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Take Care

This week-end of Labor Day is one of those occasions when news services feel impelled to go forth and gather up the stories of violent deaths among the citizenry and compile them in one glib total. The pieces will come out under familiar headlines: crying that a hundred-odd Americans died on the highways over the holiday, or met sudden death while the country paused in celebration. The impression is always wrong because these citizens will not die together as the stories hint, but will simply meet death because of ordinary American carelessness.

This toll runs on, all the time. Perhaps it goes higher on some holidays, when there are more cars on the roads and people are in a greater hurry to reach a holiday spot. There is every chance that this year's death toll on the highways in North Carolina will greatly exceed last year's. Seven were killed in traffic accidents around Labor Day of '44.

There will be more cars on the roads—though they will be even more decrepit—and they'll be going faster, now that gasoline is more plentiful. But as Commissioner of Vehicle T. Boddie Ward warns, the 35-mile-per-hour speed limit is still in effect. The cars are a year older, with aging motors and thinning tires. Mr. Ward urges extra caution upon the heed motorists.

It won't do much good, and he knows it, but he feels impelled to speak of it, and to issue one last warning. But it's almost a sure bet that, by Tuesday, the stories will be complete again, recording that last year's death toll has been far surpassed by North Carolina motorists who couldn't hold their horses.

A Little Choice

It seems that the little taxpayer has his choice in the months ahead. He can scream for a flat reduction of income taxes, as proposed by Minnesota's Rep. Knutson, or he can hold out for a cut based on ability to pay. On the one hand, he'll get a kicking while the big might get off light, on the other, he'll get a graduated tax to get a graduated scale of tax reduction through the mill.

Say, for example, that income taxes were cut 20 per cent as Rep. Knutson suggests. That would apply to all brackets, and the little fellow who pays \$100 in taxes needs a \$20 reduction in spite more than the mogul who pays \$100,000 a year needs a \$20,000 slash. But the flat reduction can be legislated quickly, much more readily than an equitable schedule, graduated to fit all cases, could be worked out.

Thus it likely that Congress, as it did after the last war, will turn to the easiest way out. Then, Congress delayed until 1924, and a half year after the war had ended, and cut taxes by 25 per cent. It provided refund or credit on 1923 taxes to that extent, and the move, curiously, was eminently satisfactory to both sides and all. The country was prosperous in that year.

By 1923, shortly after the stock market crashed, President Hoover asked Congress to restore confidence by lowering taxes. A one per cent decrease in normal rates followed. Percentage-wise, this gave greater relief to the small taxpayer than the large one, especially since surtax rates (then starting at \$10,000) were left unchanged.

During the fiscal year 1945, receipts were 43 per cent of expenditures. In other words, if expenditures were cut in half during the fiscal year 1946, the budget would approach balance if revenues remained the same. On Aug. 20, expenditures were 46 per cent of \$154,000,000 lower than on Aug. 14, the day on which President Truman announced the surrender of Japan.

During 1945, in which the public debt increased over \$7 billions, receipts from the Treasury were over eleven billions. Receipts from the personal income tax were thirteen billions. So if the excess profit tax were abolished new income tax receipts would be \$4 billion, as proposed.

No Questions

There'll be few who, like Congressman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts, will find fault with President Truman's decision to write a Lend-Lease as part of the price of victory. There could have been no surprise at his proposal, for when Mr. Roosevelt led us into preparation for war and opened the national ledger to nations struggling against the foe, he made it clear that we could expect little more than victory in payment.

For most of us, especially for those who cannot forget the dark days when it appeared that all was lost, that is not the point. We are very grateful, even to the point of being a bit over the top, for the fact that we could expect little more than victory in payment. For most of us, especially for those who cannot forget the dark days when it appeared that all was lost, that is not the point. We are very grateful, even to the point of being a bit over the top, for the fact that we could expect little more than victory in payment.

And when they go back there going to find some more informal arrangements, we'd guess. They'll find, perhaps, that we poured money and weapons and supplies into Russia and Britain without any real accounting for full accounting, without expecting anything in return—and that we were charged for this or that service by our ungrateful allies.

The Long Road

When Douglas MacArthur was at last in Japan his rhetoric was equal to the occasion. He spoke of the "long, hard road," calling to mind all the desperate days since Pearl Harbor.

