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MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1952

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

U. S. CITIES TACKLE PARKING PROBLEM

ALL OVER the nation, the story is the same. American cities, hard-pressed by downtown traffic congestion, are petitioning their state legislatures for relief, and getting it in the form of authority to provide off-street parking facilities.

The United States Municipal News, listing favorable action by 17 state legislatures, called it a "record" year of progress toward easing traffic congestion. A few examples:

Delaware now permits cities to create parking authorities to acquire and operate parking projects and issue bonds for such purposes.

Florida authorized all its municipalities to finance, construct, maintain and operate parking facilities without special legislative permission.

Iowa permits municipalities to issue revenue bonds for off-street parking facilities.

Illinois authorized the Chicago Park District to operate underground parking lots.

Indiana cities may use parking meter revenue for retiring bonds issued for construction of parking facilities.

Kansas permits its first class cities to acquire land for off-street parking facilities.

and to provide additional parking lots financed by issuance of revenue bonds to be amortized from parking lot and meter receipts.

Massachusetts' lawmakers enacted installation of parking meters in city-owned parking lots and authorized investment by insurance companies in a proposed \$12 million parking garage under Boston Common.

The precise solution differs from state to state, but the problem is the same in all the states. U. S. cities, laid out before anyone had any idea of the terrific impact of the Motor Vehicle Age, belatedly are having to provide space for automobiles to park off the streets, just as they have had to provide wider streets for them to run on.

A study of off-street parking needs in Charlotte is currently under way. If, as we expect, it shows that the fast-growing Queen City is up against the same problem, the people will expect their City Council to meet it just as forthrightly as governing boards in hundreds of other American cities have met it.

HOW NOT TO LOWER TAXES

IF YOU WANT to help cut Federal income taxes, there's a movement afoot that will welcome your support. That is, if while cutting taxes you also want to throw the Federal Government into chaos by cutting the most important source of its income.

The Committee for Constitutional Government, American Taxpayers Association and the Western Tax Council have joined to limit on Federal income, inheritance and gift tax combined. So far 26 state legislatures have petitioned Congress to call a Constitutional convention to consider this proposal.

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options, delayed bonuses, pensions and insurance plans and various tax provisions most of the few persons in this category salvage considerably more than \$100,000.

The persons whose tax would be decreased contribute about one-third of the total Federal income tax. Federal revenue would be decreased by many billions of dollars.

The result would be a 25 per cent cut in Federal income, inheritance and gift tax combined. So far 26 state legislatures have petitioned Congress to call a Constitutional convention to consider this proposal.

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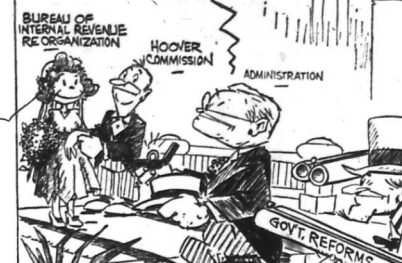
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Maybe there were no hysterical voices shouting doom and destruction over the radio at the time but there were a lot of voices sounding off with the same tune bled just the same.

The Medicine Show in itself could send Grampa home to play in bed and beg the family to hold out for bargain rates from the undertaker. He had everything the itinerant peddler said—from a big appetite which indicated a tape worm, to a good complexion which meant his liver was doing double duty.

But the fellows who scared Grampa most were those who came along, promising the end of the world. Grampa had not only stood on end but he started walking around stiff-legged for fear that the world was going to blow to smithereens under his feet at any moment.

And when it came to politics, Grampa really got the shakes. In those days you were either a Slavov or a Mugwump. Whatever side you were on, the opposition was made up of devils incarnate, and if they got in office it was the end of everything.

But somehow Grampa managed to survive the various ordeals. And maybe you can too.

—A. W. BLACK

People's Platform

Letters should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but will be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Byrd's Tax Stand Questioned

YOUR excellent editorial on Dec. 26 entitled "Deplorable Taxpayer Reapplies Old Club" prompted me to write to Senator Byrd. I shall be glad for you to reprint this letter in your "People's Platform" with hope that this may stimulate similar letters from other interested citizens.

