

Another Milepost

It's hard not to be cheerful over a reduction in taxes, particularly one that appears likely to relieve the burden of the lowest income brackets. But most of us have been staggering along under an unaccustomed load. But there is a dangerous unreality about the Congressional approach to the tax measure which passed through the House yesterday in record time.

Justly the gentlemen lopped some \$5,500,000 off the nation's tax bill, and hardly a dissenting voice was heard. No partisan division was apparent. Republicans and Democrats were joining the axe together. "To make taxes bearable it is important that all non-essential Federal spending be eliminated," cried Democrat Doughton. "My party will fight with unflinching determination to reduce the costs of this Government, and by so doing, to eventually reduce the burden of taxes," replied Republican Martin.

There was more to this than the normal political deal in economy. It was, in a sense, the end of an era, the death of the New Deal and all it stood for. It was a formal Congressional announcement that there will be no more big spending, no more grandiose schemes, no more dedication to the cause of the common man.

This, in itself, would not be a cause for gloom, if there were somewhere in Congress an alternative plan, something cheap and practical to fill the great deep chasm that will be left when the New Deal bureau shrinks and wither. But there isn't; the spirit manifest in Congress was one of Auld Lang Syne. Forget about tomorrow, boys, we're going back to yesterday.

There was a feeling we have just passed another milepost on the road to normalcy.

Routine Matter

Governor Broughton's address. "The Christian Church and the Race Problem," delivered before the Presbyterian Synod at Davidson, is being handled by the newspapers as routine. Perhaps it was. The Governor made no startling pronouncements, expounded no strange philosophy, established no claim to originality. He was echoing a distinguished line of prophets when he said:

Enlightened public sentiment has all but eliminated human slavery from the face of the earth. Slavery is under universal condemnation and is without a defender in all the earth. A program and not merely an attitude is indicated as the contribution the Church and people must make to the eradication of this evil. Nobody so far as we have heard, seemed particularly stirred by the former Governor's remarks. The Synod did not arise and smite him; indeed, it appeared to agree with him. And this is significant, because Mr. Broughton, now out of office, is certainly not out of politics. He is a potential candidate with whom we are long and useful public career still ahead of him.

Racial prejudice is still with us, as real a factor in our lives as the weather; you can look out the nearest window and see it at work. But, even if all past efforts to salvage our second class citizenry have failed, we have still come a long way. Open discussion of the Negro and his difficulties has become respectable and commonplace; a politician can stand right up to church and speak of intolerance and discrimination without endangering his career, or even drawing fire.

And this, as our fellow Confederates to the south and west can tell you, is progress indeed.

One Virtue

The Republican party has fallen on evil days, we know, and a candidate willing and able to buck the Democratic monopoly is hard to find. But some where there must be a better source of Congressional timber than the army's pool of discredited generals, from which California Republicans are now attempting to pluck General George S. Patton.

Old Blood & Guts is technically a resident of Democrat Jerry Voorhis's district, and Leo Anderson, chairman of

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record)

MR. DOUGHTON of North Carolina. The SPEAKER. I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

THE SPEAKER. I give the objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

MR. DOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, some five or six weeks ago I was recalled by members of Congress, a statement was carried in the Washington Post relative to comments made by Dr. Michael M. Miller regarding the personal habits of members of Congress and alleging that Dr. Miller had said too many members of Congress drank excessively.

Immediately following the press release of the story Dr. Miller issued a positive denial to International News Service and all the news services. He also issued a statement in Associated Press; also denying any knowledge of or statements concerning inebriation in the State Department, since obviously he had no reason to make such absurd statements.

The complete refutation was carried in only one of the District newspapers. I have personally taken pains to ascertain that the facts relative to this incident and that Dr. Miller has been done a gross injustice, as well as the Congress, by

California's Republican State Central Committee, and to induce him to toss his polished helmet into the ring. "He'd be a great candidate if we could get him," the Republicans say. "A colorful figure and a very able man."

Well, he'd be a colorful all right, so colorful it might be necessary for the Republicans to arrange stage campaign meetings in order to make the best use of his purple rhetoric. Able? It depends on what the boys have in mind. If they have decided it's going to be necessary to proceed against Washington with a couple of tank columns in order to unseat the Democrats, then George is their man.

Patton is unpredictable at best, and at the moment he is undoubtedly feeling sorry for himself. He might accept the Californians' bid, converting this little comedy into tragedy, becoming the victim of the most cynical political gesture since the Republicans said Ulysses Grant down the river.

