

'Better Luck Next Year' on Taxes

Experts Needed to Set Impartial Budget Figure

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WASHINGTON.—As the wrangle over the budget taxes and national debt continues, about the only comfort I can offer Mr. Taxpayer of 1947, if he should ask me for it, is a hearty "better luck next year."

And that is no vain hope, either. There is a very good chance that government will cost less next year. This will not be due to any widely heralded "swing the axe," or so-called "economy drives" which congress often promises and seldom delivers. If the budget is proportionally smaller next year, it will be because figures prepared by the Bureau of the Budget will have been checked by congressional fiscal experts who get their jobs on merit and who are obligated to no political party. These men now are being selected by a professional personnel expert loaned from the business world.



Baukhage

At this writing the house and senate are struggling to find a compromise cut in the budget. Until they determine the size of the budget, they can't be sure of what they ought to do about taxes or reducing the national debt.

If it weren't that the budget were compiled by one party and authorized by another, we wouldn't have as much wrangling. Now there is nothing wrong with having plenty of debate on a subject like this, provided one or both sides are voting on the basis of actual facts which are set forth by a disinterested authority whom the public will accept. Such an authority will be provided, we

hope, by the staff of fiscal experts next year.

Without such experts what happens? The house goes on record as to the budget cut it thinks it wants to make. The appropriations committee cuts down the various items. A bill is submitted again to the house and the fight begins, each congressman attempting to restore as much of the appropriation for his pet projects as possible. Log-rolling gets under way and the total is raised.

The same thing happens in the senate where an individual senator's demands are accorded even more weight. Eventually the ante is raised a little more. And if it doesn't get back up to the President's original \$37,500,000,000 estimate (which may have been too high itself) there will be a supplemental bill passed later which will absorb any extra dollars that are lying around.

When Senator Taft was asked by Democratic Senator McMahon (who was attacking the Republican cut) if Taft wanted the senate to pass on the question "without having much information as to what we are doing," Taft frankly replied: "We can only make an intelligent guess. We have no information before us as to the particular items of the \$37,500,000,000 budget, in justification of the figure fixed by the budget (bureau) . . . we only know what is requested."

That is the keynote: "We only know what is requested."

Why should the opposition party take on faith the administration's figure? We have two parties to check on each other. Taft admits the Republicans haven't the facts now but he adds that in "ordinary" years "we will have a staff working during the recess"—supposedly composed of these neutral experts who now are being hired—"which can give us more intelligent information than we now have."

There's the hope.

Music Is Key to Understanding

Few Russians heard the early state department broadcasts, inaugurated last month, and those who did were critical of the musical selections, objecting to "hillbilly" tunes like "Turkey in the Straw." They complained too about Bing Crosby's singing of Stephen Foster ditties.

This is only one instance where music has segued into world news since the war. I remember visiting the Opera House in Nuernberg when German musicians were first permitted to assemble there. The house had four walls intact and part of the roof, but only part of it. The rest as covered with canvas which kept out most of the falling snow but didn't keep out the cold. No pretense was made of heating the auditorium, and the place was freezing cold. Yet it was packed. The program however could not be completed. This was not due to the fact that the audience walked out—they stood or sat with the snow seeping in on them. The musicians' fingers simply got too cold to function. That was a year ago last November.

Today with the cooperation of the American military government, orchestras have sprung up in every town in the American zone and a large part of the broadcast programs are musical.

Reeducating the German in the field of music will be a less Herculean task than it is in other fields, for music has always been part of the home training of the German child—not merely something for which the music teacher was alone responsible.

I remember a German home I used to visit before World War I in which the short period after the evening meal and the time the youngest went to bed and the eldest went to his other studies was largely a musical hour. The most interested and active member of the group was the father.

Here in America we leave too much of the child's musical training to the schools. As the Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly, who is visiting this country, remarked: "Our ears must be trained to perceive the simpler musical phenomena before being able to follow the more complicated forms, and it is obviously the duty of public schools to give this first training to everybody."