"Hon. Harry Byrd. Few events of the past year, not even the recent Treasury Department scandals, have aroused in me the deep resentment, the intense anger which the editorial here enclosed has accomplished. Tax fines at their worst were under cover and admittedly dishonest, while this is an open and unjust gift by the Government to a special group at the expense of the small tax-payer who carries the greatest load.

"In these times when huge expense of Government is vital to our welfare, payment of my fair share of tax burden, no matter how large, should not be onerous. Facts such as these which I write, however, greatly intensify the dislike and the unwillingness with which Mr. Average Citizen meets his tax obligations.

"That such a situation should exist is almost inconceivable to me. That you, the acknowledged leader of a powerful group of Senators who profess to be interested in economy, lowered taxes and a balanced budget, should condone or make no bold effort to correct such a situation is likewise difficult for me to understand. This is particularly true when I learn that the small group of Senators who did oppose this portion of the law (regarding "percentage depletion") were pro-administration, liberal Democrats who, according to you, would lead our country down the road to financial ruin.

"I shall be most interested in any remarks you may make now as well as any action you may take during the coming session of Congress.

"I may take this opportunity to congratulate you upon the increasing excellence of your editorial page. Your willingness to take well-informed, forthright stands upon controversial issues, both local and worldwide, deserves the respect and the appreciation of the entire community.

RAYMOND M. WHEELER, M.D.

The Bad Old Days

WITH all the various Government scandals and the uncertainty of international affairs, a lot of us have developed a good deal of mental quakes and quivers. But if you think you got the jitters, remember Grampa.

Perhaps he had the Reds and the atomic bomb to scare the pants off him, but he had worries a plenty.

It was less than a half century ago that Grampa and a lot of others turned a pea green at the sight of Halley's Comet, solemnly shook hands with each other, quaking and became sanely spectators for several weeks.

And it took some time thereafter for Grampa to get on his feet.

THE articles which Dr. Herbert Spangh has in this issue were wonderful and so true. If people would only read them and go by his teachings, we would be a better people.

—MRS. MAYNE BARGER

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THOUGH the future of England depends to some extent on the Churchill-Truman conferences, there will be two groups of people watching the Churchill conferences just as intently as the British. They are:

1. The master-planners inside the Kremlin.

2. The leaders of Western Europe—the French, Belgians, Dutch, Italians, whose farms and factories have been fought over for several years.

Both groups will be watching for the same reason—to see if President Truman is able to win Churchill over to European unity, or whether the revenue hanging over the heads of the Kremlin and much joy in Western Europe.

If the latter happens, there will be joy in the Kremlin and sorrow in Western Europe.

But if the former happens, and Churchill is won over to a United States of Europe, there will be much cheering in the Kremlin and much joy in Western Europe.

U. S. Supporters

IF NEWS isn't published, but some Administration advisers have been pushing a plan for an all-out United States of Europe. They even propose that in the future the United States refer to put up money for individual nations, but put up money in a central pool for the United States of Europe.

Thus, if the British wanted to stay out, they would get on their own. If they came in, they would get their pro rata share of the money in the U. S. of E. kitty.

Whether or not the President will be able, or will even try hard to sell this to Churchill, remains to be seen. But here are the arguments used backstage by Administration advisers:

1. The American people are tired of spending tax money to aid Europe with no end in sight. They are willing to spend money if it accomplishes a definite, set

Truman's Tax Stand

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—A. W. BLACK

Influence Of The Bible

Editors, THE NEWS:

THERE has never been a time when so many people bought and read the Bible as there are today.

When you come to think of it, the wonder is that anyone should fail to study the Bible carefully.

