

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THE PROPOSED GAMBLING TAX

COLUMBIAN Robert C. Ruark, who knows quite a bit about certain sins from personal observation and participation, makes some quite convincing arguments against the proposed gambling tax in today's column on this page.

This tax, as approved by the Senate Finance Committee, would include a ten per cent excise on all bets on sporting events, elections, or other contests made with bookmakers or others who accept wagers for a profit. It would also apply to bets with lottery operators and pool bets on sports events.

"Friendly" card, dice and bingo games are excluded.

Committee Chairman George estimates a potential \$2 billion revenue in the proposed tax. He readily admits, however, that collection of that \$2 billion would be very difficult.

It doesn't make sense to us to have the Government pass a bunch of laws intended to decrease crime (the announced and, we believe, sincere goal of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee), then turn around

and, as Senator Kefauver argued before the Committee, give an aura of legality to enterprises which the government ought to be trying to shut down.

By fully pursuing the recommendations of the Crime Investigating Committee the Congress, can obtain a comparable amount of revenue, and help weaken, rather than support crime. Senator Kefauver estimated that income tax evasion by gamblers runs into "hundreds of millions." A frequent "book-keeping" entry uncovered by the Crime Committee was the listing of pay-offs to officials under "business expenses."

The proposed gambling tax would encourage more pay-offs to officials, and give the gambler more respectability, which would permit him to widen his circle of clients and become increasingly more respectable. We believe the Congress would be better advised to vigorously support the internal revenue fraud squads suggested by the Crime Committee, and thus collect the needed revenue.

Some of the reasons for reluctance which Congressmen don't mention favor the use of this new media. Few would want their constituents to see a Senator in the dollar value in progress, with only a handful of legislators on the floor. Now would they consider phoning a row of bowed bald heads of doing so during a debate. Then, too, enterprising photographers might catch Senator Blank emerging from his Cadillac at the Senate entrance, thus shattering the old myth that his only car is that beat-up pre-war Chevy he drives back home.

Senator Benton, despite his objection to television, has been a staunch advocate of indoor sports entertainment and the use of TV for education. Our Congress at work, in the living room, should be educational. Very educational.

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MORE NAMES, PLEASE

PRESIDENT TRUMAN, former President Hoover and General MacArthur all have one thing in common, observes AP Feature Writer James Marlow. He collected recent speeches of these men and noted that "not one of them used a name . . . they resorted to general charges and broad generalizations."

Mr. Hoover berated the "intellectual dishonesty in public life" characterized by "corrupt propaganda." President Truman lashed out at "landmarksmen." General MacArthur chose to lambaste the postwar "political and military leaders."

Interpretation was left to the pundits. Not many quibbled with the point that there is some "intellectual dishonesty," and each was kind of room to pounce upon his favorite bureaucratic whipping boy. It was generally assumed that the President referred to McCarthy—some included McCarran, and those two gentlemen probably returned the compliment.

The most complete development of the

YOU MAY BE THE UNLUCKY ONE

ALONG about Christmas time, one of us is going to have a unique distinction—being the only man to have the millionth American traffic fatality.

Our battle died in Korea now number about 14,000. But since the Korean War began, over three times as many Americans—44,000—have died in automobile accidents.

The Association of Casualty & Surety Companies reports that, over the Labor Day weekend, some unknown G. I. became the millionth U. S. serviceman to die since the

first Minute Man fell at Lexington in 1775. But, under the fact that automobile didn't exist, the highway toll will probably pass military deaths this Winter.

Think over those grisly statistics. Crossroads can be as dangerous as cross fire. A ton and a half of steel hurtling along a highway can deal more death than some big shot.

Slow down—look around—think.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

FIFTEEN WORDS INCLUDING LOVE

WESTERN UNION'S scrapping of the minimum ten-word telegram, in favor of the high-priced fifteen-word telegram, puts it squarely up to telegram senders. What are they going to use those five new words for—information or affection?

Of course, the ten-word telegram has been divided as follows:

For information, nine words.

For affection, one word.

It resulted in something on the order of: ARRIVED SAFELY PLEASE SEND TOP COAT IT IS IN HALL CLOSET WEATHER TURNED CHILLY HERE LOVE

The question now squarely before Western Union's customers is whether, in the future, they are going to have more to say about the topcoat or more to say about love.

There would be more to say about the topcoat if you were to send a phrase to the telegram sending forth where the coat is to be found. Thus: ARRIVED SAFELY PLEASE SEND TOP COAT IT IS IN HALL CLOSET WEATHER TURNED CHILLY HERE LOVE

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ONE MAKES 50 GRAND

The lady lobbyist doesn't make much money—unless she happens to be a big-time public relations consultant like Leone Baxter. Whataker who being paid \$50,000 this year to lobby for the American Medical Association. Most of the others work for nothing or for a nominal salary of \$300 to \$500 monthly.

