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SALUTE THE FLAG

Opponents of the salute to the Stars and Stripes are up to their usual antics.

Under the claim of religious teaching, they have from time to time appeared in various parts of the State with a sound truck and broadcast their so-called religious messages.

This week witnessed their appearance in Bethesda, where irate citizens promptly called the police. Joseph Leathers, a member of the sect known as Jehovah's Witnesses, was forthwith arrested, but released on bond given by one of his associates. The trial of Leathers was set for March 9, at Rockville.

It will be recalled that in Oxon Hill, Prince George's County, Jehovah's Witnesses backed the children of one of its members in refusing to salute the American Flag.

Their wishy-washy excuse is that homage is only to be rendered unto God. Yet Christ said render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God what is God's.

In this time of governmental investigation it would be well if Congress did a little digging into the affairs of Jehovah's Witnesses. As yet the Treasury Department has not revealed any information as to the income tax of leader Rutherford. Nor has the Department of Justice seemed greatly concerned over this group's subversive doctrines.

The time may come when so-called citizens of America will either salute the flag, as an emblem of liberty and opportunity, or be deported from the country.

BUDGET PROCEDURE

In proposing to set up a budget commission with its own staff of experts to review and analyze the State's financial problems, Senator Ridgely P. Melvin is addressing himself to a very real need. The budget itself, as it is now prepared, does not afford such a clear picture of revenues and expenditures as will permit members of the Legislature to pass on its various items with the proper dispatch. And Senators and Representatives coming fresh to their tasks in January have to devote entirely too much time to preliminary surveys and studies. There is much room for improvement and the usefulness of a fact-finding agency devoting its full time the year round to the study of the fiscal set-up is not to be questioned. The judgment of men such as Senator Melvin and Senator J. Allan Coad, who have been digging into the current budget for the past month, ought to be conclusive on this point.

To meet the need, Senator Melvin proposes to establish a three-man commission that will do its work independently of the Legislature and of the Governor. It would submit its findings to the Governor in advance of the budget's preparations and it would also file recommendations with the House and Senate at the opening of the session. Such an agency is said to be in operation in a number of other States and much is to be said for enlarging our present governmental establishment by the adoption of the Melvin proposal. But before taking final action along the line which has been suggested, it might be advisable for the Senate and the House to consider the possibility of attaining the same ends by simpler and perhaps more direct means.

It is possible that a staff of experts in the joint employ of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee might be able to provide guidance in budgetary matters for the Governor and especially for members of the Legislature without the erection of still another commission. There is a Joint Congressional Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation which maintains a body of specialists and statisticians who are continually at work on the problems with which the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee have to deal in the national field. If a comparable agency could be devised at Annapolis and staffed by permanent employes of known competence, it might cure most of the ills for which a remedy is now being sought. And it would have the advantage of keeping responsibility for the budget still squarely fixed upon the shoulders of the Governor and the members of the Legislature, where the Constitution has placed it.—Baltimore Sun.

WHEELER ON THE COURT PLAN

In citing the dangers in the President's court plan—a plan which he pointed out could be employed by a Harding and a Daugherty as well as by a Roosevelt and a Cummings—Senator Burton K. Wheeler last night made a potent and characteristically courageous appeal to the liberals of the nation to stop, look and listen.

Because Liberalism and the New Deal have been synonymous, and because the Supreme Court blockade of New Deal legislation has been so devastating, the first instinct of the progressive when the President's proposal fell from a clear sky was to go along with Roosevelt. But obeyance of that impulse was checked by many with a second thought. And as that second thought took on length the more the dangers in the plan became more and more apparent; danger of reposing such power in the Executive; danger in the precedent; danger, third, in the proposal's failure to present a permanent solution of a problem which has plagued the country in so many times of crisis in the past.

When Wheeler speaks you are listening to no Liberty Leaguer. You are listening not only to a life-long liberal, but one who in the days of Daugherty suffered indictment, prosecution and persecution because of his progressivism. You are listening to the man who was the running mate of the elder La Follette, when that greatest liberal of them all, defying all the corrupt and the contented of the time, ran for the Presidency.

And when in the speech you read the references to Brandies and to Holmes and to Norris and to Walsh, men who through many of the years of Wheeler's liberal career went with him against the then almost impregnable ramparts of reaction, you realize that here is an opposition for no political effect, but one which expresses the deepest and sincerest of convictions of a man whose liberalism stands unchallenged.—Washington Evening News.

—Washington Evening Star.

Erosion Control Requires Care

O. C. Bruce, State co-ordinator for the Erosion Control Service, warns farmers of Maryland that control structures while good for the land require attention particularly in the spring.

