

Tax Reforms

Complex System
Forces Own Relief

Not immediately imperative, perhaps, but something to keep in mind is the distressing need for a sound, simple, publicly-accepted equitable system of taxation for the United States. With millions of new taxpayers on the income tax books now and for years to come, the question will become more and more acute. These citizens will learn and add to the demands of those who have known that they are paying taxes under a bewildering hodge-podge of laws which confuses even those who administer them. We may well support the plan of Roosevelt Magill, former Undersecretary of the Treasury, that our tax laws be rewritten in English.

What is coming to be known is that our system of taxation is as wasteful as it is bewildering. It is too expensive to operate. When taken in connection with our State and local taxes we pay taxes after a manner that passeth all understanding. We conclude with the distressing idea that no such complicated system can be fair. Business and individuals, alike, merely pay what is demanded of them and hope there will be no flare-backs.

Where a strong support for a new, simple system is needed, perhaps, will be among the hordes of voting new taxpayers who will realize sooner or later that they are paying enormously more taxes, hidden and open, direct and indirect, than they knew. When they also accept the idea that the burden inevitably is on them, basically, and that they save nothing by deluding themselves, they will demand that taxes come out in the open.

No group can discuss this question more intelligently than public accountants and this is what the August Journal of Accountancy has to say:

What is needed . . . is the appointment of a non-partisan commission representing all interested groups to make a thorough study of our whole tax system. Such a commission would digest the criticisms with which recent economic, financial, legal and accounting literature abound and eventually recommend a sensible tax policy for the nation under which rates could be raised or lowered as the need for revenue might change, but the form and incidence of the taxes would be permanent, generally understood, and approved by the community as a whole.

If by some such method the general subject of taxes should reach a point of clarity to the whole population the Government would relieve itself of headaches in the years to come such as no tax headaches it has had in the past.

It is now pretty well affirmed that Hitler's labor-army is like the old-fashioned parlor, that one had to do to get into.

Shift Time

War Plant Manpower
Shift Makes Slump

Failure to make our war production goals is a serious business. Heaven knows, and any American who is chargeable with any responsibility for it shouldn't be pinning medals on himself. However, our under-production and the under-production of Germany have differences.

The German under-production comes from causes which can be traced to certain irremediable sources. We have blown up their factories. We have wrecked their trains. We have harried their workers. We have kept them at nerve-shattering war to the point of chronic fatigue and have shorn them of hope and enthusiasm. Their production has fallen off, it is estimated, at least fifteen percent.

Our under-production can, and will, be remedied. Our raw materials are not scarce. Our manpower, having performed miracles of production, merely pauses for second breath. Moreover, in that constant conflict between military and civilian demands, we this Summer have been going through a transition period. It is a price we paid for not instituting the universal draft at the beginning. Each week thousands of young deferred trained men are being withdrawn from war-production plants for military duty and are being replaced by older inexperienced war workers. No one argues that it should be otherwise. Perhaps, the interest of home war workers, it was not wise for it to be so it is.

Still, we cannot have our labor turnover and our successive monthly production peaks. To do, we will snap out of it, but we are losing time when time is of the essence. The only cheering thought is that Germany can't snap out of her slump.

Jumping Jacks

The First Dictator
Dive In to the Hardest

Confusing to our sedulously cultivated hate-war for Hitler, one for Mussolini and one for Hirohito—in this sudden in-and-out, pea-and-shell, now-you-see-'em-now-you-don't show being staged by the agile dictators. Just as we were beginning automatically to rage at the mention of Mussolini, not he goes. Hitler, in a somewhat different fashion, does likewise. The Jan.-next week may be, or maybe not. It is like a circus. When you've seen one, you've seen all.

Now we know, after what has been happening in Italy, that while the dictator can vanish the shooting doesn't necessarily stop. We merely have to shift our mental gears and know that our men fighting individuals and ideologies, but fighting the military power and the bandit ambitions of the people of Germany and Italy and Japan, no matter what banners they march under. In our country we know that the concerted demands of a majority of the people can cause the Government to do anything, fight a war or stop a war. And we know that the people of any other country can do the same thing. It may be hard, but it is our business, regardless of the jumping-jack tactics of dictators, to show them that as tragic as their peace may be it would be less hard than more wars. We do that with bombs and bullets, and we haven't the time to stop and watch dictators jump in and out.

