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FEBRUARY 14, 1941

INCOME TAX

May I solicit your help in a patriotic matter

This is the income tax filing period. The Congress has changed the law so that the liability for filing a return is now based on gross income and not on net income, as in former years. The base, also, has been changed, so that single persons whose gross income is $800 a year and married persons whose combined gross income is $2,000 a year, must file a return. Last year this base was $1,000 for single persons and $2,500 for married persons.

The exemptions have also been lowered to $800 for a single person and $2,000 for married persons. The credit of $400 for each dependent has not been changed.

Last year nine million income tax returns were filed with the Bureau of Internal Revenue. This year, partly because of these changes, the Bureau expects fifteen million returns to be filed.

To meet this great increase the Bureau has augmented its force of field deputies. But if the taxpayers wait, as many of them do, until the last minute to file their returns, congestion will result, and many persons may not get their returns into the collectors' offices by midnight March 15.

Most taxpayers are able to prepare their returns without assistance but in the event help is required the Collector's office in this District has a competent staff of deputies for this service. They are ready to help any taxpayer make out his return. This service is free. If you would urge the people to use it, and to file their returns early, I am sure we can clear most of the income tax returns promptly and easily, and avoid an overwhelming last minute rush.

With the income tax the Government this year is also collecting the Defense Tax, wihch is an added reason for promptness in filing the return. This tax and the income tax can be paid in one lump sum or in four equal quarterly installments.

M. H. Magruder,
Collector Internal Revenue

LABOR AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

Questionable labor practises in defense projects were condemned on the floor of the House of Representatives late in January, but an amendment designed to end the so-called "labor racketeering" by outlawing closed shop agreements in the shipbuilding program was voted down. A majority of the Representatives took the stand that such a revolutionary step should not be taken without full investigation and debate.

Most observers agreed that the House took the proper stand, but it did not affect the fact that labor unions are turning jobless men away from certain defense projects particularly in the construction of camps, even though the need for men to speed the work is vital to the defense program. Labor union chiefs refuse to allow any workmen to work on certain projects unless they first join the union.

It is reported that certain unions levy fees of from $50 to $150 on non-union men seeking work, and that dues are collected each month thereafter. It is alleged that the wishes of the individual are not considered in the matter. Further, it is said that, in some cases, workmen have been discharged as soon as they have earned enough to pay their union fees.

Many believe this discrimination against non-union workers on temporary government jobs is unfair. This would seem particularly so when it is admitted that there is a shortage of skilled workmen. This has put certain defense jobs behind schedule at a time when speed is of the utmost importance. It is hard for the average citizen to understand why labor unions should be allowed to advance their interests at the expense of national defense.

Cigar boxes, made out of wood, the majority holding 50 cigars per box . . . are being manufactured here at the rate of 100 boxes a minute.

Self-adulation is one thing and self-respect is quite another.

THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

By J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., February 10--Congress appears to be going along with the President and his Administration on the major problems of national defense legislation. Republicans and Democrats are very likely to vote all the money, and agree upon "all out" aid to Britian, and possibly include Greece and China.

That leaves only one major issue to fight over. That is the issue of how much authority Congress will relinquish to the President.

In one of the conferences between a group from Congress and the President the latter frankly said that he believed that he should have unlimitd authority to promise anything; but he qualified this by saying that he would not expect to use that authority in extreme cases without the consent of the legisuative branch of Government, and he indicated some of the particulars, such as problems relating to use of war vessels and merchant ships.

It is quite likely that Congress will restrict the President to some extent because the pending legislation somewhat exceeds the spirit of the Constitution. But the President will still have enough authority left to satisfy Wendell Willkie; even though former President Herbert Hoover, Mr. Landon and old Guard Republican conservatives may not feel satisfied.

In 9 cases out of every 10 of this nature, during the past eight years, there have been satisfactory compromises between Congress and Presidnet Roosevelt. That will likely happen again.

* * * *

Gardens For National Defense

There is one contribution that millions of us can make this year toward national defense preparations, and it will also mean a substantial savings in the family food budget. It is the planning and planting of a home vegetable garden.

According to national gardening leaders, the nation's home garden output this spring is expected to be far under that of 1917, with only about half as many gardening famiiles now as then.

There are three points for you to consider; devote increased space to vegetables in the coming season, perfect plans so as to get the greatest possible yield from the space available, and use quality seeds.

To increase the yield from vegetable gardens of limited size, experts of the Ferry-Morse Seed Company, largest seed concern in the country, say two major devices should be relied on. First, companion cropping--the planting of fast-growing crops like radishes, spinach and lettuce between rows of slower-growing vegetables such as tomatoes and cabbage. Second, succession cropping--the repeated planting of major crops such as beans, sweet corn, radishes, carrots, beets and lettuce. Moderate-size, new plantings made at regular intervals during the early part of the season will provide a steady supply of fresh vegetables until the season's end.

