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FEBRUARY 21, 1941

YOUR INCOME TAX IN A NUTSHELL

Who must file a return? Every single person having a gross income income of $800 or more; every married person, not living with husband or wife, and having a gross income of $800 or more; and married persons living wit husband or wife, who have an aggregate gross income of $2,000 or more.

When must returns be filed? For the calendar year, on or before March 15, 1941. For the fiscal year, on or before the 15th day of the third month following the close of the fiscal year.

Where and with whom must income tax revenue be filed? In the internal revenue district in which the person lives or has his chief place of business, and with the collector of internal revenue.

How does one make out his income tax return? By following the detailed instructions given on Forms 1040-A and 1040, the income tax blanks.

What is the tax rate? A normal tax of 4 percent on the amount of the net income, arrived at by deducting legal exemptions and credits from the gross income; a surtax on the surtax net income in excess of $4,000; and a defense tax of 10 percent of the combined normal tax and surtax.

MEASURES TO ASSURE GREATER ROAD SAFETY

In the interest of improved safety on our State highways, Governor Herbert R. O'Conor's Maryland Traffic Safety Committee has prepared a number of bills for introduction to the Legislature regulating speed limits, issuance of licenses to drivers of public vehicles and penalties for drivers convicted of manslaughter.

Under present regulations there are no intermediate speeds designated for sections where maximum speeds have proven dangerous. The traffic Safety Bill would give the State Roads Commission authority to set up intermediate speed zones after comprehensive traffic surveys.

The Drivers License for Public Conveyances Bill will prohibit the issurance of drivers licenses for public conveyances, such as taxicabs, to persons who have been convicted of a felony.

Heretofore, in cases where an automobile accident has resulted in a fatality, the driver of the car has always been charged with manslaughter. Convictions in these cases have been difficult, because the penalties have been so severe. The Negligent Homicide Act will punish by fine of not less than $100 or more than $1,000, or a year's imprisonment, or both. This Bill will also make revocation of license mandatory.

PUBLIC WEARY OF STRIKE THREATS

Threat of strikes are ever current in defense industries.

The American people are about fed up with irrsponsibility on the part of any group. When the cream of the nation's youth is being drafted into the army at compensation of $1.00 a day, there will eventually be short shrift for those who take avantage of every crisis to gain more power and more special privileges.

Labor and industry have a great opportunity to show what they can do. Compulsory production methods for either industry or labor are unsatisfactory and can be avoided by the parties at interest if they do not alienate public sympathy and good will.

Some progress is being made toward rearmament--but we are still a mighty long distance from our goal. Newsweek recently surveyed the picture. According to it, on January 1 we had 4,000 army planes--goal is 37,000. We had 2,590 navy planes--goal is 16,000. We had 1,000 tanks and combat cars--goal is 6,500 We had 600,000 soldiers--goal is 1,500,000. A good many of the planes, as army men have testified, are trainers or are obsolete. And a large proportion of the soldiers are new conscripts, with a year to go before they will be versed in the military arts.

Evil thoughts within the mind are as dangerous as a band of bandits.

THE EXPECTED AND UNEXPECTED

By J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., February 17--A great English leader recently remarked that "the thing to expect is the unexpected". The British haven't any monopoly on that peculiar philosophy. If you want to prove it for yourself just check up on the unexpected changes in public opinion and the many changes in policies of your Government during the past years.

For instance: The unexpected junking of the Embargo Act, the trade of 50 destroyer ships to Britian, the universal contempt exhibited towards Neutrality, the comparatively noiseless lift of the nationl debt limit to $65 billion. Of course you never expected that your sons would be drafted when the United States is allegedly at peace.

A lot of able citizens of our Republic coming to Washington are emphatic in declaring that Congress and the President are putting thru measures and policies that are acts of war and have no resemblance to material expectations of keeping out of war and that these acts are now for an expected war that was unexpected even so short a time ago as before the last Presidential election.

Those are only a handful of unexpected things that were not expected.

So how can I be expected to tell the readers of this newspaper what unexpected thing will happen next here in Washington, where this article is being written for you to read. It's true I'm in the thick of things, so I'll try to tell you that:

I expect that Germany will never cross the English channel. I expect that the United States is absolutely safe from invasion. I expect that billions of dollars, in money, and materials will be practically given to Britian. I expect to report to you this year, 1941, the unexpected collapse and defeat of Germany and Italy. After that I do not know what to expect.

* * * *

The Expansion Of Industry

News reports from the motor manufacturing localtiies of the country show that the automobile industry is right up to date on material and production for national defense, and fulfilling the increased demands of the civilian buying public for passenger cars and trucks. The January automobile output set a new record in the history of the motor car industry. There will be no big national automobile show in New York for 1941--that has been cancelled.

