THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1942

Up To Date

Congress Eyes Ruml Plan As Boon to Short Taxpayers

As the fearsome Ides of March draw nearer the unsuspecting American taxpayer and his apprehensive Government approach a meeting with an all-too-grim reality and a man named Ruml—and the one may overcome the other to the intense relief of the little man with the flat pocketbook. Because the President's new budget is likely to call for some $15 billions more in taxes—and there isn't that much more to be had—taxpayers may be paying as they earn next year.

Corporation taxes will not be increased appreciably, nor will excess profits taxes, individual incomes or capital gains. The sales tax may well be written into law, but even a 10 per cent sales tax is estimated to produce only $3 billions, if not applied to food. Somehow, new sources of revenue must be found, and the Ruml Plan claims to have the answer.

Even present high tax rates are likely to furnish considerably less revenue than estimated, because March 15 is going to find hundreds of thousands of Americans without the money to pay taxes of 19 per cent on their incomes (5 per cent Victory Tax, scale starting at 13 per cent on normal tax). The prospects are for default in wholesale numbers in this year of fiscal upheaval. The Ruml Plan claims an answer to that one, too.

Just so that all the Joneses who like to live, American style, weeks and months ahead of income, will be ready when the deadline falls, the Ruml Plan may well be adopted by Congress. Under this much-discussed plan taxes will be paid currently, a revolutionary principle. For example, if adopted on Jan. 1, it would put into effect immediate weekly or monthly payments on 1943 income, with a temporary postponement in paying 1942 taxes.

Its sponsors say that it is merely daylight saving time applied to taxation, that so much slack will be taken up in personal and family finances that it would pour additional billions into the Treasury—and would have the added benefit of starting them immediately, rather than stacking them up for the future. Congress, like everyone else, has had its troubles understanding the Ruml proposal, but its leaders have been convinced of its soundness in hearings. The little man who pays and pays may expect to get on a new schedule before long.

It would be to his benefit as well as that of the Government.

Scapegoat

Continued Strike Wave Will Brand All Labor Un-American

Organized Labor, the 20 per cent of American workers that talks like a majority, seems likely to meet stern resistance of its increasing demands from most state legislatures as well as the new Congress next year. Mediation boards dedicated to the cause of halting inflation continue to find in favor of Labor in these times, but that will not be the pattern for the nation.

Legislatures, North Carolina's among them, are more likely to review the great gains of Labor during the past year of crisis, brand them as excessive, and take steps in their own way. Merely as proof of the fact that the law-makers will find convincing evidence of Labor's continued insincerity and irresponsibility we would record the doings of the week ending Dec. 12, 1942.

In that week, almost a year after Labor as a whole had reaffirmed its pledge to outlaw strikes, there were eight major strikes, all of them in war plants, and each involving more than 200 men. A total of 8,657 workers stopped work during the week, involving a loss of 19,930 man-days.

Three of the strikes were of CIO origin, four by AFL workers, one by an independent union. They covered many fields: steel, automobiles, electrical equipment, machine tools, building trades, plumbing, precision instruments. As usual, the strange word "jurisdictional" could be heard in almost every case.

American Labor as a whole, obviously enough, has responded magnificently to the call of war; but the wilful minority which continues to disrupt the nation's unity of effort continues to bring upon their patriotic brethren. For performances like that of December's second week, Labor will pay a penalty in the months ahead.

Great Deeds

Empty Stocking Patrons Had True Spirit of the Season

Charlotte's second wartime Christmas of the generation found its needy and not-so-fortunate almost desperately in need of aid. The wholesale departure of men and boys had heightened tribulations, threatened the breakup of families. For several thousand of our citizens, the season might have been doubly unhappy. But it was not so.

To meet an emergency which was very real the community gave an immediate and great-hearted response through The Empty Stocking Fund of *The News*. That charity spoke for itself more loudly in these difficult times, and the good will of the people of Charlotte and the surrounding area broke all previous records of the fund's twenty-odd years.

We cannot speak for ourselves to the patrons who spread happiness and cheer, for ours is annually just a small part of the bestowal of blessings. But for the more than 7,000 Charlotteans, young and old, who participated in Christmas through your human kindness, we would express the most sincere appreciation.

That long list of individuals and firms, many of them anonymous, who swelled the Empty Stocking Fund to its largest total stands in our eyes as an honor roll of those who worked a public service in the true spirit of the season. We hasten to add our voice to those of their 7,000 beneficiaries to wish them all the best of the new year.

