

TAX

*Good Eve* - P.M. P+S. Friday, April 2, 1948.

The tax action today was fast - - like greased lightning. (The President sent his expected veto, together with a long statement declaring that the tax reduction bill was inflationary,) and would weaken the United States in the International crisis. To these arguments the legislators<sup>S</sup> paid little attention. They went ahead and greased the lightning, and in a flash both the Senate and the House of Representatives voted to override the Presidential veto.

In each case, the necessary majority of two-thirds was had - - plus plenty of margin. In the Senate - - seventy-seven to ten; nineteen more than needed. In the House - - three-hundred-and-eleven to eighty-eight; forty-five more than ~~was~~ needed. Democrats in droves joined the Republicans in voting to toss out the Presidential veto, which was denounced on the ground that this country must have some relief from oppressive taxation, the burden of the income tax.

All of which affects nearly everyone of us - -  
we'll pay less income tax. The bill, which now becomes

a law, provides for a tax cut of four-billion-and eight-hundred-million dollars. Income tax reduced in various ways. For example, husbands and wives can now make separate returns everywhere - - meaning that the family income, even though the husband earns it all, can be split in two. Which brings the tax returns of the husband and the wife down into ~~the~~ lower brackets.

<sup>R</sup> And there are other provisions for tax reduction - - all interesting, and all intricate to explain.

The simplest way to decide how it affects each one of us is to consult the lists of figures the newspapers are publishing. <sup>R</sup> Of course, I suppose I could read the

lists of figures on this program tonight. In fact, I had the mathematics, <sup>R</sup> *or it today. For the* ~~over in my office. Today the~~

news wire of the United Press ground out the figures.

How many ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ were there in the list. <sup>R</sup> Well, just out of curiosity, I got out a yardstick. With this I measured the column of statistics on the yellow paper that rolled out of the teletype. How much? There were three yards of figures, nine feet of mathematics. So I

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decided not to read them on the radio - - not tonight.



## SUBSTITUTE DEFENSE

Let's get clear about who could and who could not be drafted., under selective service, formally proposed by the armed forces to congress today. The program would call for the registration of all men from eighteen through forty - four. They would register, but the draft would actually apply only to men from nineteen through twenty - five. Veterans of certain categories would be exempted. No veteran who served eighteen months or more in World War two would be inducted. Nor would veterans with ninty days of service, if these are in the reserve.

The program as presented to Congress by Secretary of Defence Forrestal, would include universal military training of one year for youths from seventeen through nineteen.



## FOREIGN AID

(All that is needed now, for the foreign relief program to become a law, is President Truman's signature) - which will be duly appended tomorrow after the President's return from Williamsburg, Virginia. He made an address there today. (The Senate and the lower house, having eliminated the differences between the two bills they had passed - -took their final votes. Just routine - - passage by overwhelming majorities.

The bill provides for the European recovery program, together with aid to China. The Version that becomes a law excludes Franco Spain. That was inevitable, after the way the liberal countries of western Europe protested against the vote by the house of representatives to put Franco into the Marshall plan.)

All is ready to start the program into operation - - ships already loaded with supplies are waiting to steam for West European ports. The first finance for the Marshall plan will be provided by the reconstruction finance coporation - - until congress gets around to the business of appropriating money for the six billion

dollar expenditure provided in the bill.

So now the Marshall plan is rolling;- - the multi-billion dollar program for economic measures against communism having gone through the congress of the United States with plenty of debate, an abundance of noise, and overwhelming majorities.

SUBSTITUTE BERLIN

The battle of nerves in Berlin has taken a couple of new turns. One easing the tension, the other adding a sudden new dramatic note.