Motor makers have turned over every tool that can be spared for use in defense industries. No radical changes will be made in 1942 models of cars by Gneral Motors and other big companies. Increased energy in that direction will then be gained, and devoted to manufacturing national defense material.

"The biggest part of the tooling job for national defense will be over the hill in April or May", said William S. Knudson, Director General of Production Management at a recent press conference. "Tools" and "tooling" have been called "bottlenecks". Knudsen said the first bottleneck on production was "time". He knows how to crack those "bottlenecks".

Many threatened labor disturbances have been adjusted, and the Government has stepped in and used the powers of National Defense Administrators, and the Army and Navy, and prevented strikes in plants having contracts for National Defense.

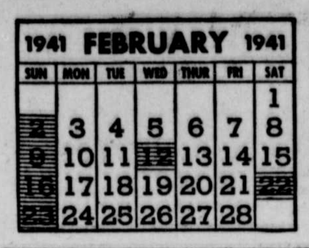
* * * *

Big Bonds and Baby Bonds

The prologue for the "buy a bond" campaign is being chanted by Government officials. The public will be told that Government bonds are "a good thing for everybody."

Everyone has heard of Government bonds. Even to the younger "baby bonds", such as are sold in the postoffices. Young, and old folks will have no difficulty in buying some of the new defense war bonds. City and village banks wil lhelp in the 1940's, just as they helped purchases in the first World War.

The banks are actuated by self-interest to support these campaigns inasmuch as they automatically create new customers for the banks, and help to promote community prosperity. The private citizen takes on risk, and when the hard times come again-as they will after this war excitement is over--the bonds will be easy to sell in the public markets or they may be called in and redeemed by the Government.



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TAX ECONOMY GROUP URGES PRUNING

February 12, 1941—Tax economy advocates from three Maryland counties last night urged the Senate to use a keen-edged pruning scissors on the currently proposed $106,000,000 budget. Some two hundred persons filled the Senate chamber at the protest hearing.

Speakers who asked the law makers to hold state expenses to the bare essential minimum included Harry S. Middendorf, head of the League of Baltimore County Taxpayers; George Shriver, Jr., of Pikesville; Joseph W. Shirley, Jr., of Towson; and J. Donald Kirkley, of Frederick who spoke for both his own and Washington County.

The taxpayers' trek to Annapolis drew from Committee Chairman, Dudley G. Roe, this comment--"This is first time in my five terms in the legislature any citizens' group has come to Annapolis without asking for something. You are patriots and are doing something the taxpayers should have done long ago."

Mr. Middendorf declared that it is only ordinary common sense and business prudence not to settle higher taxes on citizens, who, besides paying city, county, and state levies, must face ever-mounting national defense costs. "Where is that poor overburdened man, the average householder, going to get this money?" he wanted to know.

"We are ", he went on, "living in a world of chaos, rearming at enormous expense. We simply must cut Maryland taxes or else endanger our free state's solvency. We believe the very life of our nation may depend on the statesman-like action this emergency demands of you gentlemen."

"We should defer spending now until the present emergency is over, When that time comes we may experience the worst depression we ever had. Then state capital expenditures we cannot afford now will provide jobs for thousands of defense workers, keep down the relief load, and facilitate the transition from a war to peace time economy."

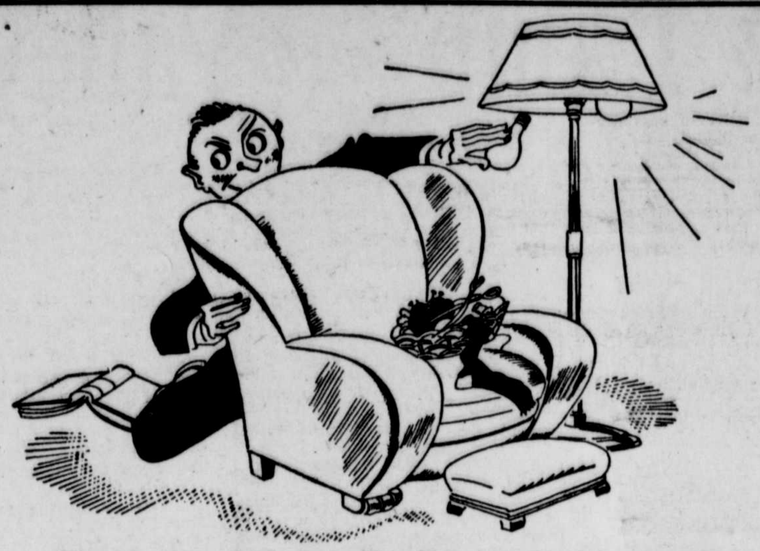
Baltimore County's Joseph W. Shirley, owner of a three hundred acre farm, said the present artificial labor boom had caused a statewide shortage of farm labor. Therefore Maryland would do well to postpone all but absolutely necessary construction or public works until the emergency is over. He himself, he said, is working an old man on his farm, the neighbor is using two boys to work his land. All around Maryland Mr. Shirley clared similar conditions exist with only old men and young boys left on the farm due to better paying defense jobs. The present boom time is the best time this country will ever have to reduce the relief load. While the present budget apparently asks less for relief than the last one the amount is actually greater than the money spent for relief during the last years.