"Terrace bottoms should be kept clear in winter," Bruce said. "Driving across these terraces when they are filled with snow may compact the snow and form an ice or snow dam which will require cutting out when the spring thaw comes. Drifts of snow sometimes form across terraces or outlets, and a terrace should be kept open for the water traffic it has to handle."

He advised farmers who had any questions about the maintenance of their erosion control measures to ask the county farm agents about them or to visit the demonstration camps at Boonsboro, Harwood or White Hall. C. C. C. workers at these camps have built model control measures and will install the same structures on private farms if the farmers promise to maintain them.

Dams built to slow the rush of water off hillsides should be inspected in the spring, Bruce said.

Maryland's Legislature spent $39,866.44 between January 6th and January 31st—including a telephone bill of $580—the State controller's office reported today.

The Legislators, clerks, stenographers and doorkeepers were paid $5 a day during that time.

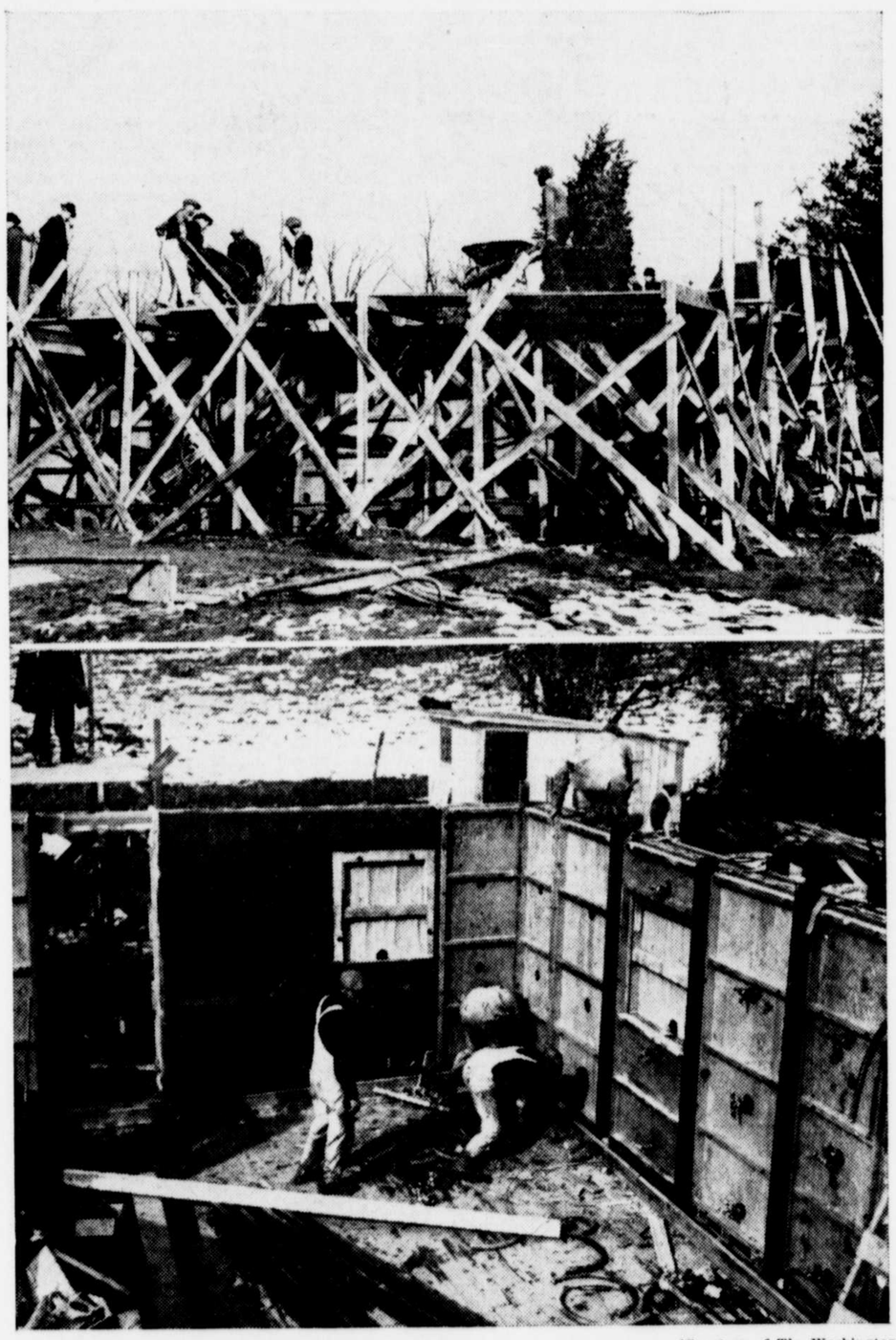
The controller's office also reported the telephone bill for the four-day session in December—the unemployment insurance special session—was $158.

