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And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1665-1927

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1943

Affliction

Bob Reynolds Is Out of Place But Can't Be Moved Until '44

Our Mr. Samuel Grafton, noting to-day that some things are infinitely worse than others, expresses the opinion that it is far better to send a man like Dear Ed Flynn to Australia than to be forced to suffer the presence of one like Robert Rice Reynolds in the chairmanship of the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

Senator Reynolds is, of course, chairman of the vital Military Affairs Committee by ancient seniority rules. He is, perhaps, as admirably unfitted for the position as any man, anywhere.

Many of his past statements (which he has not seen fit to correct or amend) brand him as a man who should be kept as far from the controls of war direction as possible.

It might also be said that it matters little who is chosen to make the race against Bob Reynolds. As he was put into office on a negative ballot, so will he be ousted against him there.

Soothsayer

Prophecy Joseph Davies Sees More Russian Victories Ahead

As United States Ambassador to Russia, Joseph E. Davies became one of the most discerning observers ever to leave American soil.

Almost a year ago his prediction was: "By the end of 1942 I predict that the Russian Army will be intact, and the Soviet Government will be intact, and the morale of the Russian people will be intact—regardless of the territorial belligerents."

Recently, to Arthur Krock of the New York Times, Mr. Davies brought his predictions up to date, and his words should be heeded, simply on the basis of his record:

"Barring a crack-up in Siberia, which I discount, Hitler will fall back and die in Russia to shorten his line of communication; furiously build a Siegfried wall along the Mediterranean; fight a rear-guard action in Africa and in the Ukraine; and use that time for intensive and effective preparation for a renewed all-out drive this summer for Baku oil."

There Mr. Davies left the Russian field and branched out into Continental German strategy. It is a new concept of the future, so far as the public is concerned, may well point directly to the events of the future which will shake the lives of us all.

Russian drive will stum him in the South, and that, co-ordinated with an Allied push in the West, it will bring him to his ruin.

Eeny, Meeny

Every Week, Selective Service Gives Fathers the One-Two

Future draft policies under Selective Service are still huddled in all directions, an alarming rate. Periodic announcements from Washington, local boards continue to hazard their own opinions, adding to the general confusion.

This week Associated Press reports that Manpower Commissioner Paul Nutt refused to set a date for the drafting of married men with children: "I don't think it would be wise to excite men with children by naming a date no one can be certain of."

That made sense to the millions of family heads who have stirred restlessly in the knowledge that their time was short. But that wasn't enough to prevent even further confusion.

It seems apparent now that the myriad Washington sources can never be expected to settle on any given policy, that there will be scarce notices and denials until war's end.

Stop & Look

"Loan Shark" Bill Might Not Be What It Seems To Be

Ready for consideration by the General Assembly is another in the long series of bills aimed at loan sharks, sponsored by the Russell Sage Foundation.

State bankers, as in the past, vigorously oppose passage of the bill, and are fighting it now with a publicity campaign designed to expose the proposed legislation as the old Trojan Horse of the loan companies themselves.

The bill, called by the Foundation (long associated with small loan firms of national scope) a model law provides for a per cent month basis of interest—at one and a half per cent per month. That, of course, is interest of 18 per cent per year.

At that, the bill studied by the Committee appointed in the last Legislature, would let North Carolina fight, the top interest rate advanced by the Russell Sage Foundation is three and a half per cent per month (42 per cent per year).

It would be well for the General Assembly to study them closely in company with the State Bankers Association before taking any action—on succumbing to the ribby-offered explanation that such legislation is aimed at usury, rather than simply at tackling up the interest rate in behalf of loan companies. Here, caution is advised.

Horse-And-Buggy Congress Changeth Not

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON Inside Congress plenty of members recognize the outmoded absurdity of the wasteful committee practices. But the pressure for change comes mostly from Republicans or from a few younger Democratic members like Representative Gore of Tennessee and Representative Monroney of Oklahoma.

That small conference (total war was made rudgerly in deference to the rise of air warfare, news of which finally appears to have made its impression. Speaker Rayburn is wedded to the House rituals and to committee privileges as if they had some religious sanctity, instead of being merely tools to work with.)

Except for the little Vinson change, the machinery of Congress must creak along as it did in the happy days of Rutherford B. Hayes. Hundreds of million-dollar budgets must adapt themselves to unchangeable traditions.

These are not just the criticisms of outsiders. SHEER IRRELEVANCE Anything For A Fight

By Samuel Crafton

THE opposition to President Roosevelt needs issues that are not directly connected with the war. It needs an issue that sheds the shade, as baby oysters need their shells to cling to.