War Pause

Tunisian Halt Forecasts Great Drives of Spring

The end of the year will find the Axis still clinging stubbornly to its foothold in Tunisia, and Spring, the season of great offensives, may find Hitler's forces fighting on in the area. But for Americans, there is no reason to despair over our apparently imperceptible progress. Our initial success in the area was a military marvel, rivaling any Nazi conquest of the war.

Tunis and Bizerte were not included in the first rush for the same reasons that Miami and Philadelphia, and all points between, could not be occupied at once by an invasion force against the United States. And, as yet, there is little American pressure being brought against the Germans in Africa. The Allied burden has been carried by Britain's First Army, while Americans are busy in preparation.

And that is generally true in battle areas around the world, with the exception of the Solomons (a comparatively small operation). Over 1,250,000 American troops are overseas, but nowhere do they yet carry the brunt of a big offensive. Fall and Winter have been times of busy logistics, of men and materials streaming into more than 65 foreign countries. When Spring comes, the world will expect an American climax to the months of preparation.

The coming of a new phase of war in North Africa did not mean that it was won, or that there would be no more United Nations defeats. It meant that there was a chance for the deliverance of Europe. Now the blows are being readied, and when American answers to puzzling problems of this war, like high octane gas, shipping shortages, and air transport, arrive in Africa, the end of that campaign will be near.

Not only will the Axis be thrown from Africa when General Eisenhower strikes with full strength, but that day will bring new zero hours to battle zones around the world. Burma, the Middle East, Scandinavia, the French Coast, the Southwest Pacific, the Aleutians—all will become new points of danger for the enemy, probably in the Spring.

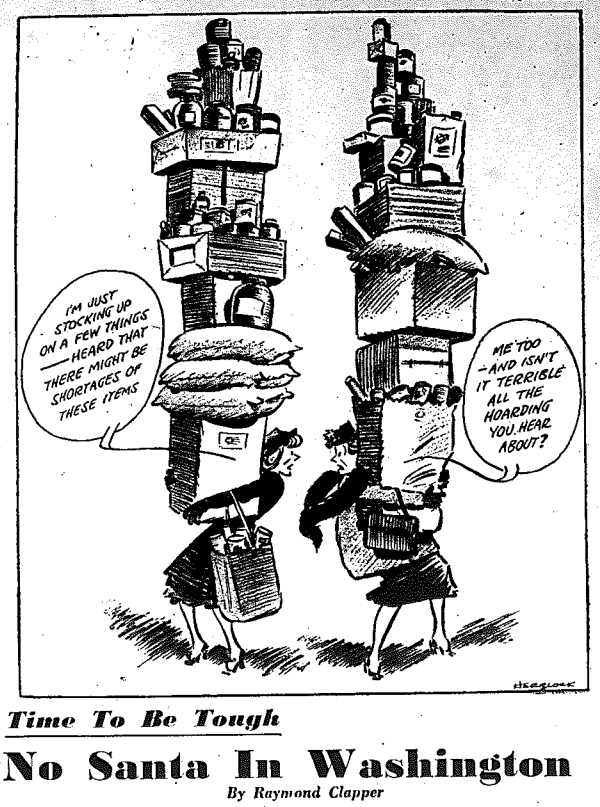
For this is to be the year of the American offensive in which hundreds of thousands will perish, when Hitler will discover with finality that modern warfare means American warfare, and that he has neither the men nor the material to stave off the end. His crack army of professional soldiers, trained and armed in peace, will prove no match for the impassioned amateurs of the United States.—The year may bring no decision, but it will certainly bring the first terrible specting of German and American armies. That is the next step, after Tunisia.

Man wants but little here below and is lucky if the grocer has that much.

There Are Truths Which Are Not For All Men, Nor For All Times.

It's Always "Somebody Else"

—By Herblock



Time To Be Tough

No Santa In Washington

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

THERE is one place where we need practically none of the Christmas spirit from now on, and that is in Congress. Around Congress the name of Santa Claus, from here on out, ought to be mud.

Congress has an open invitation from the majority of people, I suspect, to be as rough as it will—rough in laying heavier taxes, rough in knocking out some of the soft cushions under labor, rough in resisting the farm lobbyists who are trying to break away into inflationary prices, rough in cutting down non-essentials everywhere, especially in the Federal Government where money and manpower are being grossly wasted in perpetuation of useless agencies.

