

Reporter Asks FDR To Be More Humane With Press

By HELEN ESSERY
Central Press Columnist

Washington, Nov. 11.—A Personal Letter to the President of the United States.

My Dear Mr. President:

There's a little something I want to say to you about your news conference. You've probably seen the mention in the papers and the radio.

Don't you think you could make these a little more pleasant than they are now? Many times the news conference held at the White House by the President is an ordeal for the reporters. I could not say it is pleasant, you know, but it is a part of the job that I must do. I've never before, in my life, had so many questions asked of me as I have at these news conferences. I've never before had so many reporters crowded around me. I've never before had so many questions asked of me. I've never before had so many reporters crowded around me.

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Sales Tax Purchase Of Bonds Suggested

By Central Press

Washington, Nov. 11.—A new idea for financing the war effort is being advanced by Curtis C. Snyder, representing Republic Steel.

Briefly, the plan is to tax all retail articles at the time of sale. The purchaser is given a receipt in the form of a stamp for the amount of the tax paid. These stamps are accumulated in the manner of War Savings Stamps until a value of \$25 or \$50 is attained.

These stamps become exchangeable for a low-interest rate, non-transferable, non-cumulative investment bond; this bond to be redeemable not less than one year after the end of the war.

The annual retail business in this country is \$60 billion dollars. Snyder calculated that the plan would place a 50 per cent sales tax on all retail items, with a few exceptions. The funds, bonds and certificates, approximately nine billion dollars could be raised.

Rep. Knutson (R-Minn.) said he would introduce the plan if it could be made workable. At the time, Rep. Knutson said, it might check the cotton and wool industries.

The United States, now has the largest Navy of all time. But more than 500,000 men are doing the work of only 100,000 men.

These young officers contend that the Navy should lighten its load with a little imagination and release as much news as possible in order to give the men of the fleet the credit due them, and to glorify the part they are playing in winning the war.

Instead, the Navy, which seems to prefer much more to tradition than to reality, insists on keeping its mouth shut, while the Army, and especially the Army Air Corps, continues to pour out the information as fast as they are able to write the war.

Admiral Harold J. King, commander in chief of the fleet, has been accused for the lack of imagination and initiative that is the cause of the Navy's present state.

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Wilmington's USO Busiest in State; 97,000 Per Month

Wilmington, Nov. 11.—Wilmington's largest USO club, at Second and Orange streets, lays claim to being the busiest USO operation in North Carolina. Located in a building owned by the Postal Government, the club's attendance is now running at over 97,000 service men each month.

To handle such a large number of people, the club's professional staff headed by Dr. Terry Ostberry, has enlisted the assistance of many Wilmington citizens as USO volunteers. These volunteers serve as hostesses, janitors, and junior hostesses.

North Carolina now has a total of 86 USO operations, all of which are financed by money raised through the National War Fund, of which the North Carolina State War Fund is a member. USO operations in North Carolina include 52 clubs, 13 theatres and clubs, a mobile unit, and 18 community clubs which are operated and financed by the community.

The figure of 97,000 monthly members in the Wilmington USO, first reported by the Wilmington Post, is being reported by the USO in Wilmington.

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Mushroom growers, thus may be forced out of business. The price on the fertilizer has almost doubled in recent months, and they say they cannot continue to pay these costs and make any profit.

WPB doesn't have an inkling yet as to whether it will still be around during the post-war period, but a lot of its top officials are giving considerable thought to the problems of shifting from war to peace.

One of the toughest riddles to be answered is what to do with the tremendous production of metals that has been achieved as a result of the war. Steel output is at a record high of 90,000,000 tons annually; aluminum, 2,000,000,000 pounds a year, and so on.

At least one WPB executive is bent on working out some method of using all this production in peacetime. His idea is to put an electrical appliance in every home for electrical production, placing the nation's standard of living and furnishing post-war employment.

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"... how much I appreciated your sending me that picture of you and Mom with Jane and the children at home. Our living room looked so real, so substantial, so peaceful. It's hard to tell you what home—an American home—means to a fellow who's alone in a strange land. I think about it all the time, especially when we're out on a bombing mission. In the uncertainty and darkness it's the thought of home alone that makes what I try to do have any meaning. And it is furniture men like you, Dad, who have helped create this American home and who now, putting patriotism before profit, are helping to preserve these homes for our return."



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