

The WEEKLY WASHINGTON MERRY GO ROUND

by DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

Processing Taxes Pushed To Aid Farms, Offset Expected Price Drop; Byrd's Probe Of New Deal Spiked By Garner; He Takes It, Likes It; Larcantonio Believes U. S. Communist "Suicide" Was Beaten To Death; Saying Grace At Party For Clergymen Proved Harder Than It Looked.

Washington — There are two pretty good reasons why the President's agricultural advisers are urging that processing taxes, to the tune of \$367,000,000 be pushed through Congress at this session.

One, is that the voting of a special tax, definitely earmarked as agricultural, makes it easier to get that amount set aside for farm benefits. Otherwise it may be harder to get appropriations next year.

Second, is the fact that food prices are sure to drop next Fall, and Roosevelt's farm experts know that their GOP enemies could point to this and claim the end of processing taxes as the reason.

These same experts say that food prices will fall anyway, entirely regardless of processing taxes. Therefore it is better politics to keep the taxes, in order to prove that they never were the real cause of higher food costs for the housewife.

Note: The Supreme Court raised no objection to processing taxes as such, as long as they were not used to compel acreage reduction.

Peace Dinner

The extent to which the President is anxious to retain the support of church and peace organizations was indicated recently when a group of their representatives were invited to dine at the White House.

The churchmen, strangely enough, declined the invitation, said they wanted very much to talk peace with the President, but felt it would be difficult to do it at dinner. So they got an invitation to tea.

On arriving in Washington, they received the news that Secretary of Commerce Roper invited them to dinner after their conference at the White House. They accepted.

Secretary Roper can be one of the most charming dinner hosts in the Cabinet, but on this occasion luck was against him. The table was lit with clergymen. Wanting to make them feel at home, Roper asked Professor James T. Shotwell, famous Columbia University peace advocate, to say grace. Shotwell was about the only non-clergyman present.

"I am sorry," he replied, "but I was raised as a Quaker and

never said grace." The Secretary of Commerce blushed, hesitated, stammered. Quickly Walter Van Kirk of the Federated Council of Churches came to his rescue, gave a brief blessing.

Texas Clipper

Spring is bright and buoyant along the Potomac these days. But Senator Harry Flood Byrd is far from a happy man. A fellow Democrat, Vice President Jack Garner, has clipped the proud Virginian's wings in a most adroit and decisive manner. The plucking happened this way:

A sharp critic of the New Deal, Byrd introduced a resolution early last winter calling for a sweeping investigation of government activities and expenditures. Other conservative Democrats, also Republicans, warmly applauded the idea.

But the Administration eyed it coldly, so when the resolution emerged from a Senate committee it was a "horse of another color." Revamped, it called for a study of the governmental structure with a view to consolidation and coordination.

Byrd was somewhat dazed by the transformation, but he had the choice of the revised resolution or none at all. So he bowed and the Senate passed it.

However, the Senator from Virginia thought he had another ace up his sleeve.

When a special Senate committee is authorized, it is customary for the sponsor to submit to the Vice President a list of Senators whom he would like appointed on the committee. Byrd recommended Senator Alva B. Adams, anti-New Deal Democrat from Colorado and Frederick Steiwer, anti-New Deal Republican from Oregon. With Byrd as chairman, this would give him a safe majority.

Premature

It was a clever idea—but Byrd talked out of turn. He let it be known that if he got control of the committee he would ask Lewis Douglas, former Budget Director, now a rabid Administration critic, to direct the survey. Word of this plan reached Garner's all-hearing ears.

He said nothing. But a few days later he appointed the following committee members—Jos-

eph Robinson, Democratic floor leader; Joseph O'Mahoney, former First Assistant to Postmaster General Jim Farley; Charley McNary, Republican floor leader, on cordial terms with the Administration; John Townsend, Delaware Republican and a Senate "mute"; with Byrd as chairman. This selection removed any possibility of Douglas being employed to make the investigation.

Or Else

Byrd had to swallow the bitter pill and like it. But McNary squawked. He had no desire to Oregonian, Steiwer. It put him on the spot.

He sought out Garner, said: "Say, Jack, what kind of a fast one are you trying to pull on me? I'm going to resign. I don't want to be on this committee. You ought to know that."

Garner smiled sweetly. "Suit yourself, Charley," he said. "But if you resign I'll appoint young Bob LaFollette in your place."

Note: McNary is still a member of the committee.

