

Hard But Unfair

We know just how Legislator LeGrand (New Haven) felt when he introduced that bill to make Federal income taxes a heavy deduction on State income returns. Here a fellow who had paid the great bulk of taxes to the Federal Government, even unto the greater part of his sustenance. He has been taxed until it hurts, and he knows it. Then and when he comes to taxes allowable as a deduction, he finds this curt instruction:

No deduction will be allowed for gasoline taxes, automobile licenses, registration fees, inheritance, sales, gift and income taxes.

In an era when governments impose the heaviest tribute on income and purchases, the State of North Carolina blithely continues to recognize almost nothing but local property taxes as a lien on living and having one's belongings right, while the Federal Government, which is not at all different when it comes to disallowing this and that and cutting exemptions to the quick, accepts State income taxes as a prior charge on net income, thereby mollifying the victim somewhat.

Mr. LeGrand can make out a good case for his bill, and will have a lot of rooters for it. But in the end, the point will be lost.

For the fact is that North Carolina expects every dollar to produce so much money, the sum of which is essential to the balanced budget. To recognize Federal income taxes as a deduction would reduce by many millions the revenue which State income tax producer, and would entail, unavoidably, a higher income tax rate. That would be more equitable, in many cases. But it would cause a pronounced howl to go up from the taxpayers, who now only mutter once a year, and the State would have an issue on its hands instead of merely a gripe.

A Fresh Start

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra has had its ups and downs for a good many years now, and there are probably others to come. But the recent change in conductors and the shifts on the board of directors indicate that something new is afoot, and we're moved to hand out a little advice for which we make no charge.

Several things traditionally have held the orchestra back: (1) tight control by one or two men, (2) a far too rigid emphasis on strictly "concert" programs, (3) inadequate financing which has denied it the services of professional musicians over the area, (4) a poor public relations program, (5) fairly amateurish performances, though this is probably an effect rather than a cause.

The former director started the orchestra from scratch, brought it through twelve very trying years. He deserves enormous credit. But it was his orchestra in every sense of the word, and therein lay the chief obstacle to its flourishing.

Now it is Charlotte's orchestra. No one can expect the new director, Guy S. Hutchins, to work magic overnight. The building and supporting of a symphony orchestra takes time. Even the biggest and best in the country are unable to support themselves by the box office alone and have to be subsidized privately. We think they're worth it.

Toll Of Retreat

The casualty lists from Belgium which Americans had awaited in dread were not nearly so long as we had feared they might be. Indeed, there were every reason to expect that our losses might have been grievous. In the three weeks of the German counter-offensive during which the nation waited apprehensively, our losses in the area were under 40,000—and 18,000 of those are listed as

missing, and presumed prisoners of war. And on the entire Western Front, embracing the four great American armies in action, only 103,000 men were listed as killed. The toll in wounded was 52,594 (and this, too, includes the whole front, and not just the battle of the bulge). That figure is depressing, and the picture still calls for a dreadful—but we are content ourselves fortunate that bad-though-not a great deal worse.

In retreat, when a well-armed and powerful enemy is breaking lines and pushing all before him, casualties are usually greatest. That the American forces in Belgium, though taken by surprise and forced back swiftly during the first two weeks of the drive, suffered comparatively light losses is remarkable. It bespeaks the skill of command and skill on the part of the infantryman—ranks that these figures are so low.

And it is cheering, at least, to note that the War Department's estimate of the enemy's losses in that time run to 500,000. Because these figures are preliminary, we cannot know the final story. But 500,000 German prisoners were taken in those three weeks, so that the estimate of the enemy's total losses are likely not exaggerated.

The 400,000 American homes which suffered great losses during this German drive will feel no lightening of their burden at the news, but it is cause for genuine national rejoicing that our armies in Europe have passed this crisis without paying a far greater price.

A touch of the old sarcasm appears in Mussolini's latest harangue, at Milan. It must be that failure has gone to his head.

New Helmsman

New Jersey's Rep. Edward J. Hart, successor to Martin Dies as chief investigator of the Dies Committee, has been named to the post. He is a man well qualified for his post, we'd say.

One important fact in his favor, perhaps, is that he voted against permanent establishment of this committee, if that seems dubious reasoning, recall that he was voting against the principle of a permanent investigating committee—and perhaps against the Dies Committee as we have known it in the past. That taken alone, qualifies him as a promising chairman.