Why not? It's a rough war.

Senator Taft is reviving his effort to get a sales tax — say ten per cent on all sales except food. There is no reason for not having a sales tax now except that labor has been against it and the Administration has not regarded itself to the changed conditions that the war has brought.

Once there were good arguments against a sales tax. But now it is the biggest untapped source of additional revenue. When we are spending many times what we are raising in taxes, you can't defend the refusal to tap such a rich source of income as the sales tax. Economists can't find good reasons for opposing it now because it is a direct brake on inflationary consumer spending.

It is deporable for the Administration to oppose a sales tax out of sheer tradition and it is equally deplorable to permit the new year to begin without having produced a pay-as-you-go method of collecting income taxes. Labor is in for a clean-up insofar as legislation can contribute toward that end. The fundamental blame is not on this Administration. It is on the incompetent and shortsighted labor leaders who have continued racketeering practices and winked at unauthorized strikes in war plants.

The movement to repeal the 40-hour week is a tricky one in that it is a concealed drive to cut wages by knocking out overtime over forty hours. Work isn't limited to forty hours by law—only that over forty hours time and a half must be paid. The Labor Department says that in war plants the average work week in October was 45.7 hours and that the actual scheduled work week averaged 48 hours. Absenteeism and turnover pulled down the actual working average more than two hours below scheduled working hours. Automobile executives in Detroit, engaged exclusively in war work, told me a few weeks ago that forty-eight to fifty-two hours was the most efficient production working week. But the 40-hour law needs to be changed so that non-war plants not in the gravy, can't stretch out without the prohibitive overtime penalty. Labor unions can't fairly expect to restrict work as usual when we are so short of manpower that there is talk of a general universal war service law to apply to all adults.

The Government still is cluttered up with the remains of agencies that are of no further urgent use. Just as Mr. Roosevelt is scratching out WPA, so a good many other offices could be scratched out. Our scale of values has been drastically revised by the war. You may own two cars but you walk or ride a street car to work. You may be able to earn a very large salary but you can retain only a moderate one. What once seemed to be essential, we get along without, and it doesn't kill us.

You can't have bureaucracy as usual, either.

Yet farm organization lobbyists will meet here after the new Congress assembles to make their demands. The labor crowd will be around making its demands. People will be here protesting against the way the tax laws hit them. Non-essential government agencies will be lobbying to keep their jobs.

All of the gimmies in the whole country will be around here with their hands out. If I were Congress I'd go out and shoot Santa Claus on the day after Christmas.

Platform Of The People

The Coming Earthquake

Editors, The News:

This letter will serve, in an informal way, to apprise you of the fact that a movement is underway to expose, challenge and condemn the Criminal Justice System of North Carolina. A survey has be made which embraces the criminal judiciary, the prison system and the Bar Association. The survey reveals a startling situation.

In a short time you will receive a copy of a statement outlining generally the conditions and practices in vogue. The brochure is self-explanatory, and will serve as an introduction to the movement to follow which has as its only purpose the remedying of a money-squandering and law-monger's enterprise, and to replace it with a new kind of justice, a Christian justice, a practical and economic kind of justice, a system of justice devised to remove the sores and causes from which all crime springs. And it is a system for the reformation and reconstruction of those who violate the laws and rules of society governing human conduct.

Further information will be passed on to you of the program to be adopted in this great undertaking.

TRENT MacKINNON.
Raleigh, N. C.

Newspapers and the Cussin' Country

Editors, THE NEWS:

All persons, including newspaper publishers, should now be perfectly satisfied. It was awfully hard for anyone, even including myself, to be curtailed on gasoline and to take time to think how to save. This country is not used to being denied anything.

At least it had a chance to show its patriotism and co-operation long months ago with the effort to save gasoline and tires. The country has utterly failed.

Washington is not accustomed to conducting wars and emergencies. But the swivel chair people are. They know how to conduct wars and they know how to conduct emergencies of all kinds. All they have to do is to abuse anyone who tries to meet an emergency or who tries to conduct a war.

Mistakes? Sure. There have been many made and will be many, more. Newspapers abuse politicians for holding their ears to the ground, but what do newspapers do? They listen to every little noise of the public and pamper the public day by day by abuse of anyone who interferes with the pet ideas of the public. This country is a "cussing" country.

