

The End of a Period

By WALTER LIPPMANN

The feeling of Congress about the tax program is like that of the man who was packing his suit cases for a journey and had with the greatest difficulty just managed to jam into them more than they were meant to hold. By jumping on the lids he had almost closed them. With the help of rope, extra straps and pieces of wire he had made them look as if they might stay closed. Grunting and sweating with the effort, and more than a little worried whether he could handle his baggage, he was yet reasonably pleased with himself when along came a kind friend bringing him a bowl of gold fish, a cage with a pair of cooing doves, and an encyclopedia. Though he loved his friend, though his heart was pure and he was fond of fish and birds, and in fact of all other pets and of nature in general, though he loved books and all the noble means of self-improvement, at that precise moment he could think of nothing better to do than to sit down on the floor and cry for mercy.

Congress, however, is not merely too tired, too hot, and too unprepared to write a major tax law now. It is moved by a revulsion which comes from the people at home. This revulsion may be ascribed, I think, to a growing conviction that the President is prolonging the emergency and postponing a restoration of the normal processes of government.

It is to Mr. Roosevelt's everlasting credit that in the winter of 1933 he judged correctly the extreme gravity of the deflationary crisis, that he had the insight to see that the crisis called for an indisputable assertion of the national power in order to bring swift conviction to the people that in the midst of the general demoralization they could rally around a government, possessed of great resources, that was ready and afraid of nothing. There was no doubt about the reality or about the seriousness of the emergency, and no one who understood it was disposed to question the authority of the President to meet it. For

in the last analysis a belief in the Constitution must include the belief that the government has all the power necessary to defend the nation against disaster.

But the authority to draw upon what Mr. Hoover called "the reserve powers" must, in a free country, be relinquished as soon as the threat of disaster has passed. It has passed. But it is not yet clear that Mr. Roosevelt realizes it. His alarming predictions as to what might happen if some of his emergency establishments were dismantled, the fanatical atmosphere of the utility brawl, the indecent and disorderly haste about the tax program, the uncompromising demand for the dubious powers of the Guffey bill, the Wagner bill, the A. A. A. and T. V. A. amendments—the driving insistence upon enacting all these laws without adequate hearing or debate indicate a disposition to act in the summer of 1935 as if it were still the dark winter of 1933.

The question is not whether these measures are good or bad. The question is whether salvation depends upon railroading them through Congress. If it does not, then the only way to find out whether the measures are good or bad is to return to the slow, educative process of democratic debate.

Men who have exercised extraordinary powers almost always find it hard to relinquish them. I put no stock whatever in the wild charges that Mr. Roosevelt has the ambition to be a dictator. Having seen real dictatorships in action, this talk seems to me absurd. But I do believe that Mr. Roosevelt has reached a point in his career where, if he does not readjust his mind, he will become the victim of tempting delusions that invariably beset men who have played a great role on the world's stage.

There is the tendency to feel that, having achieved a sensational success by dramatic strokes, the result can only be perpetuated by repeating the strokes. In little affairs and in large ones there is a strong human tendency to believe that because one has saved a situation one must keep on saving it. This feeling easily becomes a sense of personal indispensability, such as men have who do not "dare" to take a vacation or to retire when their time is up, and from there the downward slope to delusions of grandeur is slippery and steep.

In governments this dangerous tendency to press and press is reinforced by officials, especially unseasoned and temporary officials, who want to make a name for themselves, or at least to justify their own continuance in office. The President undoubtedly has on his hands a large number of amateur officers who would like him to invade Ethiopia for the sake of the adventure, the glory, and the abolition of slavery. They are not the typical bureaucrats interested in obeying the routine and holding their jobs as inconspicuously as possible for as long as possible. They are an active, inventive, pushing bureaucracy, with many achievements to their credit that would have been beyond the imagination of an ordinary bureaucracy. But they will become a nuisance to the President if he does not promote the good ones to the status of ordinary officials and send the rest of them home with love and kisses.