- Manila, Dec. 7, 1941.
- Corororad, December, 1941.
- Melbourne, Australia, Mar. 17, 1942.
- Brisbane, Australia, 1942.
- Port Moresby, New Guinea, 1943.
- Hollandia, New Guinea, Apr. 28, 1944.
- Tacolban, Leyte (Philippines), Oct. 20, 1944.
- Tagabuan, Luzayan Gulf (Luzon, Philippines), Jan. 9, 1945.
- San Miguel, Luzon, February, 1945.
- Manila, February, 1945.
- Yokohama, Japan, Aug. 30, 1945.

To the Tokyo radio, that talks wildly of a comeback, one can only comment "the word of an older sage, 'Never hit a man when you're down.'"

A true pal is the helpful third baseman who flashes around in front of the short-stop and makes the error for him.

Statesmen At Work

(Sartous, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)

REP. FITZGER (Miss.) Entirely satisfied from the legislative process, the volume of correspondence, not only from people in his district, but elsewhere as well. He has a large staff of clerks in the Office of Price Administration's pending and several letters each day may be expected. The volume of correspondence varies. If it is a highly controversial matter, the clerks may number 20 or even 100 in a single day.

Then there is the matter of departmental contacts. With the economic emergency in the number of requests and requests, requests have steadily increased. A typical example would have to do with the extension of a rural mail route. Another would have to do with getting a birth record from the Bureau of the Census. A request can go to the office of the clerk from a Housewife whose husband was ill, and had to have mail, and she was having trouble in getting the proper food to comply with the diet requirements. She had to have information on how to get a passport. The clerks would have to handle 100 times as much work as in the past. World War II started the Congressional work has increased in many ways.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Bart Crum

(Note—Drew Pearson is on vacation. In his absence, Bart Crum has no more to say for Wendell Willkie and an Independent Republican, contributes a guest column.)

HOW I wish Wendell Willkie could be alive today to see his realistic dream of one world now emerging on the stage of history!

No man cherished greater hopes and ideals for the peace of the world and no man in charge of the world would have greater capacity to help carry them out.

I have been thinking back over some of the days I spent with Wendell Willkie. And in this hour of victory, which as much as anyone is Wendell's hour, I take advantage of Drew Pearson's invitation to set down some of my reminiscences.

Those of us who traveled with Mr. Willkie will always remember what a good listener he was, how seldom and how briefly he dominated the conversation. His idea of a good dinner was thick steak, baked potatoes, apple pie and cheese—set in a framework of challenging and interesting talk.

Willkie His Own Man

On the campaign trail, no one managed Wendell Willkie. He listened to advice, weighed the evidence, and made his own decisions. When other men grew tense, when tempers flared and personality defenses were thin, his trenchant humor, often earthy and always in sharp focus, brought harmony out of approaching chaos and re-formed into an integrated team divergent viewpoints and antagonistic strategies.

Many people who now forgotten Willkie's visit to Britain and his utterly courageous support of Great Britain, standing alone and justly in defense of civilization. At that time it was not a popular move. How the isolationists hated him for it! How the "wise" politicians faulted his outspoken support of decency and democracy, when evasion would have been so much more "adroit."

And so we come to Willkie's last year, his tentative re-entry into the political field and his crusade to save the GOP from the blind obedience of its entrenched leadership to his defeat in Wisconsin, his withdrawal as a candidate, and his cavalier exclusion from the 1944 GOP convention, a body whose leadership welcomed Herbert Hoover on their platform.

Always the fighting philosopher, Wendell Willkie, wanted to carry the battle to that Chicago gathering. His comment on his refusal was typically without malice: "The opportunity never came."

In retrospect, Wendell Willkie—as I know him—seems so clearly and inevitably right in all essential issues. Office in itself was unimportant, offering merely a functional means toward a necessary end.

Tories flamed in self-righteous indignation when he successfully defended Schulzinger, the Communist, from deportation before the Supreme Court. In the eyes of many lawyers, only a \$100,000 fee could justify the departure from the tribal code of the predators. But Mr. Willkie accepted no compensation. To him, the only principle of any value was as the defense of a principle, not of an individual.

Without Fear

When others departed mildly, Wendell Willkie moved boldly in his radio "open letter" on the Detroit race riots. He looked with puzzled contempt on the political type who is usually in a vain effort to press both ears to the earth in futile hope of riding—not leading—the waves of public opinion. Who of our days has more of necessary disregard for the morass of religious prejudice than this forthright warrior when he said:

"Anti-Semitism is not a germ which can be isolated or confined to any one group in our society. The total destruction which it works can be prevented only when a sufficient minority against it exists throughout the community. This immunity can be created through continuous education and constant use of democratic practices."