Whatever anyone does he is "cussed" and abused by everyone. That is the privilege of a democracy. The funny thing is that Congress "cussed" Leon Henderson, newspapers "cussed" Leon Henderson. And why? Every filling station owner and every car owner "cussed" and abused Leon Henderson.

I wonder sometimes if it would be possible for newspapers to try to inculcate into the people a little patriotic desire to help the boys at the Front, instead of "cussing" and abusing everyone about some slight inconvenience.

I wonder how much the newspapers had to do with the failure of Congress long years back to allow pipe lines laid across the United States. These newspapers conveyed all the propaganda against the idea. And where did the propoganda come from? Was it from Hitler or the German Bund?

Somebody's propaganda caused this debacle. Now who are the conveyors of propaganda? In my opinion, one factory could not manufacture enough German Iron Crosses to reward people who are guilty.

—JOE P. LANE.
Dillon, S. C.

Victory Fund Hit the Top

Editors, The News:

As the United States Treasury campaign to raise nine billion dollars in December through the volunteer services of Victory Fund Committees draws to a successful close we thank you for the part your have had in making this campaign effective in your community through news coverage and promotion.

The Victory Fund Campaign has, of course, just begun—so long as we have a war to fight and to finance it must continue. It is apparent to all of us that in succeeding drives the need for bringing all guns to bear will be increasingly acute.

The Season's Greetings.

JOHN PAUL LUCAS JR.
Director of Information.
Carolina Victory Fund Committees.
Charlotte.

Visitin' Round

With the Country Clubb Set
(Duck item,
Marshall News-Record)

Mr. C. R. Clubb of Easley, S. C., is moving to this community.

Meow
(McColl Item,
Marlboro County Herald)

High score prize fell in Mrs. W. C. Efird.

Not Softness

Liberalism

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

THERE is a difference between liberalism and namby-pambyism. Defense of overtime pay is liberalism, because overtime pay does not affect the war effort and because its elimination would run counter to even the conservative principle of not using the war to sneak over fundamental social changes. But refusal to support a universal war service act is not liberalism; it is namby-pambyism. We have to draw a line between what is liberal and what is merely soft.

There is a kind of political slushiness which passes for liberalism, but it is really a fake. To allow one private car to ply the roads of the East unnecessarily while even one home is without heat is not liberalism; it is political goo, spread on with a trowel, and it lacks both bones and substance. To delay on universal service is another clear case of administrative mushiness.

The universal war service act is coming (as it came to England two and one-half years ago) but it is coming in precisely the wrong way: it is being "put over" on labor and the Administration by conservatives, in Congress and out; its midwives are men and agencies that have never been conspicuously friendly to labor, and sometimes raucously the reverse.

Mr. McNutt, the Man Power Commissioner, speaks in favor of such an act, but few others in the Administration do. Labor itself is fighting a kind of rear-guard action against this proposal to assign non-essential workers to essential tasks, by Government order, but on what ideological ground it is hard to see. Labor has decided that the war is worth giving up strikes for, that it is worth giving up its sons and husbands for, that it is worth paying taxes for, but has yet to declare that it is worth giving up the right to work at a useless job for.

That millions of Americans are working at non-essential jobs is incontrovertible. (The moment the war news gets a bit better, they cling to these jobs all the more fiercely. I am told by personnel experts; they fear the insecurity of war work; the paradoxical result is tha. the nearer the war approaches its peak, the harder it becomes to shift these men and women over.)

The wish to protect these jobs is certainly not based on a clear and just estimation of war needs; it is a kind of hankering; a kind of reluctance to budge; it is not liberalism, which can be firm and hard; it is that other, soft thing I have mentioned. It is like the pacifism that was still visible in portions of the French labor movement in 1938; something remembered word from the past, once valid, and still clinging on after its day is over.

It is too late for labor, even with all its just fears of those who hate it, to behave automatically and instinctively.

It must behave consciously and knowingly. For the soft, sluggish "state of mind" now displayed on the universal service issue, labor can substitute the hardness and firmness of real liberalism, which would accept compulsory job directives, then insist on fair, temperate administration (actually, in England, "advice" to workers has been enough, once the law was on the books) and then insist, too, that a labor man head the program, just as we matter-of-factly agreed that a business man should head the business side of the war program.

