

Washington Digest

Tax Bill Is Rabbit Stew To Congressman Doughton

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—Another rabbit stew has been served up to Rep. Robert L. Doughton of North Carolina, and he's all ready for it. Representative Doughton, I might suggest if you don't know it, is not only the oldest member of the house of representatives (85) but likewise the oldest hand at handling tax measures.

He had to step down from the chairmanship of the ways and means committee for the brief Republican interlude. Now he's back at the old stand, sharpening the butcher knife again.

But to get back to rabbit stew. Last season when President Truman vetoed the second Knutson tax-cutting bill and fired it back at congress, a reporter asked Doughton how he felt about it. He leaned back and told a story, for he's fond of answering in parables.

A Tarheel housewife, it seems, served her husband rabbit stew every night for a week. When the second Saturday night came around and the same old dish with it, the husband bowed his head as usual, but instead of saying grace he was heard to mutter:

"Rabbit's rough. Rabbit's tough. Oh, Lord, I've had rabbit enough!"

That, opined Mr. Doughton, was the way he felt about the tax bills.

But he has to help meet the biggest peacetime budget ever submitted to a congress and he's ready for it.

In the 38 years that he has represented the state of North Carolina in the congress, the habits of the dean of the octogenarian's club in the lower house have changed very little since the last time. I explored them in some detail more than a score of years ago.

He has earned a tremendous respect from the men who work on fiscal matters in the house of representatives where the money bills have to originate. And because he has a theory of his own about collecting and spending the people's money, no bill comes out of his



"Ob, Lord, I've had rabbit enough," committee looking very different than he wants it to look, though it may not always suit all the other members. Doughton doesn't go so far as to say that fiscal legislation should be non-partisan, but he does say it ought to be as non-provincial and as pro-national as possible.

His experience in collecting money that ought to be collected goes back a long way.

One story involves a man he went to see about a horse—two horses, to be exact. This man had bought a team from Doughton (the congressman is still a farmer in his own right, though he has to spend more time away from home than he used to). Later on the man wrote that he didn't think the span was worth the \$800 he had agreed to pay and wouldn't pay it. The deal had been negotiated at a distance and the principals had never met. So one day Doughton dropped in at the farm and said he wanted to look over a good team. The man showed several, but none seemed to suit Mr. Doughton.

"All right," said the man, "I'll show you the best pair you ever saw in your life."

He brought out the horses recently acquired from Mr. Doughton, but still unpaid for. And what might they be worth? Well considerably over \$800. Mr. Doughton introduced himself and didn't have much trouble in collecting.

There is another reason why Doughton is a good man to have on the collecting end of a bargain—if you aren't the debtor. He's a farmer, true, but he is also a banker, and he works at both when he isn't in Washington. He doesn't keep banker's hours, however. He goes to his office at 6:30 a.m., works throughout the day, and he's often back in the office after dinner. He lives right across the plaza from the Capital.

For the first 45 years or so of his life, Mr. Doughton held no elective office, but he managed to find time

for an active interest in his community which is deep in the Carolina hills. Laurel Spring, N. C., is still his home. He was born on his parent's farm near there. His father, wounded in the war between the states, died when he was a grown boy. His mother was keenly active to her last hours, interested in the day's mail and the daily newspaper to the last.

Inheriting some land from his father, the boy started off for himself, gradually acquiring more until he became a livestock raiser and farmer. Then he entered business, finally becoming president of a bank.

He has described himself as a horse trader. There are many tales that have grown up about his astuteness that, if embellished by repetition, are not doubted by those who have watched his steady advancement in congress.

He entered under a Republican regime—President Taft's—accepted minor committee appointments, but rose rapidly to the position he holds today—chairman of the powerful ways and means committee.

One of the horse-trader stories he tells is this: after disposing of some animals he had meant to sell, he was made a very attractive offer for the horse he was riding—his own saddle horse. Done, he took the money, turned over the horse, put the saddle under his arm and walked back home, 70 miles, says tradition, under his own power.