The one easing <sup>it a bit</sup> ~~the tension~~ is an American railroad train moving through Soviet occupied territory. Today (American commander General ~~Lucius~~ Clay announced that he was going to test the Soviet railroad blockade ~~of Berlin~~ - - so he ordered an army food train to start for the German capital to see if it would be stopped. It <sup>wasn't</sup> ~~was not~~. The American train went on right through the Russian lines.) ~~and is expected in Berlin before long.~~

All of which seems like a Soviet back down, the more so as (the Russian authorities now announce they never did mean their blockade would apply to freight trains of the Western Allies - - they merely insisted on inspecting passengers.) It was, of course, this inspection business, with the prospect of Soviet soldiers boarding American military trains, that caused General Clay to order train service to be stopped - - supplies



going in by air. There were rumors today of Soviet planes molesting American air transport but the American pilots report they did not see a Soviet plane.

The ~~sudden~~ new turn of the dramatic comes in a late dispatch from Berlin which tells of American troops surrounding and taking over the Russian railroad administration headquarters. This is in the American sector of Berlin, the railroad headquarters operated by the Soviets with American consent.

Just why General Clay has had a force of his MP's take ~~charge of things~~ <sup>over</sup> there is not clear. We only know that the MP's suddenly surrounded the building, and said their orders were to permit no Soviet military men to enter. The main point lies in the fact that ~~that~~ administration headquarters is the control center for the entire Russian operated railroad system radiating from Berlin. It sounds ~~highly~~ significant, but we can only wait to learn <sup>how and what.</sup> ~~what the significance is.~~

All this was accompanied today by another Soviet walkout - - Russian representatives boycotting six

committees of the joint allied administration of the German Capitol. The Soviets had already boycotted the central control council, now they walkout of the committees. All of which is part of the Red attempt to freeze the Western Allies out of Berlin - - freeze out by walkout, not to mention the other nuisances in the Red battle of nerves. But we are not going to be frozen out - - that was reiterated in Washington this afternoon. Army Secretary Royal quoted a message from General Clay saying that American evacuation from Berlin is, in the words of the General - - "unthinkable".

ISAACSON

The State Department has done a thing that seems to be without precedent - - it has refused to give a Congressman a passport. The Congressman is Isaacson of New York, recently elected on the Henry Wallace third party ticket. He applied for a passport, but the answer is - - "NO".

He planned to go to Paris to attend a rally in behalf of the Greek Red Guerrilla movement. That, of course, is a communist outfit, which we are opposing. The State Department points out ~~with flawless logic~~ that our Government is officially supporting the Greek Government against Red Guerrillas. So why issue a passport to enable a Congressman to attend a rally in behalf of these same Red Guerrillas?



## INDIA

Today in this ever changing world, a fabulous transformation is going on - - and is hardly being noticed.

One of the most resplendent fantasies on earth is on its way out - - and little attention is being given.

I have in my hand a short news dispatch, which relates the facts briefly. The dispatch is from India, new

Delhi, and tells what the new government is doing to

the princes of India. <sup>R</sup>The great sub-continent has become independent, with a nationalist regime - -

so what about the Maharajah, the Nawab, the Nizam, all those potentates who from time immemorial have

ruled like royal autocrats? The British Raj kept them on their throne, but the new nationalist government,

trying to be modern, was expected to make a change - - and the change is now going on.

The dispatch here tells how (the Princes of India are being dispossessed, their territories incorporated into

*- i. e. the Hindustan part, which includes*  
the new nation of India. Apparently there's little

resistance - - a deal being made, a bargain. Maharajahs, hereditary rulers of rich domains with many palaces and

just as our people

*and rajahs - of lesser states -*  
golden revenues, are permitted to retain their  
titles, and each is allowed to keep one palace,  
and is granted one-tenth of the revenue of his  
former principality ) - which comes to a mighty good  
income in most cases. Thus they become a caste of  
high sounding pensioners - - each keeping his princely  
rank, together with one palace and a guaranteed income.  
*But* They ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> shorn of their domains and their authority,  
princes in name only.

There were five-hundred-and-sixty-two of them - -  
~~not the Rajahs, but~~  
that many ruling potentates in India. The greatest - -  
the Nizam of Hyderabad, with a domain equal to many  
a nation, a great rich territory with sixteen million  
inhabitants. The least of them - - the Maharajah of  
Dhadi, whose realm, in the hills of Simla, consisted of  
three square miles, with a population of two hundred  
and twelve.