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Curiously Donald Nelson and others in the executive branch who have been investigated by the Tolson committee endorse its work as useful to the war effort. Sponsor Rayburn wants all special committees abolished. He wants nothing but the old traditional routine standing committees, whose chairmen inherit their jobs by seniority whether they have ability or not.

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One side or the other has to come clean, to end the obscurity, and since those whose political profit lies in being clean by putting every possible finger in North Africa in jail, freeing every democrat, setting the brave new world in care at once, and asking anybody who does not care for that operation to step up and say so.

Yes, there are ways of dealing with obscurantism. The first step is to give it up, and to force those men who want to pick out a group of boys, extra matching, makes sense; which is precisely what the double-talkers are praying the President will not compel them to do.

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Taxes And You Pay-As-You-Go

JOYFUL misunderstanding of the pay-as-you-go tax plan is rampant as Congress moves to take it up. People generally seem to regard pay-as-you-go as a wonderful break—something that would relieve their 1943 income and have them little to pay, except the Victory tax, this year.

None of the several pay-as-you-go plans discussed in Congress would do anything of the kind. Under pay-as-you-go, taxpayers will relatively few exceptions, pay for the tax this year as they would pay without pay-as-you-go. But what they now owe on 1942 income would be regarded as owing on 1943 income, and the way the way is different.

Instead of paying the bill in four installments beginning March 15, they would pay the bill in monthly installments, under one plan; they would pay a part of the bill every pay day. The latter is the withholding plan; employers would deduct a part of the tax from each paycheck.

How will you pay the 1943 bill? That's the question Congress is about to tackle. The question is shifted into two parts and there are differences of opinion on each part. The first part is: Shall the 1942 tax be forgiven as indicated above? The second part is: If the 1942 tax is forgiven, how must the taxpayer pay the 1943 bill? The latter is the question.

The Clark bill would require payment this year of the tax on estimated 1943 income. It would be paid by withholdings from each worker's pay. Employers would be required to withhold 19 per cent all in excess of \$1,248—the exemption to date, or approximately so, in his income tax payments.

The Clark bill, except for omitting the withholding plan, is much the same as the Clark bill. Senator Carlson bill, tax on 1942 income would be forgiven, tentative returns will be filed and subsequent adjustments made (in 1944) as under the Clark bill. Method of paying the tax is different. The Carlson bill would permit the taxpayer to make payments in nine monthly installments, beginning March 15.

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Aerial Revolution Biggest Story

BY RAYMOND CLAPPER

I'VE typed out newspaper stories in a good many odd places. On the steps of Warren Harding's front porch at Marion, Ohio, in the corner of a White House ante-room, in the rain in front of the Capitol when Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated, in the courthouse yard at the Scopes evolution trial at Dayton, Tennessee, and in trains and the back seats of automobiles riding over hair-pin mountain roads.

But I think the biggest story I ever covered was written on top of a crate of tommy-guns in the hold of a cargo plane 6,000 feet above an African jungle.

The ship was a "flying freighter" of the Air Transport Command, hauling 5,000 pounds of Army freight over truckless wilderness to a remote U. S. Army outpost. It was loading equipment that couldn't wait. . . guns, ammunition, motor parts and medical supplies.

We made the trip that night in ten hours. By surface-ship, rail and motor truck, it would have taken ten weeks!

I say it was the biggest story I ever covered because on that flight, I saw all our concepts of transportation thrown into the scrap heap. I saw the military textbooks being rewritten. And I got a glimpse of what our peace-time world will be like when this war is over and won.

These transport planes, operated for the Army Air Transport Command by Airline personnel, are spanning oceans and continents with vast aerial bridges. They hurtle the Atlantic in sixteen hours. They fly to Australia in four days. To Cairo in five. To Chungking or New Delhi in a week. They bring the farthest fighting fronts of this global war to the back doors of America's factories—just as today our domestic Airlines bring factories from California to Connecticut door-to-door.

Our pilot this trip was a big veteran from Ohio, who until a month before had been pushing an Airliner across the Midwest. Over sandwiches and coffee he told me:

"The Army and the Airlines make a terrific ball-team. We have the pilots, the ground crew and the planes. The Army has the planes and the Airlines have the pilots. The Army has the job for us to do. Every day the job grows bigger . . . because we're getting set to make Hitler sorry he ever heard the word blitzkrieg!"

I'm inclined to string along with him on that.

Side Glances



"The things you don't want to hear of, sounds pretty serious. I don't want a troop of boys, extra matching, in here, to (quart) over you!"