There doesn't seem to have been any deep-laid plan for a political career in the farmer boy's mind when he began life among the oxcarts and hand looms of those early days in the South following the war. Nor yet when he had acquired his own acres and entered into the business life of the community. He was chosen a member of the state board of agriculture and served on the prison board.

Then one day it was decided to run him for the state senate. He was elected and served for a term. Congress was next, but there was a sort of unwritten law in his district that one term was all a man could expect, for Republicans and Democrats had always swapped terms.

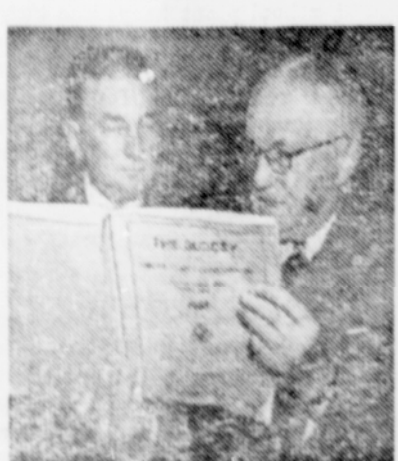
But Doughton changed all that. Or at least his constituents did. When he had served his term in the 62nd congress, instead of retiring him, as had been the custom, the voters sent him right back again, and they have been doing it ever since.

There isn't any question that Robert L. Doughton likes his job in Washington. But it's equally true that when the session is over, he likes to lie himself back to his Carolina hills and enjoy life there.

Around the capital he has the reputation as being as good a judge of men as he is of horses.

This year President Truman's request for six billion dollars more in taxes, including some social security withholding levies, will get very careful scrutiny before it becomes law. Meanwhile, Doughton's committee has to take care of the bill to extend reciprocal trade treaties. Also, studies will begin on the subject of extending social security benefits. There is in addition the matter of certain revisions in the basic tax code.

But Representative Doughton is used to rabbit stew.



The biggest peacetime budget ever submitted to a congress (\$48,858,000,000) has its opponents, too. Rep. Charles Halleck (R., Ind.), former GOP majority leader, and Rep. John Taber (R., N. Y.), former chairman of the house appropriations committee, look grimly at the voluminous budget, promise a fierce fight to slash all spending proposals.



Farm Topics

Selection of Feeds Vital in Stock Health

Ration Must Be Adequate In Minerals, Vitamins

What you feed your livestock today will determine the profit you make tomorrow, for experts are agreed that keeping livestock healthy is a profitable job—and to do that, care must be observed in choosing livestock feed.

Feeding livestock on a ration deficient in minerals, vitamins, proteins and carbohydrates, as well as fats, often leads to nutritional diseases. Lack of any of the common or trace minerals in home grown feeds may be and often is, responsible for terrific livestock, feed, labor and investment losses.

The problem of supplying minerals in their right proportions is only a part of the compounding of a product that will solve the livestock man's problems. First, no matter how good the ingredients that go into the making up of a feed, if livestock refuse to eat it the feed is useless so far as benefiting the animal is concerned.

In recent years much has been discovered about livestock diseases due to dietary influences. In this connection, the U. S. department of agriculture says: "Whenever a vital function . . . is interrupted owing to continued failure of the diet to supply sufficient quantities of essential nutrients, or to the inability of the body to utilize these nutrients, the so-called nutritional diseases develop."

Grand Champ



Grand champion of the 49th International Live Stock exposition at Chicago was "Old Gold," a 1,200-pound Black Angus Junior, shown with C. E. Yoder (left) of Muscatine, Iowa, the owner. In the center is Henry Marshall, president of the exposition, and at right is A. D. Weber of Kansas state college, the judge who picked the winner.

'Love Apple' Popular

The scarcity of tomatoes in the past year's otherwise abundant harvests recalls something of the history of this romantic fruit-vegetable.

A sharp drop in production in some of the nation's principal tomato-growing areas means smaller domestic stocks of tomato soup, juices, stews, ketchup and chili sauce this winter. Unseasonable weather is given as the cause.