Gardening improves the national health in more ways than one. To raise a good garden you must work. Garden work takes you out doors for long hours in the sun and fresh air.

* * * *

Playing The Labor Game

Mrs. Roosevelt stirred up a small hornet's nest by her recent remark that "Mr. Roosevelt could declare a state of national emergency at any time, and can even take over Mr. Ford himself". Most statesmen in Washington regard Mr. Ford as an employer who always does what he thinks right, even to the point of paying his employes more than average wages.

There are many other angles to playing the labor game, and with very few exceptions the executives of industries are complying with all the existing labor laws. Only this week Colonel Fleming, Wage-Hour Administrator made the amende honorable to General Motors Chairman Alfred P. Sloan, whom he had criticized in a radio address early in January for a statement made by Mr. Sloan concerning overtime employment. Colonel Fleming said he had misinterpreted Mr. Sloan's views and he added his satisfaction in learning that Mr. Sloan did not favor repeal of the Wage-Hour Act. "Naturally, I am gratified to find that he and I are in substantial agreement after all", added Colonel Fleming.

Today's best is not good enough for tomorrow.

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SUBTLE GERMAN PROPAGANDA

German and Italian activities persist in this country despite efforts of our Government to the contrary. Skillfully, and with subtle finesse, the Nazi-Fascist groups would have us believe that any aid to Great Britian will precipitate us into war with the Axis, which, they emphasize, would mean the destruction o four free institutions.

This view, resulting from propaganda, is accépted by many who have no sympathy for Hitler or the ideology he would force on the nations of the world. It is urged by others, however, who not only sympathize with him, but are adherents, secret or avowed, of his political and economic philosophy. They would have Hitler realize his aims of making Germany the political and economic center of the world. "The Germans," they say, "are a superior race. We would do well to let them rule".

Still others, principally our dollar-minded citizens, have been led to look forward to huge profits in trade relations when the Axis powers gain control of Europe and principles of freedom and liberty, for which the human race has fought through the ages fo establish, mean nothing to the dollar-minded citizens or others suffering from German phobia.

In their argument, the German propagandists assert that the British Government is more democratic than ours and has already succumbed to Nazi-Fascist ideals. They say that this will be our fate if we are brought into the world conflict; that neither England nor the United States can engage in war effectively without throwing into discard their own ways of life. They emphasize this thinking despite the fact that the Anglo-Saxon democracies did not deteriorate during or after the first World War. In fact, the Governments of both Great Britian and the United States are more expressive of the will of the people today than before the first World War.

What are the facts about democratic procedure of the British Government in this war? Has the British Government changed its customary conduct, its parliamentary order, and its attitude toward the will of the people?

According to reliable English answer, despite the sweeping powers conferred upon that Government which are greater than ever before placed in the hands of a democratic government, is emphatically no.

This war is being carried on by the will of the English people against the dictators—even gainst their own appeasers. It was they who, as never before in the history of the British Empire, have their minds on what their Government is doing. The parliament of the people remains in session to see that the Government does not overstep the emergency powers granted to it and to see that the established democratic liberties are preserved.

The press, always a democratic safeguard, has rarely ever been freer than it is in England today. Except for military news, over which there is a decided difference of opinion between censors and editors as to what constitues such news, the editors have commented freely, and many of them have criticized the Ministry of Information.

In the opinion of close British and American commentators, the charge that Great Britian will, if victorious, embrace Nazi-Fascist doctrines of totalitarism is absolutely untenable. It is inherent in the blood of Englishmen to be freemen. Moreover, every step taken in this war is an act of free men.

NYA JOBS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Boys and girs, out-of-schools and needy, between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four, may secure part time NYA employment in various types of work in Cecil County by applying to the Employment Office in the Court House at Elkton or by writing to the NYA Office, Denton, Maryland.

The oil companies in the U. S. originated an idea in 1914 to distribute road maps free to auto drivers. It has developed to large proportions as 300 maps a minute are given away now throughout the 48 States.

The insurance companies in the United States pay out yearly to over one million death beneficiaries at the rate of $2,000 a minute.

CLEANING'S A CINCH WITH A NEW VACUUM

You have a vacuum cleaner? If it's one of the latest models you can stop reading right now. But if it's an out-of-date cleaner . . . or if you still belong to the broom brigade, here's a tip. New vacuums are improved to such a point that you merely steer them while they do a fast, thorough job. Yes, cleaning's a cinch with a new vacuum. Get a new one now!