The man who does not believe a word of it says still needs to know it, if he hopes to be thoroughly educated, because true or false, it has directed, colored, and even created the main currents of civilized life. History, law, music, art, literature, home relations, business, social, national and international affairs can only be thoroughly understood by a study of the book which has so profoundly affected them. A man from Mars looking on this Earth to study human affairs would so quickly and constantly run into the effect of the Bible on everything he touched that he would drop everything else until he had learned all about the Bible.

It is important to the non-believer, it is an absolute necessity for those who believe in its divine origin.

MANLEY R. DUNAWAY

Dr. Spough Appreciated

Editors, THE NEWS:

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Union of European Nations Gets Support

Invitation of the Ruhr—Best illustration of how British aloofness encourages war took place on March 7, 1936, when Hitler invaded the Ruhr. All that day the French Cabinet met in session. The British, however, pledged of British support if the French army stepped in to block the Nazis. But London refused a commitment, and with the vital iron and coal fields of the Ruhr in Hitler's hands, it was a matter of time.

After the war, German officers told U. S. examiners how Hitler had given the invading Ruhr army two months of resistance; the other to retreat in case of French resistance.

Union with France—In June, 1940, when England feared for its life and needed even an occupied France as a partner, Churchill sent an impassioned plea to French Premier Reynaud:

"At this most fateful moment in the history of the modern world, the governments of the United Kingdom and France are united by a common bond. We are indivisible union. . . . The two governments declare that France and Great Britain shall no longer be two nations, but one French-British Union."

That was how far Churchill was willing to go in 1940. Ten years later when the French urged, begged, implored British co-operation in the Schuman plan for the co-operation of the Ruhr, the British refused to join the Ruhr-Britain remained aloof.

Last month, when Eisenhower urged Churchill during their lunch in Paris to bring Britain into a unified Europe, Churchill refused to join the Schuman plan with France, refused.

That is why so many Europeans are watching the Churchill-Truman conferences with such interest. They believe there can be no permanent peace in Europe until Britain dispels the ancient myth that the English Channel separates them from Europe and realizes that England is in fact a continental nation.

Divide And Rule

IN CONTRAST, here is what the British have done to oppose European unity.

The traditional British policy has been to balance the two strongest continental nations against each other—usually France against Germany. Inevitably this leads to war.

THE FRENCH Government has formally warned Washington that an invasion of Indo-China by the Chinese Communists is being planned, as previously reported in this space. The French have informally proposed direct American military aid, including ground, air and naval intervention, in the event of such an invasion. This is the measure of the full gravity of the situation developing in Indo-China.

This situation has in turn confronted President Truman and the National Security Council with a difficult decision. In short, the NSC must decide the answer to two questions. First, what can be done to deter and prevent a Chinese invasion of Indo-China before it starts? And second, if the invasion does take place, what must we do then?

First, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are for the present unanimously opposed to any commitment to send American forces to Indo-China under any circumstances. Air and naval aid may be conditionally considered, but the Joint Chiefs are convinced that there are simply not enough American troops to spare on any more piece-meal commitments on the Korean peninsula. Their view may be based on the face of actual rather than potential aggression in Indo-China, as happens when South Korea was invaded. But for the present it may be considered.

NO "WHITE-OUT" PLANNED

Thus since the French cannot hold Indo-China, and since the British have no troops to spare either, no way appears to stem a Chinese invasion of Indo-China. The alternative is to let the Chinese take over the area. Yet there is no inclination in the State Department, the Pentagon, the Navy, or the War Department to let the Chinese take over Indo-China. "Simply because this would in effect mean writing off, at the hands of the Chinese, the most important of our allies in the Far East."

This sums up the cruel dilemma facing the NSC—American troops are not to be committed to Indo-China, but the French cannot hold Indo-China.

There are two other factors to consider. The Chinese Communists are making a move to take over Indo-China. This is really the central problem—that there is no effective answer to aggression except counter-aggression, and no effective deterrent to aggression except the threat of counter-aggression in full force. If it is not a problem which can be dodged, either you bow to the aggression and take the consequences, or you stand up to it, and the case would probably amount to final defeat in the cold war, or you prepare to stand up to it, and to face those consequences.

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