Germany of course has another great advantage that America lacks. Goebbels has been removed. America's musical dictator has not. His organization has a standing resolution which reads: "The federation urges its locals to use their political and economic strength to combat the encroachment of high school bands and orchestras."

The dictator I refer to is, of course, one Petrillo of the Amer-

ican Federation of Musicians; the resolution is from their constitution which in conferring authority on him uses phrases like this: "It shall be his duty and prerogative—to make decisions in cases where in his opinion an emergency exists;—to issue executive orders which shall be conclusive and binding upon all members—etc."

Such a resolution and such absolute authority runs directly counter to the advice of Kodaly and to the thinking of anyone interested in the cultural development of America or in democracy itself for that matter.

This is one of the many facets of our musical life which touch politics as music touches many of the nation's other activities, past and present.

No, the Russians didn't like the hillbilly American music. And I doubt if the average American could absorb much of the somber and mournful Russian folk dirges although they contain beauty enough to the ear accustomed to hearing them and the mind trained to interpret them.

That must be remembered in considering all cultural relationships to world peace. We must be informed not only about the world as a whole, but specifically about each other. Mature interpersonal understanding implies a knowledge of each other's environment and also the habits, tastes and thinking produced by that environment. Music is a part of everyone's life; an expression as well as an impression. We cannot live peacefully with each other in our homes or on the globe without the establishment of understanding intercommunication. Music, understood, will be part of that necessary intercommunication.

EUROPE IN NEED

Wheat Exports Continue High

WASHINGTON.—Demand for wheat by most European countries will continue at a high level throughout 1948, in the opinion of Rep. Clifford R. Hope of Kansas, chairman of the house agriculture committee.

As basis for his statement, Hope cited the fact that the severe cold wave which has swept Europe this winter has killed most of the winter wheat crop. He also pointed out that the French minister of agriculture, here seeking seed wheat for re-sowing in the spring, was unable to buy enough.

Large quantities of wheat are being exported to meet the minimum food needs. While this program will reduce this country's carryover to

about the level of last year's, he said, it will not reduce it to a dangerously low point.

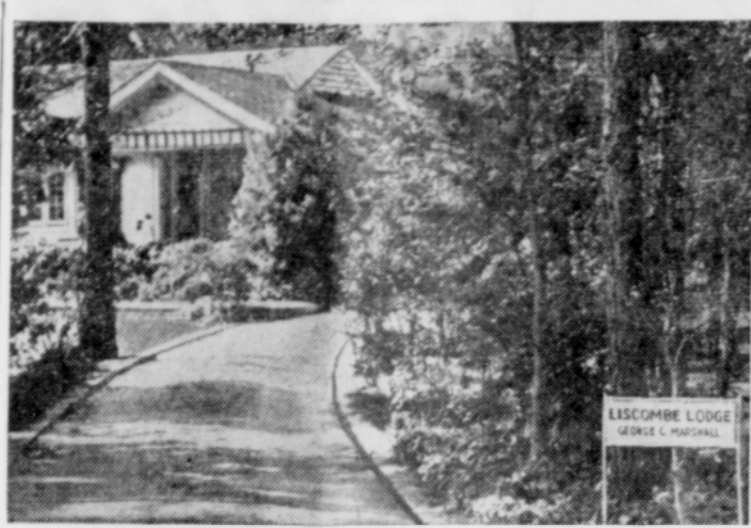
Hope said that a good wheat crop is forecast this year and that it is unlikely any adverse conditions will arise which could bring about a crisis. He said the crop will be about equal to the 1,100,000,000 bushels harvested last year.

The committee chairman said it is unlikely that export controls on grains can be lifted on June 30 when present legislation expires. He said that as long as there is a great need for United States and other grains abroad and as long as supply is less than demand, some

form of control is necessary.

Food grain exports are about 15 million tons a year short of the demand, according to M. M. Benidt, who has charge of all grain allocations for the agriculture department.

He said that as wheat allocations decline in the coming months, more corn from the 1946 bumper crop will be shipped abroad, although it is not as acceptable for food as wheat. Large quantities of oats and barley, usually not popular export items, have been exported in the last year. No rye is finding its way outside the country, because of a poor 1946 crop.



