

Looking at WASHINGTON

Budget Balancing Means Cutting Army-Navy Funds

In connection with the general belief that governmental expenditures can be reduced, it might be well to call attention to the fact that the budget for the national government is 41.5 billion dollars for the present fiscal year. This in connection with the suggestion that, when the country returns to a peacetime basis, the government can get along with between 18 billion and 25 billion dollars.

In considering the present cost of the government, it is well to take note of several items. Debt service has risen from 941 million dollars in 1939 to about five billion veterans' pensions and benefits have increased from 557 millions in 1939 to more than six billions. These two items require more than 11 billion dollars and the prospect, if we judge from the speeches of those who lead veterans' organizations, is that they will increase.

The next major category in the expenditures of the government is associated with our present policy in world affairs. These amount to 18.5 billion dollars and compare with 1.2 billion dollars in 1939. The larger figure included expenditures of the War and Navy Departments, which amount to 13.2 billion dollars.

In connection with the drive for economy, we can look to what happened after the first World War. In 1917, the budget was 1.9 billion dollars and by 1922, the figure was 3.1 billion.

There was drastic reduction of War and Navy expenditures following the Disarmament Conference under President Harding in 1921. Most of the economy came from reducing expenditures of these two departments to 540 million, which was actually 40 per cent less than the 1.9 billion dollars spent in the past pre-war year before World War I.

This makes it plain, we believe, that if there is any substantial economy in connection with Federal expenditures, the reduction will come in sums allocated for defense. We do not believe that it will be necessary to maintain defense expenditures as high as 13.2 billion dollars, but we suspect that it will not be wise, in the present state of world affairs, to repeat the mistakes of 1922. The economy gained between that year and 1939 grew to be, in the light of

events, a costly and disastrous saving.

Maneuvers In Arctic Discussed In Russia

The military experiments of the United States and Canada in the Arctic area are being used by Russian newspapers to build up suspicions that they are designed to develop offensive strategy.

The newspaper Red Star, organ of the Ministry of Armed Forces in Russia, bluntly accuses the Anglo-Canadians of establishing Arctic bases for offensive operations. The newspaper points out that with bases in Greenland and Iceland, the Americans have their eyes on the Scandinavian Peninsula, where they desire a foothold for strategic and economic reasons.

The Russians are told that militarists and monopolists in the United States are directing our foreign policy and that the same is true of Great Britain. These "monopoly circles" are interested in capturing world markets and, at the same time, assure an Anglo-Saxon victory in "future war."

We call attention to these views in order for the people of this country to know that suspicions are being circulated in foreign countries. The Russians, who have conducted experiments in the Arctic seas for some years, are being told that military training in Arctic warfare is directed at the Soviet Union.

Declares Depression Is Not Inevitable

The American people are cautioned against talking themselves into a recession by John D. Small, Civilian Production chief, who declares that a decline "is not inevitable," if labor and management use common sense, reasonableness and restraint.

The production official thinks that the talk of a depression is creating fear which may persuade people to cut down, retrench and postpone their plans and thus cause the recession that might, otherwise, pass us by.

Mr. Small reports that production continued high during September, but sees no hopes of further increases during 1946. Steel production is stabilized at 90 per cent of capacity, thus setting a limit to the output of machinery and equipment. Moreover, in some industrial areas shortages of man-power and materials prevent increased production.

Business leaders are warned not to "price" themselves out of the mar-

ket. Mr. Small says that when controls are lifted, the public will stop buying if prices rise sharply. He seems to be somewhat optimistic about the future. "If things continue as well as they are today," he asks, "why should there be a depression?"

Filipino Ferment Seems Anti-U. S.

"No American enjoys seeing his country's gifts repaid with slurs and insults in a press that owes its very existence to the Americans," declares an unnamed, high-ranking U. S. Army officer in the Philippines.