Senator John B. Funk from Frederick County said during the meeting he believed state surpluses should be used only to reduce the real estate tax rate further or for absolutely essential capital expenditures so that a bond issue will not be necessary. He also said that in future budgets every department asking an increase should be required to submit a memorndum explaining and justifying the higher outlay.

Mr. Shriver said that a survey of all state insurance might effectively reduce the premium outlays. A close examination might reveal that all the new cars requested in the budget are not absolutely needed. He doubted the need for more funds for hospitals in a period of increased payrolls. Mr. Shriver urged that only the most essential building program should be undertaken and this on a pay-as-you-go basis. He also asked if it is necessary for the state to buy $1500 cars when the taxpayers usually drives cars costing about $700.

Mr. A. J. Moran, spokesman for the Montgomery County Taxpayers Association, endorsed the demands of the other speakers and sounded a new note when he urged that there be no supplementary budget this session nor additional appropriations as has been the practice with former legislatures.

One of Canada's food supply items to the mother country, England, is canned tomatoes . . . 90 pounds every minute, also canned tomato paste . . . 50 pounds a minute.



Foil Those Bulb-Snatchers with

EXTRA MAZDA BULBS

They'll do it every time! Rob one light socket to fill another. Of course, you could resort to a plumber's candle but that would be mighty tough on the eyes. No, the best way to foil those "bulb-snatchers" is to have an extra supply of Mazda bulbs on hand—all the time. Only be sure that you have the right size for all your needs—reading lamp, bathroom, kitchen, cellar. Remember, there's a right wattage for every purpose. Use 'em and your eyes will thank you.

Mazda bulbs are made better-than-ever; last longer; cost less. Come in and let us advise you. Then lay in that extra stock!

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Live Electrically and Save

INGENUITY AND INITIATIVE BENEFIT FARMERS

In the United States 1,200,000 farmers are directly benefiting from marketing agreements which cover several different kinds of products such as milk, fruits and vegetables.

One of the more important reasons why the marketing agreement or marketing order plan has proved beneficial, is that it is a producer-built plan. Such a program cannot be started unless the great majority of farmers in a certain area want it. It can be changed and adjusted from time to time by the farmers. It can be discontinued if a certain percentage so decide.

The strong and time-honored foundation of the plan is producer cooperation. Stabilized markets, more money in the farmers' pockets, and benefits to local business communities and consumers, have resulted from this businesslike expansion to farmer-operated, farmer-controlled producing and marketing cooperatives.

Again private initiative and ingenuity in the agricultural field has proven the mainspring of progress in stabilizing agricultural activity.

"America's answer to postwar competitive problems must be increased efficiency," says Harold G. Moulton, president of the Brookings Institution. "Both during the war and after, unceasing attention must be given to the problem of reducing the cost of production."

From the domestic point of view, there is still another need of almost equal importance. That is to hold down and, if possible, further reduce the cost of distribution. It is apparent that if a saving made in the factory is dissipated by waste in the complicted distributive process, the consumer is not benefited. And in the case of many widely-used commodities ,the distribution cost is as large or larger than the manufacturing cost.

We need increasing efficiency in retailing, not less--and one way to get it is to repeal all laws which penalize one kind of store to aid another kind, and which otherwise interfere with the free competitive process. There's no room for preventable waste in this country today.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Mind" will be the subject of the Lesson-Sermon in all Churches of Christ, Scientist, on Sunday, February 23.

The Golden Text will be from Phil. 2:13, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure".

Among the citations comprising the Lesson-Sermon will be the following from the Bible, I Peter 4:10 "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

The Lesson-Sermon also will include passages from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures", by Mary Baker Eddy, among which is the following, page 88, "To love one's neighbor as one's self is a divine idea, but this idea can never be seen, felt nor understood through the physical senses."