Somewhere around the Mediterranean the invaders ought to let the Duce have a bay, to be at in this hour of decision.

This Time We Stay

We Cried "Peace"
And It Was Not Peace

It took the American people a very short time to learn, when hostilities in Europe began again, that the position between 1918 and 1939 had not been peace, but a truce. The truce, so far as the United States is concerned, was that we be blithely had taken it for granted that the truce was genuine peace, that we had ended all wars, and that we could go about our business with no thought of war again. Where we hurt most, after the basic dread of war at all, was in the feeling that we had deserted our crowd. We were one of the Allies in World War I. The smoke of battle cleared away and we cleared out. When we came out of our hazy fog we discovered that our Allies had been unable, without our help, to maintain a world equilibrium and nothing had been changed except the location of the Hunsburg line. That our Allies did not conduct affairs in the interim according to our desires does not seem so important now. Our position for protest was not as sound as it would have been had we remained on guard. We are doing all this nation can to remedy it, but it is a nagging thought that if the Allies had held together this war would not have been inevitable. It is a lucky circumstance, that we are the only ones who have the French debacle, that we have opportunity to go over that ground again.

Then there was the Italian shut-in, with a brother who was also in the Navy.

Bedrooms

Wherein a Cycle
Will Have Been Run

The great American sport of visiting the knifolds went into decline a generation ago when home builders, with money started the price of building required. But time marches on. The children are in war centers, doubling up in bedrooms and sleeping in the halls. They sleep in bedrooms—many bedrooms. When they build homes, after the war, a survey shows, they are going to have houses with lots of bedrooms. Whereupon, Aunt Hel will start spending weeks with them. And the next generation will build homes with just enough bedrooms for the family.

Critical Phase
American Crisis?

By Dorothy Thompson

THE situation at this point is as follows:
1. There is a first-rate military crisis for the European Axis. The simultaneous fall of Crete and Candia is only a symptom of the rapid weakening of the Wehrmacht, which faces a crisis on all fronts. Russia has been unable to launch an offensive and Stalin has proved his ability to do so. In Italy Italy, unable to guarantee Italian forces, has been directly responsible for the fall of Mussolini.
In the Balkans the withdrawal of Italian forces precipitates crisis.
In the air, Hitler acknowledges that he cannot protect German cities, by ordering evacuation of the capital.
In sea-warfare the submarine is failing.
All this is grimly acknowledged in the German press. Two months ago, before any of this had happened, the German press was full of the fact that "We fight for our naked lives and nothing else. We shall be happy if at the end of the war we walk barefoot with our soldiers everywhere throughout the world." The paper added, "This is the common opinion of the whole people."

2. We are in the midst of a gathering political crisis of immense dimensions. The dilemma compelling it come into the open with the fall of Mussolini. The entire political situation of Europe is fluid. The fact that the twenty-year-old Nazi regime had no roots in the masses is crystal clear and is having immense repercussions.
The first area to be drawn into the picture is the Balkans—with the resignation of the "King" of Croatia. The status of Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania is doubtful. The underground movements everywhere strengthen daily. In Berlin, the fall of Mussolini was publicly cheered.

But . . .
3. Although the military-political crisis of the Axis is accelerating, coincidentally, we have no political-military policy to meet it. "The same kind of careful planning that gained victory in North Africa and Sicily is required if we are to meet victory an enduring reality. The under-lying movements of this is not the time to engage in international discussion of all the terms of peace and details of the future. The all important thing is to get on with the war."

In other words, we will fight the war in victory without a political policy, and with plenty of time for "careful planning" afterwards.

But the events will pass out of our hands unless we are prepared this very minute to begin directing our policy.

It Isn't Helping the Garden Any

—By Dorman Smith



Neglected Gliders

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON
WHEN the city of St. Louis had some of its top-ranking officials in the Army glider crash of last week, the only good result was to open up an Army-Navy hair-splitting contest which has been having backstage for months.
What most people don't know is that the entire U. S. glider program has been woefully neglected. That the Navy has been the better glider, but the Army, and the Navy glider manufacturer last year asked the Navy permission to manufacture the Navy type glider for the Army. The Navy refused.