Rep. Hart voted against most of the vital measures. He wanted to fortify Guam, but was against extending military service to eighteen months, lifting belt-and-suspenders and combat-zone bans, establishing the War, lifting the arms embargo. But he voted for the midnight Reorganization and home front generally supported the war effort. In this field he voted for subsidies, against investigating the National Labor Relations Board, against slashing the OPA appropriation, and against abolishing the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He showed a willingness to investigate Federal agencies, but voted against the Hatch Act banning "pernicious political activities."

A King's Tender Love

For a long time Britain's King Henry VIII tried to rid himself of his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. In order to marry one of her ladies-in-waiting, Anne Boleyn. When he finally desisted of Catherine, he entered a marriage with Anne which lasted but three years. Thiring of her, he had her imprisoned on charges of adultery, and eventually had her beheaded. This is the story of Henry's tender love for his first wife, written in 1532, in a typical of the outpouring of his love to Anne during their courtship.

Our Losses In China

We are losing the battle of China. Setbacks from increased and increased Japanese pressure have undermined our spine-board bases.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

CLOSEST person to the President who stands at the threshold of the fourth-term is no longer Harry Hopkins, no longer Mrs. Roosevelt, but his attractive, vivacious daughter, Anna Boettiger.

For about two years, Anna has been living at the White House where she has come to be not only hostess, but her father's confidant; friend and adviser. More and more personal appointments, more and more private reports, important policy now pass through Anna's hands.

Sometimes during a conversation in his executive office, the President will pick up the phone and call his daughter in the residence part of the White House to ask her the status of a certain problem he is discussing.

Anna has a good head, a refreshing point of view, and her mother's indefatigable energy. When she lived in Seattle, where her husband, John Boettiger, was publisher of the Post-Intelligencer, Anna edited the woman's page, helped with the paper generally and was a real asset.

Came the war, and John got a captain's commission after attending the school for military government, later going to Italy. Now, however, he is back and living in the White House, where he rates probably next to Anna, as the second man in the President's confidence.

Killing A Lot of Birds With One Stone

WASHINGTON
The Japanese government has announced that it has decided to release 100,000 prisoners of war from the Philippines.

The Plight Of Stricken Norway

WASHINGTON
FOR all the Allied world, the postponement of victory in Europe has been a cruel blow. But if we look here in America, especially the proslavery movement which is the state of mind of millions of our citizens and fathers and husbands in the fight against the Japanese, it is not surprising that the plight of one small country, Norway, has become more and more a matter of the day.

Our Losses In China

By James R. Young
and mixed orders.

Washington, who later became Mrs. Jimmy, he left for Hollywood.

Later Franklin Jr., while studying law at the University of Virginia, was around the White House frequently.

Now all four boys are in the armed services and the President has fallen back on his daughter, who perhaps even more than Jimmy, always has been the apple of his eye.

Members of the Mississippi Congressional delegation met last week to welcome one of their State's war heroes—Lt. Van T. Barfoot of Carthage, Miss., who has been awarded the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Barfoot fought with distinction in Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Barfoot was captured at being surrounded by Congressmen. Barfoot told some of his experiences in combat and tried to answer questions. One of them finally came from Senator Theodore "The Man" Bilbo on his favorite subject.

"Lieutenant," Bilbo asked, "did you have much trouble with Negroes over there?"

"Senator, I found out after I did some fighting in this war that the colored boys fight just as good as the white boys. I have changed my idea a lot about colored people since I got into the war, and so have a lot of other boys from the South. We've found the colored boys all right."

Senator Bilbo then launched into a long proposition about what a great friend to the South he was feeling among other things, how he proposed transplanting American Negroes to Liberia.

Not present at the Mississippi meeting was Congressman John Rankin.

Swapping Prisoners

WASHINGTON
The exchange of prisoners of war between the United States and Germany is proceeding at a rapid pace.

Evacuate Casualties

WASHINGTON
The evacuation of German casualties from the front lines is being accelerated.

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SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"While you were bombing the Japs we had some excitement ourselves—he took his first steps and pulled a set of dishes off the dining room table!"

The German Mind

By Dorothy Thompson

I have been following as closely as I can reports from inside Germany regarding the state of mind of the German people and the interviews with German prisoners of war. With no self-righteousness I may say they do not support in the least the monolithic theory of a solid bloc of German opinion, successfully indoctrinated.

The most exhaustive report I have seen is the one given to the representative of the American Psychological Agency by its reporter on the "Psychological Task Force" in Germany.

The most surprising was the attitude of the German people towards the American soldiers. They were almost invariably friendly and well-wishing.

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