

TAX

L.I. - Sunoco and P. & S. Friday, July 18, 1947.

~~The Senate has just sustained the veto of the tax bill - that's the latest news tonight.~~ Predictions were verified today - and promptly. (The President ~~vetoed~~ ^{the new tax reduction bill,} vetoed, the House of Representatives voted to override, but, the Senate ~~has~~ sustained the veto!-) ~~News just in~~

Word from Washington had been that the President would send the bill back to Congress with his disapproval - on Friday. That was today. And back the bill came to Congress. The President repeated his former arguments: - "wrong kind"; "wrong time." In his message he stated: "This is still the wrong kind of tax reduction, and this is still the wrong time."

To these familiar White House contentions, President Truman~~d~~ added something new today -- pointing to international dangers. Without mentioning Soviet Russia by name, he referred to the Soviet opposition to the Marshall Plan, the new and greater cleavage between the East and the West - and said our risks now are greater. In other words, we may need a lot of money to handle that international situation.

In the House the vote was two hundred and ninety-nine to one hundred and eight, twenty-seven more than the necessary two-thirds. In the case of the previous tax bill, the House sustained the veto by two votes. Today the sentiment for tax reduction among the Congressmen was much stronger.

As for the Senate, the word all along had been that the veto would be sustained by a small margin. And the Senate has just voted, with the count fifty-seven to thirty-six, five votes short of the necessary two thirds to over-ride the President. Veto upheld! Tax reduction killed! Until next year! Presidential election year!

PRESIDENCY

A new page of American ~~constitutional~~ history was written today, when President Truman signed the bill ~~z~~ changing the Presidential succession. The bill embodies the President's own idea. In fact, he urged Congress three times to make the change.

Hitherto, the successor, in the absence of a ~~Vice~~ Vice-President, ~~has~~ has been the Secretary of State. But the Truman view was that since ~~the~~ a Secretary of State ~~was~~ ^{is} appointed by the White House, a President ^{would} ~~might~~ be in a position to name his own successor. Harry Truman, in fact, was in that position. ^{And that's} ~~wasn't~~ all wrong, according to the Truman view. An official elected by the people should be next in line. The President suggested - the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

When Truman first made this suggestion to Congress, the ~~was~~ speaker was a Democrat, Rayburn of Texas. Then, presently, the Republicans won control of the House - which made the Speaker a Republican. But that didn't make any difference to our Democratic

President. He said the principle of the thing was the same - and he again urged Congress to act.

~~During the Congressional debate, there was a Senate demand that the succession should go to the President of the Senate, - which reflected the pride of the Upper House, a slight resentment at the idea of a mere Congressman being next in line for the White House. The President of the Senate was Vandenberg of Michigan; - so how did he react to the proposal that would have put him next in line; he said - no. He agreed with the Truman idea. Senate elections are every six years, while elections to the Lower House are every two years - putting the Lower House closer to the people. ~~so~~ The Presidential succession should go to the Lower House - ~~so~~ argued Senator Vandenberg.~~

Of course, the speaker of the House might not be eligible for the Presidency - which the constitution limits to native born citizens, thirty-five years of age or more. According to the new law, if the succession can not go to the speaker, the next in line would be

the President of the Senate -- and following him,
members of the cabinet in their order of precedence.

PATTERSON

We have a new Secretary of War - Kenneth C. Royall of North Carolina. Today brought the resignation of Secretary Patterson and the immediate appointment of his successor. The Washington word is that Patterson will be named to the Supreme Court the next time ~~there~~ there's a vacancy.

The new Secretary of war is a man of Army experience. As a young man Kenneth Royall of Goldsboro, North Carolina, joined the field artillery in World War One, served in France - and later went into North Carolina Law and politics. But he continued ~~in~~ his military experience in the Reserves, and rose to the rank of Brigadier General.

In World War Two, he became under-Secretary of War - in charge of the army's billion dollar financial affairs. Since then he has been handling disposal of surplus property, and other large matters of Army finance. *And* now he becomes the Secretary of War.