Gaithersburg Postmaster Exam. Soon

The United States Civil Service Commission soon will hold a competitive examination for postmaster at Gaithersburg.

The examination will be open to both men and women who are citizens of the United States, patrons of the Gaithersburg office for at least one year, in good physical condition and within the prescribed age limits.

Applicaton blanks and full information may be obtained from the Gaithersburg Postoffice or the Civil Service Commission, Washington.



(Courtesy of The Washington Post.)

The genie of Aladdin's lamp could hardly have produced a house more quickly than this concrete walled house was constructed last Saturday at McKinley and Jefferson Streets, Bethesda, by the new concrete pouring method of Karl P. Billner of New York. The house was started in the morning and the walls had been completed and were ready for construction of the roof in the evening.

The new method, hailed by Frank L. Dyer, who was general counsel for Thomas Edison, as one of the greatest advances in building in 40 years, depends upon a vacuum process which forces the excess moisture from the concrete through use of atmospheric pressure of 1,500 pounds. The new process will permit erection of concrete buildings to a height of 25 stories instead of the present 17-story limit and a floor can be finished in a day instead of from a week to a month.

The photos show exterior and interior views of the actual construction work, showing the special forms which can be used over and over, thus saving on construction of forms. Billner's process can be used to hasten the reconstruction of the homes and factories ravaged by the Mississippi in the recent flood.

Social Security—Question Box

As another service to its readers each week the Montgomery Press will give authoritative answers to questions on the Social Security Law. By special arrangement, the Social Security Board has consented to pass on the accuracy of answers to questions on Social Security, which may be asked by employers, employees, and others, through the Montgomery Press. Address inquiries to The Editor, the Montgomery Press, Kensington, Maryland. Answers will be given here in the order in which questions are received. This is an informational service, not legal advise.—Editor.

Question—Suppose I work in an employment covered by the Social Security law from the time I am 20 until I am 30, and then I go into work not covered by the law until I am 61, and then go back to work in a covered industry until I am 65. Would I be subject to the income tax on my wages between 61 and 65? K. B.

Answer—You would be. The income tax imposed under Title VIII of the Social Security Act would apply to your wages from 20 to 30, and from 61 to 65, up to $3,000 a year from one employer. Wages earned during these two periods would determine the amount of your monthly old age benefits checks, which you would receive on retirement, after 65, for as long as you lived.

Q.—When a person applies for old age pension does he have to forfeit his old age benefits? B. E. L.

A.—Your language is confusing. What do you mean by old age pension? Do you mean aid under the public assitance program? If you do, the answer is no. The old age benefits paid to an individual are computed on the basis of wages earned in covered employment and are not affected by any other income or aid received by the individual.

Q.—My employer says he does not come under the Social Security Act because he only has two men working for him. Is that correct?

A.—It is not. Your employer probably is confused by the State unemployment compensation law, and the taxes imposed under Title IX of the Social Security Act. The number of persons employed does not in any way affect the responsibility of an employer for the payment of the excise tax imposed under Title VIII nor his responsibility for payment to the Collector of Internal Revenue of the income tax on the wages of his employes.

Q.—If an employer has two separate offices, does he have to make out two separate tax forms and pay each separately? D. L. B.

A.—You have boiled your question down to so few words it can't be answered from the information you give. What do you mean by two offices? Do you mean two businesses? If you will give this paper adequate information, we will get for you the answer to your problem.

"STORM OVER PATSY" AT THE NATIONAL

The National Theatre will have as its attraction the week of Monday, March 1st, the Theatre Guild's new production, "Storm Over Patsy," which has just completed a year's run in London. It will be the sixth and final play of the Theatre Guild-American Theatre Society subscription season.

Three members of the London cast will appear in the production. They are Sara Allgood, famous Irish actress; Roger Livesey, who recently scored a great success in New York in "The Country Wife," and Ian McLean. In addition, Claudia Morgan will be released from "The Masque of Kings," in which she is now appearing in New York, in order to fill an important role in the new play.

"Storm Over Patsy" is the work of Bruno Frank, a German, and has been adapted for the English stage by James Bridie. Both in its original German and in translated form it has already been a huge success in various parts of Europe. In addition to the long London engagement, it has had runs in Germany, Austria and Italy. Such was its popularity in London that King Edward VIII asked to see it last spring and it was performed for his express amusement at a private party in the home of Lady Cunard in Grosvenor Square.

In adapting the play for the English stage, Mr. Bridie has set the locale in a Scottish town called Baikie. The story concerns the complications which arise over the failure of a poor widow to pay the license tax for her mongrel dog, Patsy. The dog is impounded and when the owner appeals to the mayor, she is ejected from his home. The incident becomes a political issue and leads to the downfall of the mayor and the unsettlement of the domestic lives of several of the characters. Patsy, the dog, is one of the actors in the piece.