One hundred years ago the tomato was just beginning an uphill fight for respectability as a food



item. Indians of the Andes had cultivated it since about 1000 A. D. The Aztecs of Mexico gave it the name that Cortez' men altered into "tomato"—and they probably said "toh-mah-toe." And the Spaniards took it back to Europe, but there it was recognized as a member of the deadly nightshade family.

It was wrinkled and small and was known as the "love apple" in Europe and, later, in North America. And for centuries the supposedly poisonous fruit was nothing more than a garden ornament.

Paper Lining Doubles Effect of Light Shades

Lights around the house often seem dim at the time of year when evenings are longer. But light from lamps often can be increased by arranging for simple and better reflection.

Light colors reflect light, dark colors absorb it. A white paper lining or a coat of white paint—or even white shoe polish on the inside of a lamp shade may double or triple the light given off.



The Great Golf Mystery

NO ONE YET has been able to figure out why most of the star golfers come from Texas. But that's the way it is.

If you don't think so, look over the list—Ben Hogan, Loyd Mangrum, Jimmy Demaret, Ralph Guldahl (who won the U. S. Open twice in a row), Byron Nelson, one of the all-timers, and several others who can score well.

Imagine the pick of the country facing Hogan, Nelson, Mangrum and Demaret in a golf scrap at either match or medal play.

It couldn't be that Texas developed a certain type of swing that was something better than the rest of the country. Hogan's swing and Nelson's swing are totally unlike — to look at. So is Hogan's swing as compared with Demaret's swing. Mangrum is closer to Hogan.

Nelson and Demaret are not full swingers. Hogan is more than a full swinger. His club head dips deep on the backswing and completes almost a full circle. His 137 pounds need this extra arc.

Demaret is due for some better luck this good year of 1949, and, if he gets it, Jimmy can move right alongside of Hogan and Mangrum.

"I like Hogan's swing," Eddie Loos, the well-known player and instructor remarked the other day, "because it is full, free and yet under definite control. On the downswing you can see that club traveling for a target that seems to be a little to the right of the line, the correct line, and he keeps both the left hand and right hand working to the finish. That means right-hand power and left-hand control, keeping the face of the club where it should be without tilting too soon."

The one main thing you notice among all leading golfers is the use of the head. The head anchors the swing. The chin is usually back and, as Alex Morrison puts it: "They all hit past the chin. Once the head moves or wavers, the result is usually sour. The swing no longer has an anchor."

"The correct use of the head keeping it fixed, is the most important thing in the golf swing," Jimmy Demaret tells you. "Once the chin pops up or the head moves with the swing, you are lost. Anything can happen—except a good swing. It is in this way that you lose both power and control. The head must groove the swing from a fixed and separate position."

The Stranahan Case

Frank Stranahan, the Toledo amateur, closed out the old year with a remarkable set of figures. Young Frank ran away from a strong field at a Miami tournament late in December. He is all set for the 1949 tour and he has the full respect of every pro golfer in the field.

"There is a chance he may become the finest scorer we've ever known," one leading pro told me. "He is young, strong, healthy, wealthy and golf is the game he loves. He gives his full attention to it."

"Stranahan has fine swing with plenty of power. He will learn, as he goes along, certain things in concentration and determination. He is a fine golfer now. In my opinion, he will be a better golfer later on."

Stranahan is still anxious to learn all he can. He not only wants to know how but why. He is willing to work and practice for hours at a time. He will give every club in his bag a thorough going over. It is for this reason that he has no distinct weakness.

The Toledo star is something new in sport. Here is a young fellow with all the money he can spend. But instead of spending it, he gives all his time to golf—either practice or play. He follows the pro circuit from beginning to end—from Los Angeles through Arizona and Texas on through Louisiana into Florida and then up through Georgia and the Carolinas.

This is a tough circuit for making a living from it. But Stranahan takes no vacations—not while there's a tournament in sight.

His is today, beyond any doubt, the finest medal scorer in the amateur world. He has won many big match-play tournaments—including the British amateur—but he has yet to win the U. S. amateur where his game has never been at its best.

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