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY
Live Electrically and Save

MARYLAND'S SHARE OF A $65 BILLION FEDERAL DEBT

If the federal debt limit is increased to $65 billion in connection with the National Defense Program as it proposed, it will mean that Maryland's share of the federal debt, should it reach the $65 billion figure, would be $975,000,000, or an average of $535.35 for every man, woman and child in the State, or of $2,200.29 for every family, according to figures issued by the Citizens' State Budget Emergency Committee today, in emphasizing the need for reducing the proposed State Budget.

These figures compare with Maryland's share of a federal debt of $43 billion on what may be termed a pre-defense basis totaling $645,000,000, or an average of $354.15 per capita, or $1,455.56 per family.

"Great as the nationa defense taxes will be, coming on top of the existing tax burden, it appears that much of the current expansion in national defense activities will be financed only in part by additional taxes," Chairman Curtis J. Ireland, of the Citizens' State Budget Emergency Committee, said, in announcing the figures.

"That means heavy additions to federal debt, already at a record figure. And this debt is an obligation on the people of every State, added to their existing state government and local government debt obligations.

"Government debt constitutes a public mortgage or first lein on which interest must be paid and which must be retired in the future from tax collections. It is a way of paying present costs out of future taxes to be levied on this and future generations.

"Both in the matter of meeting present defense costs and future debt obligations, is it not the part of wisdom and foresight to keep down non-defense government costs in this State to the level of the current Budget, so as to expedite the defense program today and to enable our citizens to meet their obligations on the final day of reckoning?

"The President has said that Federal non-defense expenditures must be cut to the bone as a defense measure. State and Local government officials can see that non-defense expenditures in their departments of govrnmena are reduced by eliminating all waste and extravagance.

"The State Legislature can make economy a defense measure and see that expenditures are held to the lowest possible level consistent with adequate government services. And it will be if farsighted patriotic citizens act now to convince Legislators their constituents want stringent economy during the war emergency."

HIS WEIGHT IN DIAMONDS FOR 275-POUND AGA KHAN

How 70,000,000 Mohammedans are busy collecting precious stones for the jubilee of their already rich leader. An unusual story in the February 23rd issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY
the big magazine distributed with the
BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN

Women use calling cards in playing the social game.

ONLY $25 EXTRA FOR DODGE FLUID DRIVE

YOU wouldn't swap Dodge Fluid Drive for five times $25...once you've had it! You shift gears or not, just as you wish. And there's absolutely nothing new to learn...just less to do! Ask your Dodge dealer for a demonstration of this exciting optional feature!

Dodge prices still start at only $825 for the De Luxe Coupe. This is Detroit delivered price and includes all Federal taxes and all standard equipment. Transportation, state and local taxes (if any), extra. Ask about easy budget terms.

The H. M. Duyckinck Co. Phone 47 Rising Sun, Md

FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN REAL ESTATE TAX

Further reductions in the Real Estate tax of the State, even beyond the 5% for 1942 and the 10% for 1943, proposed in the Budget, are still a possibility, Governor Herbert R. O'Conor told a meeting of the Real Estate Board of Balto.

In disclosing the "further plan we have in comtemplation", Governor O'Conor told the diners; "In order to make a further reduction in real estate taxes in two years if the State's favorable financial condition is maintained, I am seeking a way to vest the Board of Public Works with authority to avoid levying the whole State tax if receipts before the beginnig of the second year make it feasible to take this course. In other words, it appears entirely possible that at the end of the next year our Annuity Bond account and other State resources will enable us to make an additional 10% reduction in real estate taxes and if that situation obtains I would like to have the Board of Public Works authorized to declare by proclamation the lack of necessity for imposing the full tax. Such a plan is now in effect in regard to one State bond issue and I have asked our Law Department to consider the legality of the proposal I had in mind.

One of the inequalities of the present Real Estate Tax, Governor O'Conor pointed out, has been that, while owners of personal property have not been compelled in many instances to pay taxes unless their securities or other buildings were income-producing, the owners of real estate have been compelled to continue to pay taxes on property even though it was entirely non-productive. Furthermore, the Governor declared, owners of real estate have been compelled to pay all the other kinds of taxes which the average citizen who own no real estate at all has had to bear.

The remarkable progress that is being made under the present administration in retiring the State's outstanding bonds, a reduction that will total approximately 30% during the four years Governor O'Conor will be in office, makes the Governor feel very definitely that this debt can be wiped out entirely, and with it the necessity of having a State real estate levy.

With the 5% reduction already proposed by the Governor for 1942, and 10% for the following year, the 1943 State Tax rate of 21c, even without any further reductions as suggected by the Governor, will be the lowest the taxpayers of the State have enjoyed in thirty years.

The average Canadian is eating now 2 pounds more of meat than ever before. The meat consumption of Canada is 2,500 pounds every 60 seconds.

Rubber nipples and baby paciners are made in the U. S. at a speed of 150 a minute!