

CROSS TOWN
By Roland Coe

BOBBY SOX
By Marty Links

"I can only stay for a minute—unless you have a secret you're not supposed to tell me, too!"

GRASSROOTS
by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON
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SUBSIDY PAYMENT MUST BE PAID BY TAXPAYERS
THOSE OF US who are not on the receiving end, and most of us are in that class, may feel the payment of subsidies by the federal government does not concern us. But each individual of us is concerned. We do the paying.

The subsidy payments anyone may receive comes out of our pockets. The taxes, direct and indirect, that we pay is the government's only source of revenue. For each million dollars in subsidies paid by the federal government, there must be a million dollars in taxes collected from us regardless of who receives the subsidy payments.

An effort was made to pay the producers of lumber a subsidy, both to make meeting the cost of production possible, and to hold the price of lumber for the consumer down to the OPA ceiling.

With such a subsidy in effect Jones finds it possible to build that new home he wants. He can get the lumber, and he can get it at that reasonable OPA ceiling price.

A neighbor, Brown, lives in a rented house. He, too, would like to build, but cannot finance such a project. Brown, both directly and indirectly, pays taxes to the federal government. Some portion of the taxes collected from him is used to pay the subsidy on the lumber used in the Jones home. Brown may feel that he has no interest in the subject of government paid subsidies, but he has. It is through such a system that he pays a part of the construction cost of the Jones home.

Both the lumber mill owner and Jones would be on the receiving end of a subsidy on lumber. To the mill owner it would make no difference whether his cost of production came from a government subsidy, or from an increased price to Jones for the lumber he needs. To Jones a subsidy meant not only the opportunity to secure the desired lumber, but to secure it at a lower price. Jones profited, the mill owner did not lose, but how about Brown? If he stops to think about his place in the subsidy racket, he will not approve.

In the operation of the various subsidies congress, or the executive department, have foisted upon us, most of us are Browns. We pay but do not receive. Wonder if President Truman thought of that when he urged a subsidy on lumber, or possibly he wanted to build a house. A majority of the members of the house of representatives were Browns.

The Home Town Reporter
in WASHINGTON
By Walter Sheard
WNU Correspondent
WNU Washington Bureau
1515 Eye St., N. W.

Adjournment of Congress Will Give Breathing Spell

WITH the Easter recess out of the way, as things are shaping up now, congress may adjourn about August 1 to give its members a chance to build their political fences for the November elections. All representatives and a third of the senators must face the voters this fall.

It may be a good thing, for with congress in recess until after the first of the year, the nation can get down to work for real production without the disturbing influences of proposed legislation in the immediate offing.

Furthermore, everything congress has tackled this year has been approached from the political angle. The members have been loath to take a stand on any controversial subject which might change a vote one way or another. As a result, the administration program has been hamstrung . . . continuation of social reforms has been delayed and domestic legislation has been pigeonholed, made innocuous or just held in committees without action.

Between now and August 1 important things may be expected to happen. President Truman's popularity, at bottom as he finished his first year in office, will be on the upgrade from now on. Increased production of consumer goods, holding the line on inflation, relaxing of price controls from time to time as scarcity of goods eases, continued heavy demand for farm products at good prices, and a generally satisfying foreign policy, all will tend to make for greater good feeling toward the President. The low point was reached during the senate hearing on the Pauley nomination.

Portlight
by GRANTLAND RICE

THE present year may not be the golden age of sport as far as outstanding ability goes. I can see little chance that it will produce masterpieces even close to Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Bobby Jones, Tommy Hitchcock, Rogers Hornsby, Bill Tilden, Red Grange and Man o' War. Not to overlook Earl Sande.

But the year on ahead will outclass the postwar period of the first world conflict when it comes to the matter of attendance and the actual amount of gold or its equivalent taken in at the turnstiles.

This 1946 season will make all other past years look like the tag end of a depression so far as crowds and cash are concerned. The recent basketball season flattened all past attendance records. We have had over 50,000 people clamoring to pay \$20 a seat for a non-title fight, meaning Graziano and Servo.

California and Florida race tracks have left the past far behind in this same respect. Two Alabama football squads, made up from Alabama players, recently fought it out before 25,000 spectators in Birmingham. Racing at Jamaica has already taken long leaps beyond last year's earlier marks.

The super-brilliant stars who followed the last world war may be missing, but there are still enough good ones to keep the human mass rolling in the general direction of the next show, whatever game it might happen to be.

