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HARRIS ELLSWORTHEditor

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To Probe Traffic Toll.

CAUSES of highway accidents

and conditions contributing to

them, are to be thoroughly studied

by the bureau of public roads of

the U. S. department of agricul-

ture and the highway research

board of the national research

council. These organizations an-

nounced an agreement for a joint

study of the subject from several

angles in which the services of na-

tionally known traffic specialists

and psychologists will be enlisted.

The bureau of public roads is in-

itiating this work under the act of

congress of last June authorizing

an expenditure of \$75,000 in in-

vestigating traffic conditions and

requiring that recommendations

for corrective legislation be made.

As a basis for effective action to

correct conditions, a report will be

made on the wide divergence in

state and municipal traffic laws.

Particular attention is to be given

to the driver with a record of

several accidents. It is definitely

known from experience in safety

work and from studies of drivers

in industrial fleets that certain

drivers are prone to be involved

in accidents. Often it is impossible

to show that such a person is re-

sponsible for the accident but for

some reason he has the unhappy

faculty of being involved in acci-

dents. It is not known how many

drivers are in the high accident

class, the extent to which they

may be classed as reckless drivers

or the standards to be applied in

identifying them.

Of particular interest in connec-

tion with this study of traffic ac-

cident causes is a report just issued

by the national safety council

showing a traffic death toll of 29,-

857 for the first ten months of 1936.

The council calculates that at the

same rate the death total for Janu-

ary 1 would be 27,536. That would

be a new all-time high, exceeding

the record 27,509 of 1935. In the

first 10 months of 1935 the death

count was 29,680. The council's

statistician announces that pedes-

trian fatalities increased 2 per

cent, including a 10 per cent ad-

vance in the number killed be-

tween the ages of five and 14. The

appalling statistics call for reme-

dial action. In fact, the necessity

for an effective curb on traffic

tragedies has been evident for

years. That careful study and re-

search will ultimately lead to a

satisfactory solution of the aggra-

vating problem is the earnest hope

of all those who realize that fail-

ure might result in alternatives

very unpleasant, especially for

that element of motorists who give

no thought to the basic principles

of safety.

"Must" On the Budget.

THE most important item of un-

finished business facing the

next administration is the unbal-

anced budget. Dr. Harvey L. Lutz,

professor of public finance at

Princeton University, warns.

"Including the fiscal year 1937,"

said Dr. Lutz, "we shall have had

seven years in which expenditures

exceeded revenues. Everyone must

recognize that even the federal

government cannot safely rely on

an indefinite prolongation of the

deficits."

It is both unsafe and unwise to

rely simply on business recovery

and its accompanying increase of

the national income to produce

budgetary balance. Dr. Lutz said.

Such a policy ignores the extent

to which the increased national in-

come may simply be a result of

price level advance that may com-

pel the government to spend more

dollars even as the existing taxes

bring in more dollars of public re-

venue, he said.

A reduction in government ex-

penditures is the prime requisite to

a balanced budget, he said.

U. S. POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS

By BYRON PRICE
(Chief of Bureau, The Associ-
ated Press, Washington.)

Talk of a balanced national bud-
get for the coming year, indefinite
though it is, has electrified the

post-election in-
terim as few other
developments
could possibly
have done.

Such a consum-
mation may turn
out, in the end,
to be only a
dream. Figures
are stubborn
things, when mar-

shalled into cold
columns on the
ledger. The diffi-

culties in the way
of an actual bal-
ance are very great, yet there is
challenging significance in the

fact that responsible officials
speak of the possibility.

The apprehension and hesitation
which has hovered so long over
the business community may be

traced to three principal causes.
One has been the fear of infla-

tion—a general distrust of the
currency. The international stabili-

zation agreement has done a great
deal to dissipate that distrust, and
not so much is heard about it as

formerly.

Another has been uncertainty as
to further government regulation
of business. Now the trend of af-

airs on that score seems to shift
toward a "sweet reasonableness."

Government gestures of friendli-
ness are followed by business ex-

pressions of returning trust and
confidence.

The third fly in the ointment has
been the budget. Big and little
business men have wondered

whether the government's habit of
living beyond its income could be
broken before it reached the stage

of a wrecked credit structure. Real
insurance on that point should
contribute heavily to the present
upward swing of recovery.

After several successive years
of deficit, last year saw the gov-

ernment spending more than two
dollars for every one it collected
in taxes. Roughly, for the 12

months ending June 30, last, the
income was a little over four bil-

lions, the outgo a little over nine
billions.