The real difficulty, I imagine, lies in distinguishing between a national emergency, like that of 1933, and the gross abuses and injustices of human society. Looked at close to and full comprehended, the evils which men undergo seem so intolerably unnecessary that a sensitive man must at once do something to remedy them. A terrible abuse easily presents itself as an emergency. Mr. Roosevelt is a sensitive man with an unusual knowledge of the lives of the people, and a brave man's contempt for the prudence that feeds on complacency. He is surrounded by men and women who might have lived easy and worldly lives and are instead trying to help their fellow men.

There is great strength in this, but also, in the head of a government, a dangerous weakness. Its strength is to make the government deeply responsive to the people and by that, not merely to help them but to give them confidence in their institutions. Its weakness is that an overpowering desire for the improvement of society leads to policies which put too great a strain on institutions, which transcend the administrative capacity of officials, which surpass the understanding of the people. Then a sense of righteousness takes the place of right policy, then indignation takes the place of thorough investigation, impatience with abuses takes the place of considered action. Before he knows it, the messianic delusion has seized the public man.

Once that happens, it is the beginning of the end for him and for his mandate and for his reforms.

So it is not only Congress that

needs a vacation because it is tired. The President needs it even more so that he may have the leisure to re-examine his position to look back over the road he has come, to weigh his achievements and his failures,

and then to readjust his mind and his spirit to the fact that he has conquered the crisis and must now proceed by the normal methods of the American government.

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The Week in Vass

A week's series of union revival services came to a close with the Sunday evening service at which time the largest crowd of the week was assembled at the tabernacle where the services were held.

The Rev. L. M. Hall of the Methodist church and the Rev. C. A. Lawrence, Presbyterian minister, brought the messages, and James Copeland, student of the Duke University school of religion, lead the music. Especial emphasis was placed upon Bible reading, and a goodly number completed a systematic reading of the Book of Luke during the week. Mrs. Hall gave interesting talks on Luke at two of the services. The attendance manifested by the various denominations, and it is felt that much good was accomplished.

A fine baby boy weighing eight pounds was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ben H. Wood on Wednesday, July 17th. He is the third child and the second son. Marilyn, the eldest, is already feeling the responsibility of her position. The first time she was permitted to see her new brother, she took her stand by the crib and every time that he put his fist to his mouth, she promptly removed it. "I'm tending to the baby," she announced.

A score or more of grown-ups accepted the invitation of the members of the Good Times Club to attend a fish fry at Happy Hollow Lodge after the tabernacle service on Friday evening of last week, the time for the club's regular fortnightly meeting, and the occasion proved a most enjoyable one. Robert Laubscher was chief cook and with the aid of his helpers from the club had things in fine shape by the time the crowd arrived, so they did not have time to become impatient before the serving began. The Good Timers were bright enough to "pass the hat" while the air was filled with the appetizing odor of frying fish and steaming hot coffee, with the result that the treasury came through in good shape.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Smith left the first of the week to visit Mr. Smith's sister in Fair Hope, Alabama, whom she has not seen since she removed to that state in 1898. They will have much to relate. Mr. Smith can tell her of his wedding, of his two daughters, and if he desires to get to more recent events, of the two granddaughters to whom he is so devoted.

Miss Marian Cameron returned Sunday from a visit with relatives in Buie's Creek and Raleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Wallace of Carthage visited Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Tyson Sunday afternoon.

Richard Gorham and his friend, Delmar Dufty, both of Brooklyn, N. Y., stopped one day last week for a brief visit with the former's sister, Mrs. Charles A. Lawrence, as they were en route to Alabama to visit relatives.

Miss Eva Caddell returned Saturday from Greensboro where she had been for two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jones and family of Columbia, S. C., visited Dr. and Mrs. D. H. McNeill Saturday.

Mrs. Homer Pendergraph and Jack Alexander of Durham visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Alexander Sunday.