NANCY
By Ernie Bushmiller

HE PLAYED HIS FIFE AND THE MICE FOLLOWED HIM

I WONDER IF IT'LL WORK

HELP!

SEND FOR JOE THE EXTERMINATOR 251 BLINK ST.

MUTT AND JEFF
By Bud Fisher

MUTT, HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO MAKE A LIVING? I NEVER SEE YOU DOIN' ANYTHING!

I'M A THINKER!

A THINKER! I DON'T GET PAID FOR DOIN' THINGS I GET PAID FOR WHAT I KNOW!

WHAT?

THEN YOU DON'T GET PAID VERY MUCH DO YOU?

I GET PAID FOR USING MY HEAD TO THINK!

YEH THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS WEAR GLOVES ON MY HANDS!

GLOVES?—WHAT'S GLOVES GOT TO DO WITH IT?

WELL, YOU SEE I USE MY HEAD TO THINK WITH TOO!

—AND IF I DIDN'T WEAR GLOVES MY BEAN WOULD BE ALL SCRATCHED UP!

LITTLE REGGIE
By Margarita

BEEN HEARING WILD DUCKS AROUND THE YARD ALL DAY. BY GOLLY, I'M GOING OUT AND BAG A FEW!

HONK HONK

THAT'S FUNNY—I DON'T SEE ANY!

HONK HONK

WELL, I'LL JUST HIDE BEHIND THIS BUSH AND SOONER OR LATER THE DUCKS WILL SHOW THEMSELVES!

HONK HONK

JITTER
By Arthur Pointer

IDEA

REG'LAR FELLERS
By Gene Byrnes

DOGGONE IT! HE GOT AWAY!

TOUGH LUCK PINHEAD!

YUK!

HE WAS A BEAUTY TOO— HE MUSTA BEEN FIFTEEN INCHES LONG!

WAWWAH GIVIN' US?

AW GIMM!

THERE AINT A FISH IN TH' POND PROPER TEN INCHES LONG!

HE PROBERLY HAD A LIL TWO INCH MINNOW!

I TELL YA HE WAS 15 INCHES!

THE LITTLE GUY'S RIGHT, BOYS— I'M EXACTLY 14 1/2 INCHES LONG!

THERE!

VIRGIL
By Len Kleis

WE'D LIKE TO BORROW A CUP OF VINEGAR

YOU'RE TH' NEW KID IN TH' NEIGHBORHOOD—AREN'T YOU?

I THINK I CAN LICK YOU—

YOU DO?

THANKS FOR TH' VINEGAR, CHUM

THINK NOTHIN' OF IT, OL' PAL—OL' PAL

SILENT SAM
By Jeff Hayes

INFLATION COSTS HAVE MOUNTED STEADILY
THE INTRICACIES of economic and the higher mathematics needed to follow economic trends, are beyond my depth. I can, however, read and understand such facts as those presented by O. J. Arnold, president of Northwestern National Life Insurance company at Minneapolis. From that statement I get the information that during the five years, 1940 to 1945, the inflationary price has cost American families, as an average, \$2,630. To that will be added for 1946 another \$830.

The basis of the inflation that has been so expensive is too much circulating currency and credit. The cause for such a condition is largely the 66,300 million dollars of federal borrowings from the banks. The banks turned much of that credit into circulating currency, and from it we have inflation. From that inflation we have labor troubles, higher wages, again higher prices and more inflation. It is all a vicious circle which the government is supposed to control, but has not entirely succeeded.

THE FARMER would prefer to receive all of the price of his product directly rather than have a portion of it come to him indirectly in the form of a subsidy. In either case, the consumer pays, but the subsidy is covered up, and all consumers do not realize they are paying it. All subsidies must come from the pockets of the taxpayers, and we are all taxpayers. Political honesty would permit the direct price raise, and cut out the subsidies. The farmer would prefer it that way.

NO MATTER WHAT it may be called, the English-speaking people do stick together. Blood is thicker than water, though we may fight among ourselves.

SOME YEARS AGO, A wealthy citizen of Omaha, whose hobby had been raising orchids, offered his collection to the city. He did not combine with that a fund for maintaining the collection. The city fathers considered the cost of up-keep and said "no." We need some of that same careful consideration of up-keep at Washington. It is easy to establish new bureaus, but expensive to keep them going.

INDEPENDENCE does not now so strongly appeal to the Filipinos.

