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AN IRRESPONSIBLE CONGRESS

MOST everyone will agree that the wartime excise taxes are a continuing and irritating... They were imposed on the people as wartime emergency revenue measures...

President Truman had proposed some reduction in the excise taxes this year... and asked that the lost revenue be made up by closing loopholes in the tax laws and boosting the rates on corporate earnings, gift and inheritance taxes.

In recent days the House Ways and Means Committee has gone considerably beyond the President's recommendations... If the committee continues its present pace, the excise tax slashes will add up to more than a billion dollars...

Keeping in mind that the deficit which President Truman estimated at \$5.1 billion this year will, according to most recent estimates, soar to more than \$7 billion let's look at the other side of the picture a minute.

Two weeks ago the U. S. Senate, which numbers among its membership some of the most persistent and vocal advocates of government expansion, indulged in an orgy of spending and increasing the House's proved \$1,100,000,000 Rivers & Harbors bill to \$1,840,000,000.

A BRIGHT NEW ERA

THE full implication of the pre-frontal lobotomy operation now being used in North Carolina's mental hospitals and described in a News story Saturday is not yet known.

It is known, however, that the operation has proved tremendously valuable wherever it is used in the United States. It has brought new hope to the friends and relatives of a certain group of mental patients.

The operation is not an effective treatment for all mental disorders. Dr. John McKee, superintendent of the State Hospital at Morganton, points out that approximately 25 per cent of the patients at his hospital can be "helped" by the delicate brain operation.

Dr. Odum has performed between 80 and 90 operations, three-fourths of them with no payment from the patient's family. Dr. Hillier has performed seven operations at Morganton and plans an under way for him to operate on one "paid" patient and one charity patient each week.

Not all of those helped are "State" mental patients. Dr. McKee is somewhat cautious in his estimation. Dr. James L. Cathell believes "between 30 and 35 per cent" of the State's mental patients can be helped.

DR. HUNTER BLAKELY
In the short span of eleven years, Dr. Hunter Blakely has impressed his mark upon the community more forcefully than many men do in a lifetime.

THE SPRING COLD
TO OUR knowledge, medical science has not devised a term to distinguish the Spring cold from the run-of-the-mill "common cold" This, undoubtedly, is an oversight for the common cold is to the Spring cold what the deer is to the cobra.

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The Spring cold victim doesn't cough. He sneezes like a tubercular jockey. He doesn't sniffle. He sneezes at his ordinary organ until it resembles a bulbous, purple-veined, pinked hood like those around the neck of a horse.

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higher Senate amount, because this is an election year, and home district projects win home district votes.
Last week, the House, by a voice vote, abated approval of another pork-barrel measure which would force the Veterans Administration to build \$20 million worth of new veterans hospital facilities which are not staffed even if they are built.

Also last week the House Appropriations Committee, after hearing Secretary of Defense Johnson, voted to increase the defense budget \$330,000,000 over previous estimates.

That all adds up to well over a billion dollars in additional expenditures which may be authorized by a defense-minded and a political-minded Congress. If expenditures are a billion dollars higher, and revenues a billion dollars lower, the deficit will be two billion dollars larger.

The seriousness of the international situation undoubtedly justifies the increased defense expenditures. But is there any way we should think so? And we don't think that the overburdened taxpayers back home are going to be fooled by such election year squandering of money.

described by hospital officials as "slight improvement" and "considerable improvement." About one-third show "great improvement."
The pre-frontal lobotomy has not had universal acceptance among doctors. Some are too radical, too dangerous. The State Hospitals Board of Control deserves commendation for taking this bold step.

But equally deserving of praise are the two neurosurgeons who have been performing the operations. Dr. William F. Hillier Jr. of Asheville and Dr. Guy L. Odum of the Duke Hospital.

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People's Platform
Frank Graham--Welfare Stater

Editorial News: THREE tapping ceremonies incident to initiation of a new member into the order of the Golden Fleece at the University last Friday night became well-nigh a Frank Graham rally. He was reaped and the citation appropriating this ceremony was certainly adequate for the purpose.