There is probably no American now living who has demonstrated more clearly than Patton his usefulness to public office. He couldn't distinguish between a Nazi and a Republican, and he was broken by General Eisenhower because of his complete misunderstanding of even the limited democracy of military government.

George Patton has only one political virtue. He might win. And that, apparently, is enough for the California Republicans.

Postponement

The issue of universal military training has been languishing lately, due, probably, to the failure of the President to take a firm stand and demand Congressional action. But the release of General Marshall's biennial report, containing his recommendation of the year's compulsory training for the able-bodied young, is likely to touch off another footless Congressional debate.

The matter of universal training, unfortunately, can't be considered and settled as a domestic issue. It would involve a brazen violation of the undertaken only with reluctance and under great pressure from the outside. Before we decide whether we're going to raise an annual crop of soldiers, we've got to decide what sort of world we're going to make out of the ruins of World War II.

Universal training is an extremely practical matter. It will serve us, along with the atomic bomb, as a big stick to wave at our allies when we talk boundaries, trade agreements and spheres of influence. And all the evidence so far is that this is going to be a practical peace, which, literally translated, means an armed truce. If we're going to continue along the path we've been following, we will certainly need universal training, and a navy, and an air force, and the atom, and the assistance of God Almighty.

But if we still believe any of the things we said we believed when we called the nations together at San Francisco, then certainly we should postpone consideration of universal training. The army we created for the last war, available even after its members have retired into the woods, would take care of us in a decade. It may be that the mutual suspicion now gnawing away at our Russian relations will abate, that we shall again see the vision of one world. It seems a slender chance, but I should nurture it carefully during the brief time left us before we have to accept General Marshall's judgment that the only way to preserve the peace is to stand ready to fight.

Our Army intelligence now is prepared to expose any impostor claiming to be Hitler. It has the complete report of the head measurements of the original Fuehrer, and how they grew.

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The reporter then asked Dr. Miller what sort of question he had in mind. He stated that in no case did he want to be quoted as having raised these questions about drinking in Congress, to which he replied he had no first-hand information; that it might be fitting to obtain information from various members of Congress regarding the subject.

Dr. Miller states that it is his opinion that a great majority of the members of Congress are strong drinkers and excessive drinkers, and as to whether any of them are indulging in the use of intoxicating liquors he has no personal knowledge and has never thought of making such charges.

UNLIKE the proverbial wise-crack about the first hundred days of matrimony, the first hundred days of any President are the easiest.

Today, Harry Truman began the second half of his first year in the White House and already he has begun to show signs of being a real troublemaker.

Here is the report card on how he has done so far.

POLITICS. Politically, Harry has outdone the "old master." He has steered a medium course between Southern reaction and the civil liberals, kept his fingers on the pulse of the country, striven hard for national unity, and only yesterday he came to please Congress that it's almost become a sin rather than a virtue, however, and the time has just about come when Truman will have to choose between the liberals and the conservatives.

CABINET. Taken man for man, Truman's Cabinet is better than Roosevelt's. Truman believes in delegating responsibility and eliminating too much centralized control. His Cabinet, however, has one administrative weakness. Most of its members served time in Congress; therefore, they had the habit of spending more time shaking hands with visitors than running their departments. Important administrative problems are muffed because the Cabinet chiefs simply don't have time both to talk to people and make decisions.

WHITE HOUSE EFFICIENCY. Truman so far has operated a more efficient Administration than Roosevelt. He likes to decide things quickly, doesn't let them hang fire. Sometimes this gets him into trouble, as in the case of his statement that all Lend-Lease would be forgiven—a pronouncement later publicly reversed by Secretary State Byrnes.

FRIENDS. This may be Harry Truman's Waterloo. He loves convivial friends, but always too careful how he picks them, is intensely loyal, wherever they are. If you served with Harry in the Missouri National Guard or in Battery D, or helped him in the old Pendergast days or in his campaign for Vice-President, he doesn't forget it. Roosevelt put principles before friends. Truman puts friends before principles. One old friend, Edward McKim, a Nebraska insurance man, got him into trouble. Another insurance friend, George Allen, the Mississippi legislator, is likely to get him into more.