ONE HUNDRED TWO DEFENDANTS NAMED IN FERTILIZER INDICTMENT

"Fertilizer prices are lower than prices paid by farmers for other commodities and fluctuate widely", said Charles J. Brand, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of The Na- commenting on the indictment returned at Winston-Salem, N. C., on Feb. 10, by a special Federal grand jury which charged 102 individuals and corporations in the fertilizer industry with violtions of the Federal antitrust laws. The 64 corporations, two trade associations, and 36 officials were alleged to have conspired to fix prices and suppress competition in mixed fertilizers.

"An indictment or true bill," Mr. Brand reminded, "is not a verdict of guilty as so many people seem to think--it is in fact not even an indication of guilt. It is only a formal accusation made by at least 12 out of 23 grand jurors after an investigation conducted by the Government, at hearings where for the most part only the Government's side is heard. An advisor to the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice recently said in a report to the so-called Anti-Monopoly Committee: 'Nominally the grand jury has the power to indict or refuse to indict; in reality it usually does the will of the prosecuting attorney into whose hands the real discretion has passed.' Even in such one-sided Government proceedings, the grand jury in this instance required one year before it decided that the fertilizer companies should be formally accused.

Prices Low and Fluctuating

"This charge of price-fixing comes to us in the face of the fact that over 800 independently operating fertilizer plants in this country have shown, according to the Government's own figures, a record of years of fluctuating prices and of very low prices", said Mr. Brand. "The latest U. S. Department of Agriculture figures show farmers are receiving 101 per cent of the 1940-41 average for what they sell, and are paying 122 per cent on the average for the commodities which they buy. For fertilizer, however, they pay only 96 per cent. If prices for fertilizer in 1940 had been as high as the average price of other things they buy, the farmer's fertilizer bill would have been $54,000,000 more. The Department of Agriculture further says that 'fertilizer prices as a percentage of the 1940-41 averages are considerably lower than ahe prices of most commodities bought by farmers.'

"Fertilizer prices have been anything but rigid. They fell 39 per cent between 1929 and 1933--this drop was greater than the all-commodity drop. Fertilizer prices have never recovered to the extent that other prices have. The average price of the most widely used grade was $22.40 in 1929; $14.77 in 1933, and $17.12 in 1938.

German "generosity". Before the invasion of France, the normal production of potatoes by the French for domestic consumption was—70,000 pounds a minute. The Nazis now claim to relieve the food shortage by delivering a mere 1,000 pounds of potatoes a minute. This is equal to about 1½ per cent of the necessary total.

MARYLAND FARMERS URGED TO BUY MORE CHICKS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY

Many Maryland farmers and poultrymen should purchase more chicks of superior quality so as to replace inefficient, worn out layers, says Mr. Morley A. Jull, head of the University of Maryland poultry department. He points out that few farmers realize how rapidly their hens become inefficient.

Dr. Jull declared that Maryland hens do not wear out from overwork as the average egg production in the State is only 110 eggs per bird and should be 150 for profit. He says that yearling and older hens for the most part lay too few eggs for their keep because they do not come from bred-to-lay stock.

Not enough Maryland flock owners appreciate the fact that their yearling and older hens only lay about 75 percent as many eggs as the pullets. This means that if a pullet lays 150 eggs during her first laying year she will only lay about 110 eggs during her second year and that will not much more than pay her feed bill. For this reason, laying flocks kept for market egg production should be composed very largely of pullets. Practically all yearling and older hens and about two-thirds of the pullets should be culled out each year.

If a farmer has a flock of say 150 pullets and 50 yearlings he should cull out all but 50 of the pullets by the end of the year. These 50 pullets will aid with the next year's breeding work and in addition he will need 150 new pullets to put in the house next fall. In order to raise 150 pullets he will need to buy at least 370 chicks of superior bred-to-lay quality because one-half of these will be cockerels, some will be lost through average mortaliay, and some will need to be culled out at the time of housing.

Practically all of the men who have testified in favor of the President's lease-lend bill have offered the opinion that a crisis in the war will occur within the next three months--and that it will proabably take the form of an all-out Nazi blow against England, beginning with air raids of unprecedented intensity and winding up with the long anticipatd attempt at invasion. Secretary of the Navy Knox, for example, testified that, according to his information, the German strategists were now watching the long-range weather reports, and waiting for a time when an extended period of good weather can be anticipated.

There are many good reasons for believing that Germany will make her great effort before many more moons wax and wane. Primary reason is the obvious one that Hitler has a far better chance of winning if he makes his gamble before this country can send materials abroad in significant amounts.

Second, Hitler, many think, must move before Italy collapses entirely. She has become a drain on the Reich, instead of an asset. Her reverses in Africa have almost reached the comic opera stage.

The farmers in this country are benefiting by the export of fresh fruits to Canada. Thirty pounds of pears and 20 pounds of peaches . . . per minute, throughout the year.