Roosevelt Grandchildren

Mrs. Roosevelt was put on the spot in her press conference the other day when she let it be known that her two grandchildren, "Sistie" and "Buzzie" Dall, were visiting her. Newswomen asked for a "real" story about the children. Mrs. Roosevelt declined.

"But if you can write about them in your daily column," remonstrated the newswomen, "why can't we?"

"I think their mother would much rather there was no real story about them," the First Lady replied. And that ended that.

Sweet Agricultural Music

A newsman asked Secretary Wallace how the farmer was going to get any cash in pocket under the new soil conservation program.

"Looks to me as if the farmer's got to spend all his 'allowance' on lime and seed this time."

"Well," said Wallace, it all goes 'round. As far as national prosperity is concerned, it doesn't matter whether he spends it on lime and seed, or on automobiles."

"It all goes 'round," countered the newsmen, "but where does it come out?"

"It comes out," said Wallace, "so as to make sweet music just the same."

American Communists

There is a lot more behind Congressman Marcantonio's investigation of the American Communist who "committed suicide" in Brazil than appears on the surface.

One significant fact is that Victor Barron, the dead man, was sent to Brazil by Communists—presumably American—as a salesman of radio apparatus. Apparently this is a role frequently played by Communist agents.

While in Brazil, Barron set up a radio station used by the Brazilian revolutionists, also drove

the car of Luiz Prestes, revolutionary leader.

When captured, Barron admitted to Ambassador Hugh Gibson that he knew Prestes' hiding place. Gibson passed this on to the police, who gave Barron a map. On it he pointed to the place where they could find Prestes. They did.

Third Degree

Marcantonio claims, however, that Barron did not point out Prestes' hiding place until he was beaten by the police almost to insensibility. There is evidence that this was the case.

Ambassador Gibson carefully refrained from any comment other than the official report of the police, which was "suicide," and his State Department cronies will be the last ones to question him further. They say privately that he did a good job.

Perhaps the most important development in the situation is that the Brazilian revolution was largely aided by American rather than Russian Communists.

Note: Rio de Janeiro police, always friendly to the American Embassy, recently tried to suppress all reports that the car of the American Counselor killed a Brazilian physician.

Merry-Go-Round

Much mystery surrounds the recent quiet resignation of Miss Mary LaDame as Associate Director of the U. S. Employment Service and her subsequent moving into the office of the Second Assistant Secretary of Labor as a special aide to Secretary Perkins. The two women are close friends and it is reported that Miss Perkins is grooming Miss LaDame for appointment to the vacant job of Assistant Secretary.

President Roosevelt's eighteen vetoes this session are three short of the entire number during Hoover's four years in office. So far Roosevelt has turned down a total of seventy acts of Congress. President Cleveland holds the record for vetoes with 344, most of them so-called "private" bills, carrying appropriations for individuals. Decision in the \$3,000,000 Mellon tax case is expected late this Spring. Which ever side loses before the Board of Tax Appeals, now considering the suit, is sure to take an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Hooker

Hooker, April 13.—Misses Amolee and Iva Jordan visited Miss Myrtle Richardson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Handy spent Saturday night at the home of Fred Handy.

Misses Myrtle Richardson, Idamae Hyatt and Ruby Brands visited the home of Glenn Edwards Friday afternoon.

Those visiting the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Edwards Sunday afternoon were Mrs. Jim Edwards, Mrs. Clyde Johnson and children, Mrs. Stella Hyatt and children, Mrs. Maggie Richardson and daughter, Myrtle, Miss Ruby Branche, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Richardson and Hubert Moxley.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Handy and family visited the home of Edgar Wright Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan Edwards visited the home of Everett Handy Sunday night.

Miss Iva Jordan spent last week with her sister, Mrs. Ray Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Edwards and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Edwards and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Johnson recently.

Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion, Piney Creek, P. O., April 13.—Mrs. Jack Mason, who has been spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Black and other relatives in this community, will return to Washington, D. C. soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Williamson and child, of near Mount Airy, and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Moxley and daughter, Lorene, of Topia, were visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Black Sunday.

H. Clay Smith and family moved last week to the John Williams farm in this community.

Rev. R. L. Berry, Sparta, filled his regular appointment at Rocky Ridge Sunday. Those who attended from this community were Mrs. George F. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Pugh, Mr. and Mrs. J. Roy Cox, Miss Ethel Pugh and Mr. and Mrs. H. Clay Smith and children, Edna Rae and Howard.