YOUNG ROOSEVELTIAN. It hasn't been publicized, but a lot of the tough young lawyers and economists who were the backbone behind Roosevelt's Cabinet are now quietly dropping out. Attorney General Tom Clark has lost some. Secretary of the Treasury Fred Vinson doesn't know yet, but he is scheduled to lose some. These are men who could make big things on the outside, but have worked for almost nothing because their chiefs were fighting a liberal fight they believed in. Now that fighting spirit is on the ebb and they want to get out. Their discouragement is the best harbinger of Truman liberalism.

ARMY-NAVY. As head of the Senate Investigating Committee, Truman got significant insight into the War and Navy Departments. He knew their faults and fail-

ings better than most. But, as President, he has done almost nothing to clean house. This may cause him trouble among several million GIs who know what's what inside the Army and Navy.

GREATEST DANGER. The gradually drifting impasse of our foreign affairs—the fact that this country, having fought a war to end war, will not see its sons squandered into another is the most serious danger flag on Harry Truman's horizon. Otherwise he has done a good job.

Pearl Harbor Whitewash

Up on Capitol Hill, certain souls have discovered that hindsight is better than foresight regarding the appointment of a committee counsel for the Pearl Harbor probe. The man they selected is William D. Mitchell, Attorney General in the Hoover Administration.

But it is now remembered that when Herbert Hoover and General MacArthur massed tanks and cavalrymen to drive 15,000 defenseless Bonus Army veterans out of Washington, Mitchell was called upon to whitewash it—which he did beautifully.

Hoover wanted someone to smooth down the political repercussions of MacArthur's use of tanks against war veterans, so sent his Attorney General out to the American Legion Convention at Portland, Ore. Mitchell gave such a highly distorted picture of the Bonus Army eviction that Washington Police Chief, Gen. Pelham D. Glassford, prepared a document, published nationally, calling attention to Mitchell's gross errors and misrepresentations.

Some Republicans are wondering whether the forthcoming Mitchell Report on Pearl Harbor will be another whitewash.

Capital Chaff

The War Department has just received a letter from the Texas cotton broker, Anderson, Clayton & Co., asking permission to reopen their branch in Osaka, Japan. The War Department, after considering carefully, decided it was a matter for the State Department. So the letter went to the head of the Economic Section of the State Department, who is Will Clayton, senior partner in Anderson, Clayton, Wopler who said his decision will be made by the last minute that the Navy was given the job of taking over strikebound oil plants instead of the Petroleum Administration for War. Originally the PAW was to do the job, but labor leaders protested that the PAW was packed with big oil company executives. So last week Navy officials sent most of one night at PAW officials, changing already prepared telegrams to read "U. S. Navy" instead of "PAW."

Reconversion. President Truman a set of mediation boards for each strike-threatened industry. These boards would investigate how much wages have dropped in each industry and recommend what wages increases are necessary to make up for increased living costs. What Truman will do about reconversion to peacetime production, Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Henry, Assistant Chief of Staff and Gen. Marshall's chief aide at Army personnel, has been nervous making a quick study of the discharge system. War Department brass hats at last have waked up to the rebelliousness of enlisted men over discharge inefficiency, General Henry hopes to speed up. The Army is keeping doctors in Panama despite 103 points and three years' service. Meanwhile the shortage of civilian doctors in the U. S. A. continues.

Somewhere, Somehow, We Got Off The Main Highway



Exercise In Unreality

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK A great, immutable, natural fact: but still it does seem somewhat strange that President Truman should pull out of his pocket during the same press conference in which he denied that our possession of the atomic bomb affects our relations with the Russians. We have been assuring each other agitatedly for two months that the atomic bomb has affected every relation in the world, and now, when the one relation which is happily exempt is the relation between ourselves and Russia, a sensational discovery, almost too good to bear.

Everything else in our world is affected by this splitting of the atom, but not this?

Away From Reality

To hear the President deny that our exclusive possession of the atomic bomb affects our foreign policy, in the same interview in which he raises the trivial matter of language differences to the level of a real problem, again gives one the feeling that the President is, to a certain extent, backing away from reality and from action; he seems inclined to blame whatever happens on fell and cryptic circumstances, and on natural difficulty, and to deny-free will.

The atomic bomb itself (still the same press conference) the President also seemed to have made up his mind to let nature take its course. He pointed out that he never been our custom to give our military secrets away; he reminded us that we have kept the data concerning the great B-29 bombers to ourselves, and he proceeded to have found a precedent, though precedents are not of much use as guides in handling the future. The President is being humble, and casual; he is denying his own importance and powers; he is citing laws, customs, circumstances and precedents, but there is something in the air, a surrender, something like a sigh and a letting-go.