Mrs. James McNeill and Mr. and Mrs. Paul McNeill of Nederland, Texas, and Miss Margaret Walker of Brown Summit were guests at the Leslie-Taylor home several days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hicks and children of Raleigh were at home several days last week on account of the illness of Mr. Hick's father, A. F. Hicks, who at this writing is more comfortable. J. L. Hicks was a member of the Raleigh police force, and has never recovered sufficiently from injuries sustained several months ago in an elevator drop to resume his duties.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Moore and little son returned Sunday from Lincolnton where they spent a week's vacation.

Miss Margaret Cameron of Olivia visited her cousin, Miss Sara Cameron, at her home on Route 2 last week.

A. M. Cameron went to Buie's Creek Saturday and Mr. Cameron and A. Mac, who had been visiting relatives for ten days, returned with him Sunday afternoon.

Billy, E. B., Jr., and Katharine Keith of Pinehurst were guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Jane Keith, from Thursday until Sunday.

Mrs. G. W. Brooks, Mrs. Bertie L. Matthews and Miss Eloise Brooks visited their aunt, Mrs. Carlton Matthews of Lemon Springs Sunday.

Misses Agnes Smith, Myrtle and Catharine McMillan and Mrs. D. A. Smith visited Miss Neolia McCrummen of West End Sunday afternoon.

Miss Glennie Keith of Raleigh visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Keith, during the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Griffin and family of Hamlet spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Griffin. Richard is in the employ of the Seaboard, but woodworking is his hobby and he has become an expert in the use of carpenter's tools. He has recently completed a house trailer, fully equipped for taking care of his family of five. It has folding beds, an ice box, oil stove and everything necessary for comfortable camping trips.

MISS THERESE THORNE IS BRIDE AT MILLBROOK, N. Y.

Miss Therese Thorne, daughter of Mrs. William Van Schoonhoven Thorne, of 810 Fifth Avenue, New York, and the late Mr. Thorne, was married last Saturday afternoon in St. Peter's Church, Lithgow, Millbrook, to Huntington McLane, son of Mrs. Henry Richards McLane, of Millbrook, and the late Mr. McLane.

Miss Thorne, an enthusiastic horse-woman, has spent several winter seasons in Southern Pines, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence B. Smith.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, S. Keyser Thorne, of Paris, who recently came from France for the wedding. She wore her mother's wedding gown of Brussels lace and carried gardenias and lilies-of-the-valley. Miss Leonie de B. Lyon was maid of honor. She wore a gown of green and white taffeta.

Henry R. McLane was his brother's best man. The ushers were John C. Cooley, of Hartford, Conn.; Howard C. Davidson, Donald Jones and W. Curzon Taylor, of New York.

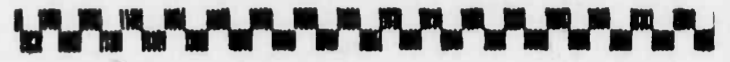
A reception was held at Schoonhoven Farm, Millbrook, where the couple will reside after their wedding trip.

The bride is a member of the Colony Club, of New York, and the National Society of Colonial Dames. The Thorne family has lived in Millbrook for many generations. The bride has passed much of her time on Schoonhoven Farm, where she raises

pedigreed black Aberdeen Angus cattle for breeding and show purposes. Both she and Mr. McLane are active members of the Millbrook Hunt. Mr. McLane attended St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H., and was graduated from Yale in 1927.

"BILL" FISHER, NEW ARMY PILOT, PAYS VISIT HERE
"Bill" Fisher, son of Mrs. Park Fisher, librarian of the Southern

Pines Library, made a surprise visit to Southern Pines last Friday evening, dropping out of the clouds in one of Uncle Sam's military pursuit planes after circling over the town. He landed at Knollwood Airport, spent Saturday here and left for Mitchell Field, L. I., N. Y., Sunday. "Bill" recently completed his tests and training for a pilot's license at Kelly Field in Texas, is not stationed at Mitchell Field.



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