FOREIGN

(Greece reports continued action in the wiping out of the Red Guerrilla invasion that thrust across the border from Communist puppet Albania) - while on this side of the Atlantic there was an okay today on the money for American aid to Greece and Turkey against Red aggression. The House appropriations committee voted to put up the entire four hundred million dollars required ~~x~~ by the ~~xxx~~ Truman policy of checking Red expansion in the Near East. The Committee voted other huge sums for general foreign relief - but made a cut designed to keep American aid from going to countries under Red domination, like Poland and Hungary.

Meanwhile, (the United Nations is putting off action on the complaint that Soviet satellites are inciting revolution in Greece.) Today, a member of the delegation from puppet Bulgaria, stated ~~that~~ that Gromyko would veto the proposal to establish a U.N. Balkan Commission - which made the whole thing look like a deadlock. This impression was later confirmed when the U.N. Security Council voted to put things off

until next Tuesday - Soviet opposition producing a stalemate in the matter of having a U.N. Commission keep a watch on the doings ~~if~~ of the Red Satellites along the Northern Border of Greece.

PALESTINE

(The biggest battle of an immigrant ship was fought off the coast of Palestine today - when the British intercepted a vessel carrying a ~~new~~ record number of Jewish Refugees - about forty-five-hundred.) The ship is a former American craft, renamed "Exodus-Nineteen-Forty-Seven." In that earliest Exodus, headed by Moses, maybe in about Nineteen Forty-Seven B.C. - the date wouldn't be too far wrong - it was Pharaoh and his Egyptians who tried to intercept the tribes of Israel - without success. Today, it was British ~~is~~ sailors, and they succeeded only after a violent fight.

Aboard the "Exodus-Nineteen-Forty-Seven," they were assailed with improvised weapons of all sorts, clubs and ~~x~~ axes. The enraged refugees turned live steam on them ~~and~~ and fuel oil. There were even attempts to drop lifeboats on the heads of the boarding party. Tear gas is said to have been used on both sides, and the British resorted to gunfire.

It would appear that two Jewish Refugees were killed, and one American - the first mate. The London News-Chronicle says six killed and one-hundred wounded. Also, one British warship damaged, a destroyer which, in the wild fracas, rammed the Exodus Nineteen-Forty-Seven. Finally (resistance was suppressed, and the record-breaking refugee ship was taken to the port of Haifa -- the Zionist immigrants soon to be transferred and interned at Cyprus.

All of which coincided with a new wave of terrorism in Palestine, Jewish Underground attacks all along the line.)

SCIENTISTS

(Out in the Marquesas Islands, ⁱⁿ Mid-Pacific, a raft arrived today - a raft made of South American balsa wood and bamboo.) But this is no story of castaways left adrift after some accident at sea.

(Aboard the raft were six ^{young} Norwegian scientists, who had made the voyage ~~by raft~~ from ~~the coast~~ the coast of South America, thirty-five hundred miles.) Their purpose? To prove a point - to demonstrate a theory.

(The leader of the scientific voyage on a raft is Thor Heyerdahl, a Norwegian Ethnologist and Archaeologist,) who propounds a new solution of the riddle of the South Sea Islands:- How did people of the primitive world ever reach those remote bits of land, some of them thousands of miles from nowhere? The islands are inhabited by Polynesians, of the same race, who speak the same language - descendants of ancient immigrants, prehistoric ~~xx~~ navigators who st ~~much~~ have made astounding voyages. The common theory is that the Polynesians made their way from Southern

Asia to the islands of the Mid-Pacific. And there is a romantic hypothesis that they went on to the coast of America - taking Asiatic civilization with them. Which would make them the spiritual ancestors of the Inca culture in Peru and the Mayan culture of Central America.

However, the Norwegian ethnologist and archaeologist, Thor Heyerdahl, had a different idea - the reverse. He contended -- and now more so than ever - were settled by voyagers from South America.