Latest official estimates for the
year ending next June put reve-

nue at five and two-thirds billions,
expenditures at seven and three-

quarters billions. Better tax col-

lections may boost the revenue fig-

ure somewhat. But expenditures
already are proceeding at the rate

indicated—three billions for the
first five months of the 12-month

period—and further heavy relief
appropriations seem certain.

Those who speak of a balanced
budget after next June think reve-

nue and expenditures may about
come together at six billions. On

the revenue side, such a goal
seems possible, due to the business

upturn. But on expenditure of two
billions be topped off expenditures?

Talk of such a possibility in
official quarters can only be predi-

cated on one or two suppositions.
One is that the emergency expendi-

tures, including relief, will be dis-

counted on a wide scale. The other
is that the treasury is contemplating

one of those bookkeeping
transactions—such as, for instance,

capitalization of its unrecouped
profit on gold—for which it has

been so severely criticized in the
past.

Either course would involve
hazards, and possibly shocks to

the business community.

An economic system accustomed
to a liberal flow of funds from

Washington would be required to
make sweeping readjustments to

meet a sudden drastic reduction,
without a period of tapering off.

For that reason, some of the most
insistent of administration critics

have refrained from advocating an
immediate budget balance.

But the shock might be even
greater if, into this period of re-

turning confidence, Mr. Roosevelt
should subject any note of "trick"

bookkeeping, any maneuver which
business might look upon with sus-

picion and distrust.

The important thing to remem-

ber is that the president himself
has not yet spoken on this subject.

In his campaign he did not prom-

ise to effect a budget balance and
ready her parents, after their

heavy dinner and lulled by the
rhythm of the train, were dozing

in the stuffy drawing room.

She'd bide her time—and then
slip off to Adonis—and the moon-

light . . .

"Darling, how utterly de-vine to
meet you. I'm absolutely thrill-

ed!" squeaked plump and pretty
little Nan Rushington next morn-

ing as Vernon descended from the
train on its arrival in New York,

followed by the Senior Tysons.
"Never thought I'd get here, dar-

ling. Came home with the milk
this morning! Slumming in Har-

lem, you know! And oh boy!
what a hangover!"

This quaint greeting amazed
Vernon, who have never till this

moment cast eyes on her dashing
little New York cousin. Not "Hi"

was scarcely the word, in
view of Nan's plump figure! But

she was very young—no more than
eighteen—and her big blue eyes

and blonde curls and round pink
cheeks gave her a Mary Pickford

effect. Her face was really
very lovely.

"This is my father—my mother,"
said Vernon rather shyly.

"Yes. I'm your Aunt Sadie,"
smiled Mrs. Tyson secure in the

knowledge that her purple velvet
dress and milk cake and may vio-

let toque were just "right" for this
arrival.

Nan Rushington stared incredu-

lously at her. In this year of 1933,
and with all her money, could such

a vision be possible? Her face
twisted. Laughter danced in her

big blue eyes. In another moment

We Must Get the Boys Back in the Trenches By Christmas!

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GLITTERING GIRL

by May Christie

SYNOPSIS

Aboard the train speeding to-

wards New York from Texas, at-

tractive Vernon Tyson goes out of

her way to meet Jerry Shannon, a

young engineer. Vernon confides in

him, and he takes her to the big city

of Park avenue, where in the social

register, Jerry is anxious at her

naivete. She is Vernon's social

climbing mother, attired in a

purple velvet gown, short mink

cape and brown cotton gloves, ap-

pears, takes her daughter away,

reprimanding her for picking up

with a "nobody" after all she had

done to bring Vernon (who is

called "Maggie" back home) to

New York for her "de-bow." After

that, Mrs. Tyson insists on their

dining in their compartment. Lat-

ter, however, Vernon contrives to

get out for a breath of air.

CHAPTER III

"You Miss Vernon Tyson from

20-C . . . ? Then here's a message

for you." The colored conductor of

the car, his back discreetly turned

to the open door so that Mrs. Ty-

son might not see his action, and

his voice lowered to a whisper,

handed Vernon a folded piece of

paper.

The blood rushed to her face,

her neck. Before she opened it

she had guessed whence it came

. . .

"What about viewing the new

moon at nine or so tonight from

the observation car, and turning

a penny for luck in the big, big

city of New York. . . ?" ran the

tantalizingly impudent message.

In the sky she could already see

a faint and slender crescent sus-

pended faintly against the dark

blue curtain that was night.

An urge to see "him" again

swayed over her consumingly. Al-

ready her parents, after their

heavy dinner and lulled by the

rhythm of the train, were dozing

in the stuffy drawing room.

She'd bide her time—and then