Frankly I was a little embarrassed in that many of my old friends did not understand but I have seen that it is an job, an enthusiastic Graham supporter. Of course, the personal equation is out, for I know of no one outside of my immediate family who considers a better friend than Frank Graham.

But Frank is steeped in the welfare-state doctrine up to his ears while I practically hail it from the ground up. He and I have not read and interpreted history similarly. I don't find a single reference in history where the welfare state has ever been contained within the bounds of a democratic or constitutional form of government. It has invariably broken over into some form of the police state which freedom has here either wiped out or seriously weakened.

What's the current situation here in this country? All of the welfare legislative enactments of recent years confirm my contention that the welfare state and democracy are mutually exclusive. The farm-cropper support legislation was initially "welfare" in name but was really a means of "national economy and completely out of control. I do not have to argue that, for it's obvious that the Wagner Labor Act would be applied industry-wide thereby "ratcheting" the general "welfare" up.

Without honest, factual reporting, foreign affairs become the arena for the "welfare" state. Several months ago American generals gave off the record a statement which convinced me that the welfare state is a means of "national economy and completely out of control. I do not have to argue that, for it's obvious that the Wagner Labor Act would be applied industry-wide thereby "ratcheting" the general "welfare" up.

Government can foster and back research and training in industrial and technical "know how" production and marketing technique. Simply stated, we have enough natural resources in this State to become the most prosperous State in the Union for the reason, government should concern itself only with the possible service that can be rendered to the development of this State's natural resources. It should advance the people advance with it. With peace abroad and domestic strength this nation should be able to stand as men under God who have no fear of man or atom.

Thanks From Red Cross
Editorial News: I HAVE been hoping that our Red Cross Fund Campaign would hit \$50,000,000. The fund has now been raised to \$48,000,000. It is a record for this State.

No Hall For Toscanini
Editorial News: I WAS very much interested in your editorial the other day about the proposed "Hall of Fame" in which you discussed the need for a satisfactory auditorium. I thought you would be interested in giving me my own "Hall of Fame" in the proposed Toscanini hall. I contacted our people at NBC in regard to having Charlie included in the list. In reply, it was told, "You have no place in which to hold it."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round
WISCONSIN'S "How Long" got an echo of voice from one of his informants. OOP Congressman Walter Judd of Minnesota, a former China missionary and a member of the county court, was asked for the office, all right, but he didn't cut the mustard--Lewer (Mo) Democrat.

Behind John Maragon
I ABOUT the ex-Kansas City bookbag who became the friend of the President and now goes to jail, but about the man who has been in the President's office and doesn't go to jail working together they raised campaign contributions, influenced Greek politics, and financed business and industry.

Maragon's Power
ALRO illustrative of Maragon's power was his demand that he be permitted to see the files of the committee in answer to a charge in the column that he was not a "five percent" man, who is a part of the committee recently called "Five Percent" because Drew Pearson started writing... These past months have been a very busy time for me.

Trust-Buster Truman
PRESIDENT TRUMAN had a significant role with Chairman of the House Select Committee on the activities of the Trust-Busters. He was the only President to continue his campaign job against the Trust-Busters. He was the only President to continue his campaign job against the Trust-Busters.

Net Results Of Congress' Action On Communism: Gas

By MARQUIS CHILDS
WASHINGTON
FROM ALL THE talk about the Communist infiltration, the bystander might get the idea that Congress was doing something about it. But the record shows that almost nothing has been done to close loopholes in espionage laws, and that the House and Senate have taken over here, as if the administration had not done its political job. The net result is foreign gas, some of it hot and some of it cold.

For more than two years the Dept. of Justice has been urging a series of changes in the Espionage Act, the Smith Act, the Alien Registration Act and the Immigration laws. More than a year ago the department recommended amendments to the espionage laws which would have brought into the foreign agents registration act.

The Justice Dept. also urged changes in the law which would give greater assistance to the FBI and military intelligence in obtaining admissible evidence against security violators. Other changes would give the military, additional assistance in the protection of military facilities from sabotage and accidental dangers.

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