To settle the problem how such prehistoric people could navigate the immense distances of the Pacific, he argues that they could have done it on rafts made of South American balsa wood bound with Bamboo. Hence this voyage on the raft -- a practical demonstration that it can be done. Not propelled either just carried by the Humbolt and the Equatorial currents -- just drifting helpless.

The six Norwegian scientists, landing in the Marquesas today, said they would continue their voyage, and proceed by raft to Tahiti, another twelve hundred

miles -- sailing the way they think prehistoric navigators did it thousands of years ago.) Which still leaves us to solve the riddle of where the original inhabitants of South America came from? Maybe from Asia by way of Bering Strait, Alaska, and North America!

PARATROOPER

At Fulton, Missouri, a man thumbed a ride in a plane today. He went to Jack Haley, a pilot with a plane on the field, and asked if he could go along for a spin through the sky. He said that, actually, he didn't care about the takeoff, he wasn't thinking about the thrill of speeding through the air. The experience he wanted was-the landing.

He said he'd flown a lot, but had never landed in a plane -- and he wanted to see how it felt. He'd had lots of takeoffs, and had traveled thousands of miles by air. But never once had he known the feeling of a plane sliding down, wheels touching the ground. How could that be?

He was Ray Little, veteran paratrooper -- who had made jumps ever time he had flown.

He got the ride! And now the paratrooper, who had always jumped, knows how it feels to land in a plane. -- and even goes so far as to admit that he might prefer conventional landings to coming down in a parachute.

FLAGPOLE

A sad fate has come to Dixie Dugan, a fate worse than being overcome by the heat on top of a flagpole. Dixie, by profession, is a flagpole bicycle rider -- whose habit it is to go pedaling round and round on a platform away up there. At Memphis, Tennessee, Dixie started out on an endurance record, promising he's ride a bike around the flagpole continuously for two weeks. He did it for only nineteen hours, and had to give up; sunstroke!

So they had to call the fire department. They rescued Dixie all right, but on the way down one of the firemen was heard to mutter in scorn.

"Fine endurance Champ!" "Look at him, overcome by the heat -- and up there only nineteen hours. Why I could do better than that, on roller skates."

Dixie, though weak and feeble, was indignant -- especially about the mention of roller skates. Who was this firemen -- to talk like that?

Whereupon the fireman told him. He was Harry Schumaker, who one time at Long Beach, California,

went round and round on roller skates for a hundred and three continuous hours -- setting a world's record. In New York, Harry skated round and round a two and a half foot ledge on the eightieth floor of the Empire State Building, and kept going round that dizzy ledge for a hundred hours. Since then the endurance champ on roller skates has become a Memphis fireman.

The latest pictures Dixie and Harry challenging each other, to an endurance competition -- each on a flagpole, one on a bicycle and the other on roller skates -- to see who lasts the longest.

And now Hugh, how about something a little more important from you.

STARLET

A Hollywood starlet, who just possibly might have been looking for publicity, tried to pull a trick on Uncle Sam's postal people today. But the post office department turned out to be stuffy and old fashioned.

The starlet, Reno Browne, in a hurry to get back East, decided to mail herself, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ wrap herself up as a first class package, all plastered with stamps.

Yes Sir, she went ~~xx~~ to the Beverly Hills Post office and bought eighty-three dollars-and twenty cents worth of ~~xxx~~ air mail stamps, at the rate of five cents an ounce for her hundred and four ~~xxxx~~ pounds. But the post office people wanted to know one-hundred-and-four pounds of what?

"Me" said she. Pirroeting as she said it -- giving 'em an eyeful.

The Post office clerk reluctantly shook his head: Uh, Uh,

"You can send chicks by air mail, can't you?" queried Starlet Reno Browne.

"Yes Ma'am", the clerk replied, "but what

does that have to do with it?"

WEll, I'm a chick" said she, demurely - or maybe not so demurely.

The clerk admitted this, but pointed out that the postal guide is written in dictionary English, not in slang, so Reno Browne didn't get airmailed to New York. But, as a publicity stunt it worked -- as you see.

And what ~~if~~ anything do you see, Nelson?