Little Drastic Legislation
Congress will extend the draft with curtailments on age limits, no fathers, increased pay and shorter service; the veterans housing bill may become law, with some subsidy included, and price ceilings on new homes, probably not on existing homes; the President's peacetime military training bill likely will not be enacted this year. There is every likelihood, despite the President's demand and his castigation of navy lobbying, that the army-navy merger will not be voted, at least until after congress reconvenes. In spite of opposition of the farm organizations, food subsidies may be extended until January 1st; OPA may be continued but with great trimming of its power. The Pace bill making farm labor a part of the parity price likely will not get through the senate although it has been passed twice by the house. The minimum wage bill, meaningless in its present form with the Russell parity amendment, will be vetoed, as announced by the President.

Another fair employment practices bill, beaten in the senate by a southern filibuster, likely will come up in the house but will not get far. Amendments to the social security laws may not be considered and neither will various health measures, such as a compulsory tax for doctors and hospital bills. There may be some additional appropriations for public health and hospitals in federal grants to be matched by the states. The fifty million dollar school lunch bill passed by the house likely will be upped in the senate to provide more money, up to a hundred million.

The power lobby has effectively bottled up the various regional authority bills for the Missouri valley, the Columbia river valley and others, and in all probability there will be no vote on any of these measures this year.

Will Approve British Loan
Our guess is that the British loan will be given congressional approval after some of the opposition congressmen get their spleen on the question out of their systems.

And there's another important measure, one which the President has several times pointed to, and that's the matter of Presidential succession. President Truman is planning a trip to the Philippines on July 4 . . . he is planning other forays about the country, but he appears to be a healthy individual, so the congress will probably let action on this legislation slide also, in spite of the uncertainty which now exists over legal succession to the Presidency.

There is a rash of labor reform bills and some in mild form stand some chance of passage. But most assuredly there will be no drastic anti-labor legislation before the elections in November. That would indeed be fool-hardy from a political standpoint.

In the meantime there are rumors around Washington that Sec. Clinton Anderson will resign his job as head of USDA. From all the information, however, that your Home Town Reporter can obtain, the secretary will not resign, although he probably does feel like it.

Only Warming Up
But these matters are only in the warm-up division. The real harvest from the golden crop is still on beyond us.

Baseball expects to shatter all past crowd records by a wide margin. The Yankees hope to play before something approximating two million at home. The Dodgers would be right alongside if there was only enough parking room for the human frame. The Giants won't be far away if their ball club holds up.

The 450 million dollar bet at New York tracks last season is likely to reach or pass 550 million dollars this year. We have seen crowded Derby and Preakness years before, but nothing to what this next May will offer in these two better than 100 thousand dollar tests. The Yankee stadium hasn't the attendance space to equal the crowds that saw the two Tunney - Dempsey shows, but the Louis-Conn meeting will outdraw both financially in the way of extra carloads of cash. They are already talking about Graziano being involved in a million dollar gate and the rock-fisted entry hasn't even a title.

The United States Golf association is dead sure that the open at Canterbury, Cleveland, in June and the amateur at Baltusrol in September will run up far higher figures than either has ever drawn in the past. The crowds who want to see a contest have already far outgrown the limited spaces through spring and summer and fall.

On a recent tour of the southeast we were often asked how long the money would hold out. Apparently it is going to hold out for at least another year. No one can say yet in just what fighting shape either Louis or Conn will be, but the rush to contribute at least three million dollars is still under way with the contest coming late in June.

Apparently it isn't the entry list but the game that is drawing them out. As far as one can see neither the Derby nor the Preakness nor the Belmont has any Count Fleet or any Whirlaway or Alsab running. No outstanding star has yet shown for these events, but this won't affect the size of the populace on hand.

Baseball comes nearer approaching the first golden age in playing class. For baseball still has the Cardinals, DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Bob Feller and many others with a high standard of excellence, including Newhouser and Wakefield of the Tigers.

Some one recently asked how large the crowds would be if Ruth, Dempsey, Jones, Tilden, Hornsby, were back in their prime. The answer is they couldn't be any larger for the simple reason there isn't any more room. Today they'll rush to see anything at any price. Apparently everything is worth \$50—except \$50.

Genius in Sports
What is this "know-how," this genius or instinct for superlative play in sport? Ty Cobb's father was a Georgia judge who had no particular interest in any game. Ty Cobb's children had no interest in baseball. Yet Bill Tilden once told me that young Ty Cobb might have been a tennis champion.

Old man DiMaggio never had the slightest idea of what baseball meant. Yet he produced Joe, Dom and Vince DiMaggio.