MARSHALL'S RETREAT . . . Far from the madding crowd of Washington, Secy. of State and Mrs. George C. Marshall find sanctuary in this modest home in Pinehurst, N. C. The simple cottage is surrounded by pine, magnolia and dogwood trees.

NEWS REVIEW

Palestine Dispute Flares; Reds Endorse Mandate

PALESTINE: U. S.-British Rift

While diplomatic observers expected no major rift to develop between the U. S. and Britain over the heated exchange on the Palestine question, the outbreak pointed up the apparent cross-purposes at which the two allies were working in the strategic Middle Eastern region with its oil-laden lands.

Foreign Minister Bevin's charge that President Truman had disrupted delicate British negotiations for settling the Palestine issue by demanding admission of 100,000 Jews into the Holy Land before the 1946 congressional elections to get votes was immediately denied by the White House. In a prompt reply, it was said that Mr. Truman's declaration merely reaffirmed the U. S. position on Palestine taken in the summer of 1945.

Republican senators were quick to rise to the President's defense. Brewster (Rep., Me.) said that Bevin was trying to make Mr. Truman the "sacrificial" goat for Britain's failure to work out an equitable agreement between Jews and Arabs, and Taft (Rep., O.) pointed out that Bevin had conveniently dropped his proposal for partition of the Holy Land in the face of stiff Arab opposition.

U. N.: U. S.-Red Harmony

Suspension of Russian opposition to a U. S. trusteeship over former Japanese mandated islands in the Pacific virtually assured U. N. approval of the American proposal to hold on to the territories for security reasons.

Earlier the Russians had threatened to force this country into taking unilateral action on the islands by demanding that the trusteeship question be postponed until formulation of a Japanese peace treaty. While

Britain and Australia had joined in the Soviet opposition, it was considered that it would be comparatively easy to adjust differences with them.

In making their about-face, the Russians proclaimed that the U. S. was entitled to the trusteeships because it had made incomparably greater sacrifices than the other Allied countries in wresting them from Japanese control. Under the U. S. proposal, the islands would be held open for U. N. inspection, except for strategic military installations that may be closed for security purposes.

AUSTRIA: Allies Clash

Indicative of the problems facing the Big Four in Moscow when their conference gets underway shortly, their deputy foreign ministers laying the groundwork for discussion of German and Austrian treaties agreed only half-way on an Austrian pact. Out of 62 clauses, agreement was reached on 32.

Major differences included: U. S. and Russian disagreement over what constitutes Nazi assets in Austria. The U. S. contends that the Russians have removed important Austrian property as reparations on the grounds that they were Nazi property, seriously impairing the country's economy.

Russian support of Yugoslav claims to the richest and most densely populated provinces of Carinthia and Styria. The U. S., Britain and France object, declaring Austria's prewar boundaries should remain intact.

French insistence upon rigid control of scientific research. The U. S. argues that such supervision would hamper the economic redevelopment of Austria, leading to employment and trade difficulties.

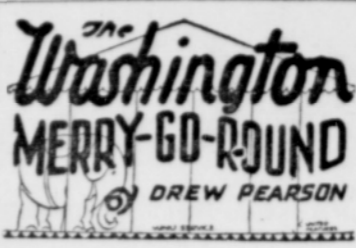
In Washington, Secretary of State Marshall disclosed that John Foster Dulles, Republican adviser on foreign affairs, would accompany him to the Moscow conference. In all, the U. S. delegation will include 84 members.

TRADE: Modify Program

Seeking to soften Republican opposition to the administration's foreign trade program, President Truman issued an order sharply modifying reciprocal trade agreements.

Acting after consultations with Republican Senators Vandenberg (Mich.) and Millikin (Colo.), Mr. Truman directed that hereafter reciprocal agreements contain escape clauses permitting the President to modify or eliminate low tariff concessions that jeopardize an American industry.

Agreements also will embody a "most favored nation" clause, giving the U. S. the same trade advantages afforded other countries. At present, some states have agreements with others which tend to discriminate against American trade.