The women agree that lobbying is hard but fascinating work. "It's no nine-to-five job," Mrs. Gunther said, "but it's stimulating, and you learn a lot about our Government that you couldn't learn any other way."

Apparently lobbying is not one of the careers young girls seek. Most of the 35 lobbyists joined an organization they were interested in, but they were not interested in legislative work. They're a bit surprised to find themselves legally representing so many groups.

SOME LOBBY AS A HOBBY
Mrs. Hing Co. Houghton, for instance, is president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and is a lobbyist, but she doesn't consider herself to be a professional lobbyist. Lobbying is only "incidental" to her organization, she said.

Mrs. Ethel G. Brown, chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislation, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, feels the same way, as does

first Minute Man fell at Lexington in 1775. But, under the fact that automobile didn't exist, the highway toll will probably pass military deaths this Winter.

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'How Long Have You Been With Us Now, Mr. Gromyko?'



WASHINGTON Awaits You, Girls

Ladies Can Lobby; Many Do

By Congressional Quarterly

THE "wine, women and song" brand of lobbying is not effective, according to one of Washington's active lady lobbyists.

"That's why we stick to facts and ideas when we set out to influence legislation," she said.

Blasting the myth of the glamor-girl lobbyist was Capitol Hill veteran Violet M. Gunther, a registered lobbyist for Americans for Democratic Action.

Mildred Scott, a lobbyist for the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, agreed. They were two of the 35 women found by Congressional Quarterly survey to be reporting under the Federal Lobby Act. More than 2,000 persons, in all, now are registered lobbyists.

"I don't have the time to waste nor the money to spend on social lobbying," Miss Scott said. "The only way we can win real support is by being able to show him the facts. Being a woman doesn't make much difference. A doubting Congressman can say 'no' just as easily to a woman as to a man."

Most of the women are simply hard-working spokesmen for a cause they like. Glamour merchants seem to be out of this legislative season.

The typical woman lobbyist is an officer in some national educational or welfare organization. She may be a lawyer. Probably she's an experienced professional woman.

But she's vitally interested in a particular cause and wants to see proper legislation in her field of interest. Frequently she claims she's really not a lobbyist, but registers with the Clerk of the House of Representatives just to avoid possible legal complications.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

I HAVE come back from Europe with a new feeling of hope . . . more hope than I had on any previous trip to Europe.

The United States, in my opinion, is definitely winning the cold war. Furthermore, time is running on our side. If it runs long enough, I believe, it may still be possible to accomplish the miracle and bring about permanent peace.

This may seem like a strange statement coming from a hard-boiled and sometimes cynical newspaperman. However, I am convinced it is accurate. Like most newspapermen, I sometimes get so close to problems that I can't see the trees for the leaves. This is likewise true of governments and of the people. We read the pessimistic headlines and we conclude that the world is in a helluva state.

To some extent, of course, it still is. But success does not mean headlines while tragedies do. When the train gets in on time you never read about it in the paper. If it's wrecked, on the other hand, it's all over the front page. A wreck is tragedy, and that's news. But while we have been reading about the diplomatic train wrecks in Europe, actually most of our trains have been coming in on time and the American people by the policies and their patience have built up a tremendous success story.

Three big things are happening today in Europe and in the world.

1. Eisenhower has accomplished miracles in welding a united Europe.

2. Time—which is on our side—has given us a chance to make tremendous progress in perfecting new weapons.

Gambling Tax Would Dignify Law-Breakers, Ruin Reform

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK
HEAR TELL THE Senate Finance Committee has approved the idea of a ten per cent excise on some illegal businesses, like making horse book and running lotteries, plus an "equivalent" tax of five per cent on lawbreakers and their associates.

Come, coddle in father's lap, gentlemen of the Senate, whilst he wises you on a couple of facts of life. All this would do is officially legalize gambling from a Federal standpoint, giving the lawbreakers and official crooks their first real dignity, while removing them from the clutches of the local enforcers. All the effort of crime and its impact on government would be wasted overnight.

Last time I looked they were slapping a tax on bootleggers in Mississippi, in which drinking is strictly against the law. There was there, Mississippi was about the widest-open drinking-gambling state available, with the cold coast roaring. The crooked cops and crooked sheriffs were happily complying with the law, and the ardent drys to keep it just like that. Everybody was happy, including bootleggers and lawbreakers, finding heavy revenue in illegal activity. And the citizens got just as sweetly loaded at open bars as if it weren't strictly against the law.