The officer was commenting upon the complaints that had come from Philippine officials as to the behavior of American soldiers. While admitting the urgent need for corrective measures, he suggested that the Filipinos examine their own records and asserted that they would find "widespread thievery" which cost individual soldiers millions. He also alleges that friendliness is taken as an invitation to insolence, that recreation means a likelihood of theft and that the American soldiers are overcharged.

The presence of alien soldiers in a free country is, as General MacArthur declares, "a delicate hazard" to be solved by self-restraint, good will and a mutual realization of advantages to be gained by both sides. Apparently, the Filipinos, now relieved of the pressure of Japanese aggression, are ready to take over their country without much consideration of the debt they owe the United States for the freedom they enjoy.

It is interesting to note that, despite the complaints, the officials of the Republic want American money for the rehabilitation of their islands and that they insist upon economic concessions which work to the advantage of their people. It is only fair for the United States to insist upon what it wants, including reasonable bases for future operations. If the Filipinos are against granting us the bases and wish to live on their own, then the next best thing for the United States to do is to let them go it alone.

Says U. S. Will Hold Key Pacific Islands

The United States served notice on the world last January that it would seek exclusive control of Pacific Island bases which might be regarded as essential for the security of this country.

That this is a reasonable requirement needs no further support than the campaign that the Navy had to wage to win bases inside the circle of Japanese aggression in the Pacific. Having conquered the islands at the cost of considerable blood and money, it would be foolish for this country to risk that the job might have to be repeated.

Just why President Truman reiterated this position recently is not explained but there seems to have been no particular reason except in answer to a reporter's question. There has been no official list of the islands regarded as essential, but the Navy has recommended a list, including Tinian, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

What Will Congress Do About The 49th State?

The people of Alaska recently voted two-to-one in favor of Statehood and their non-voting delegate in Congress will launch a drive to have the territory admitted as the forty-ninth State.

While the people of Alaska seem to desire Statehood at the present

A Timely Reminder
"Father," said young William, I have decided to become a detective. Right now I'm practicing the art of detection. Let me give you an example. In our back yard there is a large pile of ashes. By deduction that is evidence that we've had fires going all winter."
"Very good," rejoined father. "Suppose you go out and sift the evidence."

time, largely because of a campaign waged by the Alaskan Statehood Association, there is no practical way of telling just exactly how the people in the United States feel about the issue. It will be decided by Congressmen, representing the forty-eight States, which make up a contiguous group of so-called sovereign states.

The problem goes farther than Alaska, because if statehood is granted to one territory, not adjacent to any existing State and separated by water and distance, the issue will arise in other territories, particularly in Hawaii.

Tito's Queer Idea About Hostile Acts

Marshal Tito, of Yugoslavia, says there will be no war "because the people of the world don't want war." It would have been better if Marshal Tito, in the interest of world peace, had renounced the use of force in

connection with disputes about Trieste.

The Yugoslavian dictator said that the impounding of boats on the Upper Danube by U. S. authorities was an inimical action and described as another hostile act the effort of "reactionaries" to stop UNRRA assistance to Yugoslavia.

While there may be room for ar-

gument about the seizure of boats on the Upper Danube, we find it difficult to understand why it would be "hostile" to stop UNRRA relief supplies to Yugoslavia. After all, the supplies are not a matter of right, but represent the generosity of an international organization, seventy per cent of its funds being American money.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh



Friendship—Three Thousand Miles Apart

Ever play chess? It's a great game! One of the strongest friendships I know of started with a game of chess—between Dad Hoskins, in our town, and a man named Dalton Barnes, in England.

They've never seen each other, never met. But for the past eight years they've been playing chess by mail together—Dad puzzling over Dalton's latest letter, while he sends a chart of his next move to England.

Dad always thinks best with a mellow glass of beer beside his

chessboard. And the Englishman writes him that he does the same. "You know, it's almost as if we shared a glass of beer together, too!" says Dad contentedly.

From where I sit, you can talk about diplomacy and foreign policy, but it's often those little things—like a game of chess or a glass of beer—that can make for tolerance and understanding... between people of all nations... between neighbors here at home!

Joe Marsh
Adj.

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