The Nizam of Hyderabad has refused, thus far, to  
join the new state of India - - he holds aloof, independent  
but the others have come into the new nation of  
Hindustan, and the status of most of these has been

Here's a striking part of a sensational decided. All the smaller principalities have been absorbed - - their potentates reduced to the status of noble nobodies. A number of the greater Maharajahs are still bargaining; - - but the nationalist government of India is applying pressure to bring them to terms. In this larger class, are such legendary Principalities as Patiala, Indore, Bikanir, Gwalior, <sup>and</sup> Jodpur, <sup>and</sup> Jaipur.

<sup>TP</sup> <sup>and</sup> I wonder what has happened to the <sup>Gargona</sup> white marble palace of the Maharajah of Udaipur? Out in India a few years ago, I traveled through the state of Udaipur, and one gleaming memory that still remains is the white splendor of the <sup>Udaipur</sup> ~~Maharajah's~~ residence - - a dream palace.

I visited the Maharajah of Bikanir, ruler of a huge principality in the desert country of <sup>Sindh</sup> ~~Northwestern~~ India. He was a great tall personage, with large curled mustaches, and a bediamonded headdress. A general in the British ~~Indian~~ army, he had the ideas of the west. <sup>famous for</sup> ~~his~~ his camel corps, <sup>- tall racing camels.</sup> ~~as parade~~ ~~a famous military~~ Bikanir even had <sup>unit with</sup> artillery on camel back. What now becomes of



the camel corps of the Maharajah of Bikanir?

And what of the painted elephants of the Maharajahs of Jodhpur, Jaipur and Indore? I rode on them. Enormous pachyderms, painted with gaudy ~~sun~~ colors, covered with trappings of pure gold and silver -- each with a great howdah of gold or silver in which you sat - and rocked back and forth as your huge mount climbed the road up the cliffs to the palace at Jodhpur?

A question to be asked -- as the princes of India are on their way out, and as the modern world pays only a little attention to the vanishing of one of its favorite enchantments -- the ~~princes~~ princes and principalities of Romantic India.

## TWINS AND PUPPIES

This next bit of news is headed - - Twins and Puppies. Which may ~~soon~~ ~~be~~ sound a bit irreverent; but that's the way the news goes. Two dispatches came in with a similar, though contrasting, theme - - one was about twins, while the other was about puppies.

The <sup>born</sup> Twins ~~occurred~~ in France, - - ~~where they were~~ born two days, and, a hundred miles apart. Not so unanimous for twins. The first, a little girl, was born in a hospital at Moncoutant - - and the doctors thought no more of it. They may have been slightly unobservant, because the fond mama returned to her home, which is a hundred miles away, then, two days later, the second baby was born, a boy. Those twins should have made up their minds, or the doctors in the hospital should have had their eyesight examined, or something.

The case of the puppies is reported in Canada, Ottawa - - where twice in succession a pooch has performed a prodigy in the canine world. She is a toy manchester terrior named Cindy, and a year ago she had one puppy -,- whereas we all know that a usual litter is four or five.

## HANNES AND EMILE

This is the story of the great Hannes and le grand Emile. As everyone in the winter sports world knows, there are two figures who loom like titans above the field. One is Hannes Schneider, from St. Anton am Arlberg, in Austria; the other, Emile Allais, from Megeve, in the French Alps.

Hannes Schneider, who didn't get along at all with Hitler and the Nazis, ~~was~~ came to this country, years ago, with the aid of Harvey Gibson and others. Emile Allais, arrived in the U.S. today. These two famous men, known to many many millions embraced as though they were long lost brothers, despite the fact that in a way they are rivals when it comes to technique in their field. Tonight they are together in the White Mountains, at the foot of the Presidential Range, at a place called Christmas Farm Inn, talking it all over. And, I know many of my listeners wish they could be listening in to that conversation.

And now Nelson if you will come down

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HANNES AND EMILE

out of your Ivory tower we'll listen to you instead  
of the great Hannes and le grand Emile.