Louisiana was a sink of governmental corruption when the law was legal down there. The gamblers owned the government, local, state and federal, and sure as hell Nevada is no gift to city cleanliness today.

ITS MAMA, NOT MORALS
Mind you, I am no moralizer about the evils of gambling. I quit the horses long ago, and I'm not trying to stamp out the evil. I'm just feeling the impact of my love in the vicinity of the Merrin Plan. I still love crap shooting, but I never, and would shoot them out of my mouth more often if I could afford it and Mama would let me out nights. You will never be able to reform man's urge to violate cer-

tain restrictions on his personal liberty. Long as people are people they will gamble and generally ruin themselves.

But you get nowhere in the general improvement of public morals by making the army of the transgressor easier. When you cloak man's inclination to gamble with state approval, you debauch the state and make it easier for the parasite to take into the control of public officials. It becomes a co-conspirator with his own government.

I have known considerable losers in my time in this business, and I never knew a gambler or a crook who has status in his country. He has status in his country's law books, but even semi-legalization of gambling was his heart's best hope. That he has status is in that way one more technicality which might trip him; it removed; that way he has open access to the law. Some of his country's laws he just branches out, gets bigger, and shows more tentacles into the workings of his land.

In my book the repeal of Prohibition was good for the country, but it was removed the crook from a big piece of the legal business. Breweries and distilleries, breweries and distilleries, beverages are still administered by the old mob, and bootlegging today is bigger and better than ever.

FEDS WOULD BUMP HEADS
Worse even than a complete legalization of gambling is this contemplated half-measure that would semi-legalize the gambling racket, keep by making his illegal earnings subject to legal taxation. Now the Government owns a piece of the game, and tacitly interjects in its perpetuation. At the same time, while Government agencies are trying to stamp out the evil, another fleet of Federal employees is scuttling about trying to make a score on a tax take. Somebody has to get fixed real good in the process, and the legal taxpayer continues to pay for both ends of the operation, while remaining in the middle.

83 Million Japanese Still Face Problem Of Population

By MARQUIS CHILDS

SAN FRANCISCO
NOW THAT the captains and the kings have departed, the facts of life remain unaltered. About peace formally concluded they present a formidable challenge for the future.

In many respects the treaty is a triumph. The United States has been primarily responsible for the peace, and the Japanese themselves have dared to hope for, even on three years ago. This was possible because of the foundation laid down by General Douglas MacArthur in his administration of the Japanese empire.

Thus a strong link has been forged with the nation that, despite the crushing defeat of six years ago, remains the most powerful country in the Far East from the viewpoint of world power.

Recent United Nations reports show the remarkable extent to which Japan has recovered. But the same report also makes clear that this recovery cannot be sustained unless Japan turns to sources of raw materials. The two billion dollars America put into Japan in the occupation years had not a little to do with bringing about the recovery.

The most important factor, however, was the industriousness, the energy, the patient ingenuity of the Japanese people. They went back to work with the real and the singleness of heart that has both fascinated and troubled visitors to the Orient for many years.

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Even the birthrate, an important single fact in the balance that will determine peace or war for the future, is a factor. The birthrate in Japan is the highest in the world—about thirty million of them. And the birthrate—eight million, six hundred thousand—has been the explosive force of atomic energy.

In a long talk with Gov. Earl Warren this reporter got an interesting perspective on Japan and its future. Warren returned from

usually ahead of their Government, sent Western Europe a token of encouragement through the Friendship Press.

That was the Winter of 1947. But this year it is so different!

I had walked through the dismal, drizzly, darkened streets of London and Paris in 1947 remembering the surge and tumult of other years, wondering whether the old energy could ever return, whether the people would ever smile.

Well, the old energy, the zest for living has returned. Western Europe is smiling again; not only smiling, but increasingly ready to defend itself. Time is running on our side.

Plenty Of Mistakes

THIS and that represents not mean that we have not made mistakes, or that the job is finished. We have made plenty of mistakes, and the two most important are:

1. We have failed to sell Europe on a United States of Europe. Here at home we have shown how 48 different states can apply the principle of federalization and live together in peace and unity. But this year in Europe we have failed completely to put this across. And this is the only long-term solution for Europe's economy.

2. We have failed to sell Europe on the principle of economic opportunity. The old economic class system still prevails in Europe; and until workers have a chance to help themselves economically, they will continue to hold some adherents to its phony philosophy.

A Bleak Christmas

FOUR years ago I spent Christmas in France and New Year's in Italy. It was the most depressing holiday season of my entire life. Paris was dark, the street lights barely flickering, candles were used part time in the hotels; there was almost no heat, food was scarce, and winter was here with the routine of living miserably because they had become accustomed to the half of living.

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