The entire glider story goes back long before Pearl Harbor, even before the glider-borne invasion of Crete, when one lone Army officer saw the importance of gliders and began to demand that the Army develop them.

He is Col. Fred H. Dent, known in the Air Corps as the Billy Mitchell of gliders. At that time, and the Germans showed what they could do with gliders in Crete, the U. S. Air Corps had turned gliders down on its "air-to-air" policy. They were considered a nice sporting plaything, but of no military value. Brass-hats referred to them as those-gliders.

And it was Col. Dent, a young West Pointer, who argued, begged and hammered home the importance of the glider in landing troops, carrying freight, handling extra fuel and doing all the things which gliders are doing.

Note: According to Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Swing, the advance in Sicily was hastened one week by the gliders. Actually the landing in Sicily began not on Saturday, July 10, but Friday, July 9 when glider-borne troops and paratroopers landed in the interior and completely disrupted communications.

Funds Delayed

Col. Dent, unfortunately, was not able to win the necessary funds for his glider program. He was given a check for \$100,000, but it was not cashed for a long time.

As a result, Dent had to find other gliders where he could. A total of 115 different plans contributed different plans to Army gliders and it was a jangling remark about Wright Field that was the only thing that was "by the way."

Dent had persuaded the Pratt & Reed Co. of Deep River, Conn., manufacturers of piano parts, to make certain parts for his gliders. They were Gibson Refrigerator Co. at Greenville, Mich., also took on other parts. The Ford Plant at Iron Mountain, Mich., which produced the Ford V8 engine, was converted to glider production. The Ford Plant at Dearborn, Mich., was converted to glider production.

NEW YORK
For what is starting us in the face, ladies and gentlemen, is European revolution, and apparently we have not the foggiest notion of what revolution we want.

For months this column has been warning that if we insist on waging a purely national war, instead of a national revolutionary war, we would find ourselves in the preposterous situation of being winners unable to do anything with their victory.

Look at the situation! In a moment when our military efforts are being defeated after defeat.

Take our French policy. First we recognized Vichy, then Darlan, then created Giraud, and all the time fought defeatists. Now Giraud is under de Gaulle and we are hesitating to recognize this fact. But in the near future we shall be forced to recognize it, and what could have been our triumph is a defeat for the State Department.

Take the Italian situation. Our policy has been to pin our hopes on the King and the House of Savoy.

So on the moment of the breakdown of the Fascist regime, we missed the bus. We did not appeal to the people, who were all set to make our revolution. We totally ignored the manifesto issued in Milan and Turin.

All this is bad enough. But roughly speaking, tomorrow morning—meaning long before the President and his departments have had time to do their "careful planning"—the German political situation is going to break and when that breaks we shall see something. For Germany is the keystone of the whole Fascist structure.

And in Germany we shall not be operating alone. We shall have an ally, military and political—the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has not lost the initiative on either military or political fronts. She is waging a political campaign as brilliant as her military campaign. And it is not a Communist campaign, but the very one that the democracies should be waging themselves. Yet the only reaction of our policy-makers is to register annoyed surprise.

The trouble is not due to quarrels inside the State Department and between the agencies. The quarrels are due to the fact that there is no political strategy, so anybody can make up his own.

There is no time whatever to lose. We are dealing with forces, composed of the passions, longings, hopes, yearnings, hatreds, and despair of millions of desperately suffering people. And it is essential to victory that we understand what it is they want, and what we will give them.

Otherwise, the European crisis will become our crisis, and we its instruments and not its directors.



"My brother John ought to have this medal, Judge. I had all the fun fighting the Japs, but he had to stay home and work the crops!"

Everyday Counselor

Grain Of Corn

By Rev. Herbert Spauld

UNDER the heading, "Parable Proved," July 23, tells the story of Perry Hayden, Quaker, and Tecumseh, Michigan, who heard a sermon and went out to prove it. The sermon text was, "except a man will fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (John 12:24). With his hearing he also planned to prove that the Biblical injunction of giving a tenth of one's income to God's work is profitable.

