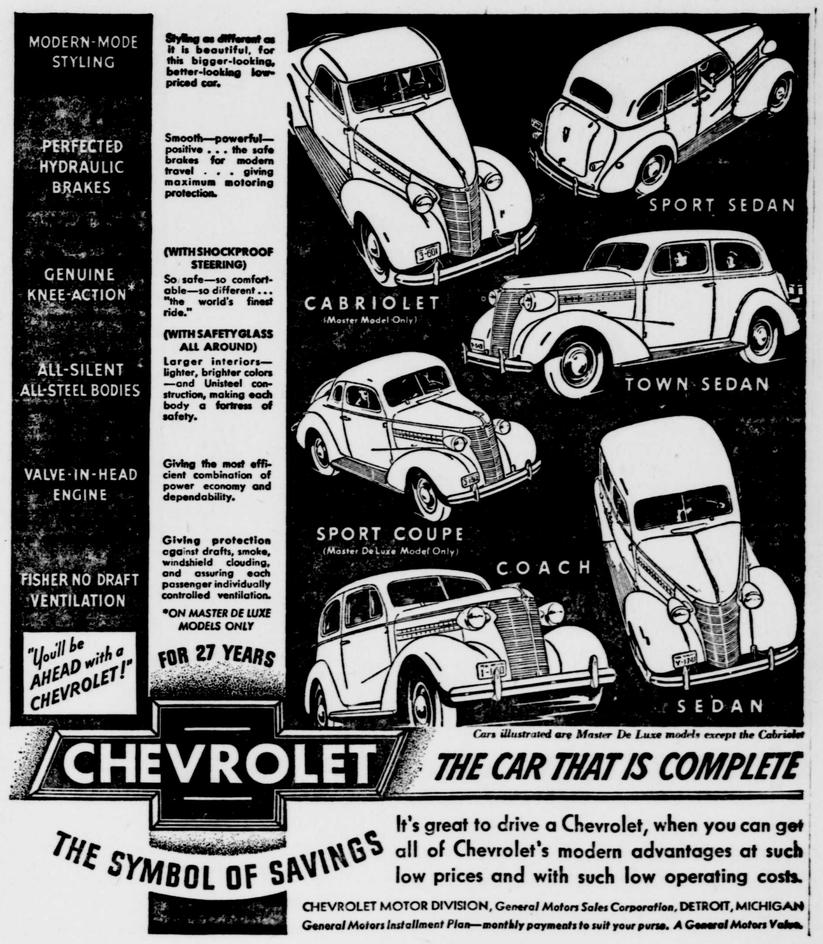
WINDSORS IN GERMANY—Left: The Duke and his Duchess inspect with interest the new low-rental housing developments on the outskirts of Berlin on their recent visit to that city. Their guide is Dr. Robert Ley, German official.

Ask Protection For Auto Plant Workers

The assembly plant of the Ford Motor Company at Kansas City, closed recently when pickets refused to permit passage of workers into the plant, will reopen as soon as "the people of Kansas City and the police guarantee the safety of the workers," the company has announced.

The expected reopening was brought about by city officials after conferences with company representatives. Following the conference, Kansas City's City Manager H. F. McElroy declared:

"I found Mr. Ford anxious not to infringe upon any one's rights but merely to protect the rights of his employees."—I.P.S.



Elkton Auto Sales Corp.
Elkton, Md.

H. W. Cheyney, Inc.
Cecilton, Maryland