There is nothing in the book that says liberalism ought not to know what time it is.

When you strike, at the right time, with the right proposal, all sorts of doors open. A labor-backed universal service law could be made the occasion for ending job discrimination against minority groups; it would become a powerful lever against dilatory practices by industry, wherever these can be found; it could push the whole war forward, toughly and firmly, whereas that soft, sluggish something I have described leads merely to melancholy rear-guard battles with nothing done and nothing gained.

That is one way you can tell liberalism from namby-pambyism. Namby-pambyism opens no doors at all, and finally robs its victims of the power to make decisions, in time or out of time.

An Old Habit

F. D. R.'s Deficit

WASHINGTON

THE 78th Congress, chosen in the elections of last November, will meet for its first session on January 6. A few days later it will receive the President's budget for the fiscal year 1944, which is expected to call for expenditures during that year—beginning July 1, next, and ending June 30, 1944—of about $100 billion.

The 1944 budget will be the tenth submitted during the Roosevelt Administration. All previous Roosevelt budgets have underestimated expenditures. Government receipts, on the other hand, have usually been overestimated. Only one Roosevelt budget estimated a Treasury surplus (for the fiscal year 1938). When the Treasury's books were balanced at the end of the year, the estimated surplus of $1,583,000,000 turned out to be a deficit of $1,384,000,000.

Estimates of expenditures in previous Roosevelt budgets have been thrown out of line by a variety of unanticipated developments, such as the passage of bonus legislation by Congress, the need of supplemental appropriations for relief, and during recent years by the call for additional appropriations for defense.

Original budget estimates for the first full fiscal year of the Roosevelt Administration (1933-34) were submitted by President Hoover. A comparison of the estimates in budgets submitted by President Roosevelt with actual expenditures, receipts and deficits during the years covered by those budgets is given below.

Fiscal Year	Estimates (In Millions of Dollars)	Actual	Discrepancies
1934-35			
Fiscal Year	Estimates x	Actual x	Discrepancies
Expenditures*	5,561	6,902	841 (14%)
Receipts	3,975	3,800	175 (4%)
Net Deficit	1,586	3,002	1,016 (51%)
1935-36			
Expenditures*	7,884	8,477	593 (8%)
Receipts	3,992	4,116	124 (3%)
Net Deficit	3,892	4,361	469 (12%)
1936-37			
Expenditures*	6,173	8,001	1,828 (30%)
Receipts	5,654	5,294	360 (6%)
Net Deficit	519	2,707	2,188 (422%)
1937-38			
Expenditures*	5,756	7,626	1,870 (32%)
Receipts	7,291	6,242	1,052 (14%)
	1,538 (Sur.)	1,384 (Def.)	2,922
1938-39			
Expenditures*	6,869	8,707	1,838 (27%)
Receipts	5,919	5,165	754 (13%)
Net Deficit	950	3,542	2,592 (273%)
1939-40			
Expenditures*	8,995	8,998	3
Receipts	5,669	5,387	282 (5%)
Net Deficit	3,326	3,611	285 (9%)
1940-41			
Expenditures*	8,424	12,710	4,286 (51%)
Receipts	6,248	7,601	1,353 (22%)
Net Deficit	2,176	5,103	2,927 (135%)
1941-42			
Expenditures*	17,486	32,397	14,911 (85%)
Receipts	8,275	12,799	4,524 (55%)
Net Deficit	9,211	19,598	10,387 (113%)
1942-43			
Expenditures*	58,928		
Receipts	16,847	(Ends June 30, 1943)	
Net Deficit	42,441		

x Excluding social security payments and receipts.
* Excluding debt retirement.

The figures shown above for the present fiscal year (1942-43) are those given in the budget submitted by the President on Jan. 7, 1942—one month after Pearl Harbor. Revised budget totals issued in October of this year boosted the $58,928 million estimate of expenditures in the January budget to $80,044 million. The increase was due entirely to a progressive stepping up of the war program. Total expenditures to Dec. 15, when the fiscal year was almost half over, were only $31,709,300,007. There is considerable doubt whether the October spending estimate of $80 billion for this fiscal year will be reached by June 30, 1943, and greater doubt that $100 billion can be spent during the fiscal year 1944. The budget to be submitted by the President in January may therefore be the first during the last ten years in which the estimate of expenditures will turn out to have been an overestimate.—Editorial Research Report.