Mrs. T. E. Pugh is ill. Mrs. Sallie Absher and children visited Mrs. S. E. Smith Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor, Glade Valley, were in this community Sunday.

Those visiting Mrs. Rebecca Smith last week were Mr. and Mrs. George F. Smith, Mrs. W. R. Jones, Mrs. Mary Cox and Miss Virgie Williams.

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

(continued from front page)

which amounted to \$578,423,967 for the month. The surplus collection for March, 1935, was only \$50,224,265. The explanation lies in a twenty-three per cent increase in income tax collections and a fifty-four per cent rise in other internal revenues for the month. The income tax payments totalled \$412,452,233 for 1936 compared with \$326,268,511 in 1935. Other internal revenues went up to \$291,218,692 as compared with \$188,919,079. The one gap in revenue was the absence of processing taxes, invalidated by the Supreme Court, but which yielded \$50,000,000 in March of last year.

LANDON GAINS FAVOR

It has been apparent for some time that the sentiment of responsible Republican leaders favors the nomination of a candidate with the greatest strength in the West with a vice-presidential nominee from the East. Moreover, the present idea in the East is that Governor Landon has a distinct edge on the field, and is showing the greatest strength on both sides of the Mississippi. Among the leaders, the idea is that eastern states will be carried by the Republicans in November and that the battleground is in the West and Middle West, with Illinois, Ohio and Indiana debatable territory, although now favorable to President Roosevelt.

The situation in Pennsylvania, reported by former Senator David A. Reed, admits the strength of the President, who will be helped by the United Mine Workers. Democratic registration has shown substantial gains and the former senator says the Republicans will have a "real fight to hold the state."

BORAH AND BRYAN

Senator Borah continues to occupy a key place in the political puzzle. His defeat in New York was followed by a substantial victory in Wisconsin. Every indication is that the Idahoan intends to vigorously press his campaign against the leadership of his party to the bitter end and he does not hesitate to reiterate his intention to take note of the platform adopted and candidates selected at

Cleveland before binding himself to support the party. Borah, it seems, is destined to play a role in the Republican drama that will be strongly reminiscent of the parts assumed by William Jennings Bryan in the Democratic conventions of some years back. He will hardly be able to control the delegates but may prove strong enough to exercise a veto threat on success unless the party leaders make terms with him.

ROOSEVELT'S SITUATION

On the Democratic side of the picture, President Roosevelt, upon his return to Washington last week, found little to disturb the satisfactory outlook left behind when he departed on his fishing cruise. The Wisconsin primary was hailed by his supporters as evidence that he will win the Progressive vote in states where this element is important. Meanwhile, opposition within his party has all but disappeared. Certainly, there is no effective work being done against him and little evidence of disapproval will be apparent at Philadelphia.

To realize the situation, as far as the President is concerned, it is only necessary to recall the speculation during the winter as to how far he had "slipped" in his hold upon the voters. There was considerable surface agitation for "Jeffersonian Democrats" to get behind another leader and talk was heard of various senators who would cause a great deal of trouble during the campaign. This idea has dissipated and, despite various attacks on parts of the Administration program, the Democrats will be found shoulder-to-shoulder behind Mr. Roosevelt.

VANDEBURG'S ATTACKS

Senator Vandenburg, of Michigan, listed as one of the possible

See Castevens Motor Co. for radio batteries and tubes, etc

ties of the Republican convention, has been furnishing most of the opposition to the Administration lately. Mr. Vandenburg broke in to the news by fighting the Florida Inter-coastal Canal and the Passamaquoddy project, by insinuating upon publicity in regards to AAA checks and by spirited criticism of the executive practice of starting large projects on small sums. While most observers take the view that the Republicans in Congress, as a group, have rendered very ineffective opposition, this statement does not apply to Mr. Vandenburg. It is thought that he would be acceptable to Senator Borah although they differ on international policy. The Michigan senator favors concerted action with other powers in such questions as the World Court, while Mr. Borah's isolationist program limits our cooperation to this hemisphere. Mr. Vandenburg has all along consistently discouraged any candidacy and there are those who say that he thinks 1940 will be a better year.

DON'T FORGET!

—that Dr. J. A. Somers will be at the Clerk's Office in the Courthouse, every Saturday, 9 'til 4. Home office in Dr. Smith's building, Independence, Va. 1tc-16

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