Taste For Natural Laws

But the President seems to have acquired a taste for natural laws, for when, at the same conference, he was asked about the matter of Russia, he replied that differences between ourselves and the Russians were due partly to difference of language, and the difficulty of making something out of it.

That the Russians speak different languages

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"We'll be having important state conventions some of these days, and I'm all rusty on 'Sweet Adeline'."

Atomic Diplomacy

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

IN an interview before leaving London, John Foster Dulles said that the atomic bomb hung over the world like a sword of Damocles. He said that the delegates to the atomic conference would be the first to see the atomic bomb, and that they would be the first to see the atomic bomb.

As George Fielding Eliot has pointed out, defense is not. There is a defense against atomic warfare. On this atomic scientists are all agreed.

We are about to try members of the German General Staff for having planned aggressive war. It is true that for generations the German war colleges have planned to capture the advantage of the initiative. What importance for us to know, is that in the future every general staff of every country will be planning to capture the same thing. It is relations become so strained between nations, that there is a serious possibility of war, sheer survival will demand striking first. There will be a race to see who can become the aggressor — and no generals will be able to avoid being tried afterward as war criminals.

STUPIDOUS BLITZ

The facts about atomic destruction are being passed down. Ten atomic bombs of the one dropped upon Hiroshima and Nagasaki, if properly used, would destroy all human life within an area of from five to ten miles around the city. The material destruction is concerned would finish the city entirely. If we had a plan, we could see the end of this war is that despite radar, a proportion of numbers would be carried by rockets, greatly improved, against which there is no defense. The only one calculate ever on 100 per cent defense. And the bombs used over Japan are as explosive as they are outwitted.

Atomic weapons are not a secret. I have talked with many scientists who worked on ours, and I have not found out anything new. The only pressure of immediate need: it requires either huge amounts of money to produce them. Not one of them is a huge amount of money to produce them. Not one of them is a huge amount of money to produce them. Not one of them is a huge amount of money to produce them.

RUSSIAN MISAPPREHENSION

One must remark incidentally, on apparent Russian misapprehension regarding the powers of an American President. In the British House of Commons, Mr. Bevin said that the Potsdam Agreement, as a hard fact, was the basis of the Russian position. It may be so, because Stalin is a head of State in a sense none of the others are.

The Potsdam Agreement will stand, only as long as American public opinion supports it. Treaties, here, must be ratified by the Senate before they can be binding on the United States. In Britain any Prime Minister can be ousted from one day to another by a Parliamentary vote of no-confidence. Mr. Truman cannot be voted out by Congress, but he can anticipate being re-elected if the policies he has promoted fail. He must win public reactions, and make readjustments of policies, domestic and foreign if they offend in principle or work out badly in practice. This difference between Western and Russian systems of Government makes relations between the two difficult.

COMES THE ATOM

But the atomic bomb has been demonstrated since Potsdam, and makes the deliberations of London and the problems of the Great Powers must face a not of a boundary here, or a "security zone" there. These security zones are nonsense, today. Our leaders need to discuss how mankind can survive on this planet; how it

People's Platform Here We Go Again

By H. E. BRADMAN

Charlotte

The recent dismissal of General Patton from the position of "General of the Armies" is but a detail in the entire set-up of our military and civil attitude in Germany.

Her Hitler once said that if Germany had the war she would be again for a thousand years. He may have been wrong, but he was certainly right in reducing that period to a few months. Witness for example the Army that American soldiers may inter-marry with German girls.

View most pictures showing them in the act of burning human flesh and the fact that they are inter-marrying with Americans the next day and expect them to stay liked, or even to admit that they have been defeated in their century old dream of conquest.

During the last "breather" we gave the Germans they developed the power to make a counter-attack with the panzer method of blitz war. Who knows what they will do with this new breathing apparatus they may be giving to them.

These nice German maidens will help just as their mothers and

can survive, immediately the terrible aftermath of the most terrible of wars, bringing famine, disease, economic breakdown, and every conceivable horror "short of war" and, secondly, how to prevent an atomic "man-made" race, which, if it happens, will certainly result in war and end civilization.

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Quote, Unquote

THERE is no way by which the end of gaseous rationing can be achieved by the use of the new bombs in operation, nor can the danger of excessive or rapid driving be deterred by enlisting Turans, Art. Star.