He planted 250 kernels of high-yielding Bald Rock wheat. Two weeks ago Hayden reaped a third harvest of 25 bushels. He had notable victory for the event: Henry Ford and Chrysler, Michigan's Commissioner of Agriculture, Ford, who owns the acre of land used for the experiment and is a collector of antique musical devices, brought along a 60-year-old self-raising reaper for use in the harvesting. Commissioner Foy came to inspect the wheat, which since its first harvesting had multiplied 100-fold, almost twice Michigan's average. Next year Hayden expects to harvest from fifteen to twenty acres—all from the same original wheat.

What Miller Hayden proved out in this dramatic fashion is known to many others who have tried it. The Jewish problem is in what can happen from small beginnings might try the plan of starting a savings account with a penny and doubling it each day. If you can keep it up you will be a millionaire at the end of a month.

Hayden furthermore proved a point which has been tested satisfactorily many times before—nothing is a blessing to the one who practices it. Even the Government recognizes it in its taxing program.

The Problem

Europe's Jews

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
WE have a way of treating the Jews of Europe as a special problem when we want them to be a special problem, and as part of the general problem when we want them to be part of the general problem. Thus when Jews are gassed as thousands have been gassed in the execution caravans of Poland, we treat them as a special problem. When their terrible warnings to the enemy against the use of poison gas do not apply.

But when it is suggested that Jews can be rescued out of German-occupied Europe, the allied answer is that the Jewish problem is not a special problem of the Jews. It is like a conference on doves, even until victory is obtained. The Jews of Europe are a special case when they are executed; they are part of the general case when they are denied rescue.

All the classifications leave them in Hitler's hands. They never seem to be lucky enough to achieve a classification which saves them. If their position is the same as that of the other peoples of Europe, then must we not consider that Hitler is using poison gas against Poles when he uses it against Poland's Jews? But if there is a difference, if they are a special case, then can we continue to give them the duty answer that their rescue must await the general rescue, that their problem is the general problem?

Actually, the Jews are a special case. Hitler has made them so. They are the only people he has threatened to exterminate. To tell them to wait along with the others is to disregard this special classification. They cannot wait. Hitler will not let them wait. Either we consider the Jews part of Europe, and therefore we resist against their murderers as against the murderers of Europeans, or we must consider them a special case, and therefore devise a special means of rescue. There are no other alternatives, in logic or in honor: only.

I hope it will be the chief business of the Emergency Conference to save the Jews of Europe, now meeting in New York, to sharpen up these alternatives, to strip the atrocious Ivy from them, so that all democratic mankind may clearly see the two horns and decide at last which it will grapple with.

But how can the West rescue the Jews of Europe? The answer is that in that the West cannot do it at all, until it starts to do it. We must make at least the beginning of setting up one man, or one agency in one room, as an office in charge of rescuing the Jews. The situation is not that the West has failed in this task. The West hasn't even assigned the task. We don't know who has failed, because nobody has even been asked to try to succeed.

The Bermuda conference decided that it was really a conference on all refugees. Therefore it stepped out of its area and took the special problem of the Jews. It was like a conference on apples which decided to hold a meeting on pears, and began by defining apples as being really pears. Its first order of business was, actually, redefinition.

What would a special agency do? After all, how many Jews can we get out of Rumania, and where can we send them? The spirit that begins by asking such questions will not rescue anybody, even itself. We take as many out of the Balkans as we can. We use retaliation. We use poison gas in Germany as the answer to poison gas in Poland. We make the first promise that all Jews who reach a neutral country will be free. But we make it, and maintained, if only as prisoners of war. No one of these moves is a policy, but all of them together become a policy.

How can we win the war? It has been a hell of a complicated business finding the answer to that one, too. We did not depend on any one answer, either. We tried them all.

Platform Of The People

The Case Of Dowtin

The Editors:
I would like to say I think you did a cruel and unkind thing in not publishing the letter of Mr. Dowtin, personally, have been given a wrong and unfavorable impression of him, due to your ungenerous publicity. I like your paper more of the time, but not when you do things like this.
MRS. JOHN VICKERS
Charlotte