Parliamentary... the... bill to be introduced... nineteen through twenty... five... who served at least ninety days... but those who served less than ninety days... unless they enlisted voluntarily in the reserve corps. The registration for the... selective service would include all men from high school through forty-four... but only those of twenty-five or under would be inducted into the army. The purpose... to bring up the armed strength of the Nation to a total of one million, seven hundred and thirty-four thousand. At the same time, the Defense Secretary urged Congress to pass a universal training law that would give youths from seventeen through nineteen, new year of military training. So, now it's up to Congress.

## DEFENSE

The Administration has presented to Congress its formal request for a draft. Secretary of Defense Forrestal today sent the lawmakers the makings of a bill to be introduced - - a bill to draft men from nineteen through twenty-five. Veterans of world war two, who served at least ninety days, <sup>to</sup> ~~would~~ be excluded - - but those who served less than eighteen months ~~could~~ <sup>may</sup> be drafted, unless they enlisted voluntarily in the reserve corps. The registration for this new selective service would include all men from eighteen through forty-four - - but only those of twenty-five or under could be inducted into the army.

The purpose - - to bring up the armed strength ~~in~~ <sup>of</sup> the Nation to a total of one million, seven hundred and thirty four thousand. At the same time, the defense Secretary urged congress to pass a universal training law that would give youths from seventeen through nineteen, one year of military training.

So, now it's up to Congress.

## BERLIN

The battle of nerves in Berlin took a new turn today, when (the Soviets staged another walkout. They <sup>have</sup> already been boycotting the <sup>Berlin</sup> control council, and now they've pulled out of six of its committees.)

This just about completes the Russian boycott of the joint allied administration appointed to run things in the battered German capital - - all part of the Soviet attempt to freeze the western allies out of Berlin. So, out of the six committees they went today. Freeze-out by walkout; - - that's the Russian idea.

As for the Red blockade of Berlin, the Americans are still flying in food supplies - - the sky route circumventing the Soviet railroad regulations newly imposed. There were rumors of American food-carrying transports being molested by Soviet planes. But the American pilots declare they didn't even ~~XXXXXXXX~~ see an airplane of the Russians.

Today American General Lucius Clay ordered a move to test the railroad blockade - - an American food train instructed to start for Berlin accross Soviet



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occupied territory. Today two British food trains passed through the Soviet zone, and nothing happened.

The Russians now make the statement that they never did intend to interfere with freight trains, but only insisted on searching passenger-coaches. <sup>π</sup> The trouble, from the beginning, originated from the notion that the Soviets, while enforcing travel regulations, had decided to inspect all allied trains - - send <sup>their</sup> soldiers aboard the trains to make a search. The western allied commanders in Berlin refused to let the Soviet people go monkeying around in <sup>our</sup> ~~their~~ military trains, and ordered railroad traffic ~~to~~ be halted - - under the impression that the Russians would insist on searching. But now the Soviets appear to intimate that they never meant anything of the sort.

All of which would seem to indicate a lot of malicious annoyance by the Reds in their war of nerves - in addition to which Soviet officials today blasted away with insults at the Western Allies, especially the United States. The usual sort of thing - - only more so.

ADD BERLIN

The latest, a new American answer to the Soviet squeeze play. An announcement in Washington - - that our military forces are sitting tight in the German capital and will stay there. Army Secretary Royall told a news conference this afternoon that the ten thousand Americans, military and civilian, are not short of food, and are prepared to stay ~~in~~ indefinitely. The Secretary quoted a message from General Clay stating that an American evacuation of Berlin is, in the words of the General - - "unthinkable".

## FINLAND

News from Finland continues to give the impression that the Finns, those Northern lovers of liberty, are putting up a surprising amount of resistance to Soviet demands. Today, witnessed the unexpected arrival at Helsinki of two members of the Finland mission that went to Moscow to negotiate. The word is that they hurried back, because the parliament of Finland is displaying a stubborn firmness - - in the face of Moscow's insistence of a treaty of military alliance that would give the Soviets the right to send their army into Finland whenever they pleased, taking over the frontiers of the northern republic.