ERA OF FANTASY

WASHINGTON.—It is difficult for the average person to understand the amazing vistas opened up by science during World War II and realize that the unbelievable era of Buck Rogers fantasy is now actually here. The most obvious development was the atomic bomb. Not as well known but perhaps even more fantastic are the numerous secrets of the earth which the bomb's invention also opened. For the past three years, for instance, geoclastic scientists have been working on a project for setting off a controlled chain reaction in the crust of the earth.

This project is described by scientists as a hydrogen chain reaction, in which the hydrogen in the surface of the earth would be made to burn in a slow but continuous stream. Simultaneously, these scientists are reported to be preparing a means for speedily extinguishing such blazes.

Fantastic as this may sound, it is only a small phase of the field which science opened up at a time when the government, in desperation and out of fear of what enemy scientists might be doing, gave American scientists full freedom to work.

An earth-crust chain reaction now is deemed a reasonable possibility and might mean the end for a country even as large as Russia. A chain reaction of this type could carry across mountains, through ice and snow, searing everything in its path with the relentless force of a gigantic, fire-burning steam roller.

American scientists warn that what they are working on also is being worked on by scientists all over the world. No nation has a monopoly on knowledge. What American science has is a head start and the "know-how."

DISLIKES MODERN ART

President Truman is strictly a conservative when it comes to modern art. "Ham and eggs" art he calls the paintings of the surrealists, the futurists and the cubists. The chief executive wants his art down-to-earth and easy to understand. He likes it to be beautiful, not shocking, and to represent something. Reporters saw an example of the art Mr. Truman loves recently, when he gave them a private showing of "The Peacemakers"—a painting by George Healy which the President had purchased for the White House for \$10,000.

MARSHALL'S 'FILIBUSTER'

GOP congressmen are accusing General Marshall—half-jokingly—of being just as good at filibustering as Senator Bilbo. Members of the house foreign affairs committee say that in their closed-door session with the new secretary of state, he kept on talking until just before the bell rang calling congress into session. By that time there was no chance for them to fire any embarrassing questions.

Several Republican congressmen came to the secret committee session primed with questions on Palestine and Russia. However, Marshall, with one eye on the clock, gave a brilliant monologue on foreign affairs for more than an hour.

Marshall's monologue, however, gave a well-rounded picture of U. S. foreign policy. Here are the highlights:

RUSSIA—The Byrnes policy of being fair but firm with Russia will be continued. Marshall has given this policy careful study and is convinced Byrnes was right.

AUSTRIA—Will be the first treaty to be taken up in Moscow, largely because it is "in the nature of a liberated area."

GERMANY—Within three years the German people should become economically unified and self-sufficient, requiring no more loans or food from the U. S. A.

PALESTINE—The United States must be more cautious regarding Palestine now that Britain has agreed to lay this problem in the United Nations lap. Instead of giving advice regarding Palestine, the U. S. A. now will have to act.

EUROPEAN RELIEF—Food continues to be the greatest stabilizing influence in the world, and the United States must continue to feed the world—perhaps for some years to come.

CHINA—"I am somewhat disillusioned about the Chinese situation," Marshall commented. He spent more time on this subject than any other, remarking with a laugh that he felt more at home when talking about China. His off-the-record discussion, however, included little he had not already stated publicly.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and son, James, have signed contracts to help in the scripting and to give technical advice for a screen biography of the late President. Producers will be Kennedy-Buchman productions, affiliated with Columbia. . . . Allen Dulles and his brother, John Foster Dulles, of the New York law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell, have been retained by Eric Johnston's Motion Picture association as advisers for the Geneva international trade conference in April.



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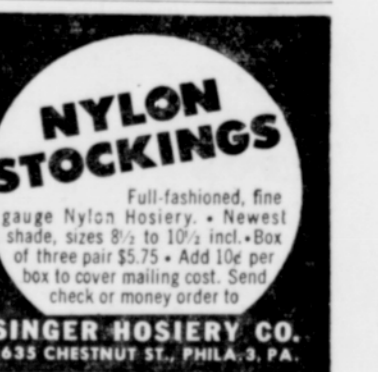
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