I have never understood why it should be assumed that in any possible contact between communism and democracy, democracy should go down," he said. "I believe it is possible for Russia and America, perhaps the most powerful countries in the world, to work together for the economic welfare and the peace of the world."

"The Russian people are turning to the democracies of the West for help and aid. We must not fail them. . . . The Russian people, who are our allies today, must be our friends tomorrow. It is with them that we must work to make this war what their leader has called it: 'A great war of liberation.'"

What has happened to the heritage Wendell Willkie left to the Republican Party? With the memory of this man's principles undimmed in the rush of current history, it is small wonder that former Republicans by the hundreds of thousands have become Democrats as a choice of evils. It is small wonder that an equal number are finding it increasingly difficult to give unwavering yet thoughtful allegiance to a Republican Party whose Senators provided fourteen of the sixteen votes cast against the Bretton Woods agreement, and whose only living ex-President has recently attacked the victorious British Labor Party.

The dilemmas have left us only their skeletons as mute reminders of total defeat. The Republican Party is in dire danger of sharing their fate.

Unless it views its future in honest and soul-searching humility, which seems most unlikely, it will forfeit its heritage, and it can hope for no better epitaph than: "Slain by the futile ambition of meager minds and shallow souls."

A Lift Along The Road



The Return To Normalcy

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

If any sign were needed that normalcy is on the way, it was supplied by the visit a Congressman made the other day to the Pentagon Building. It was like the first robin in early Spring or the first leaf in the Fall—a harbinger of change.

The Congressman wanted to talk to the military about the big campaign in the South. They had made headline news for the merchants in the town of Natchez, Miss. The Congressman certainly hoped the War Department intended to leave this campaign there, now that peace had come.

In this country today are 3,000 military installations. They are distributed all over the face of the land from Maine to California. If they were divided equally, there would be one for each of America's 3,000 counties.

Camp, training schools, indoctrination centers, military bases—they add up to tremendous military power. But if they are to be used for anything, they must be contracted or expanded in response to local pressures, then that power can be largely lifted away.

That has happened before. In our present military establishment, the barracks and cantonments were not located according to any strategic plan, either of national defense or logistics.

with a slight as chairman, to review the whole military picture from top to bottom. Only in that way, they believe, will we get an orderly and reasonable adjustment in the years to come.

The alternative is disorder and waste. If you multiply 3,000 military establishments by 98 Senators and 43 Congressmen, the answer is a conflict of pressures that completely obscure the national interest.

The only answer is an impartial commission with such recognized authority that its recommendations will be carried out. The authority would have to come, it is probable, from Congress.

Under the present practice, such a commission breaks a deadening tradition and shattered an outward system that had blocked all hope of change. That was in 1923, when Elihu Root was Secretary of War.

Up to that time, the commanding general of the armies had authority in the field over all military operations. In actual practice, the heads of the bureaus in the War Department in Washington were supreme. They ruled like little despots from their office chairs, dictating as they pleased to officers in the field.

Under Root's expert direction, the folly of this system was made clear. He was to expect no military authority, but he had a clear and objective intelligence, buttressed with good common sense. The Root Commission recommended the law under which the General Staff was created. In both World War I and World War II, the General Staff has been supreme.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I never thought I'd see the day when I'd be willing to accept a washing machine as a birthday present, but I would now, and love it!"

Our Security

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

In principle, President Truman in his letter to the Congressional Committee on Military Affairs, abandoned the idea of universal selective service in peacetime. In principle he accepts the theory of voluntary service for occupation purposes. It is not clear, however, whether the draft bill, in order to induce supplementary youth between the ages of 18 and 21, would include an induction against the age induction is that more mature men would be better for occupying purposes.

The main argument for the continuation of selective service is that we owe it to our veterans that they come home quickly to the peace that they expected, and the atomic bomb. The main argument for the continuation of selective service is that we owe it to our veterans that they come home quickly to the peace that they expected, and the atomic bomb.

It has been estimated that the occupation forces needed to police Germany will not exceed a quarter of a million men. The main argument for the continuation of selective service is that we owe it to our veterans that they come home quickly to the peace that they expected, and the atomic bomb.

The Army estimates that between now and next July we can only raise 300,000 men by voluntary means. The main argument for the continuation of selective service is that we owe it to our veterans that they come home quickly to the peace that they expected, and the atomic bomb.

Japan shall be allowed to have a military force, but not to have a navy or an air force. The main argument for the continuation of selective service is that we owe it to our veterans that they come home quickly to the peace that they expected, and the atomic bomb.

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