

Good Evening Everybody:-

Tempers are boiling all over the country over that soak-the-rich tax measure. But of course the ~~principal~~ ^{vortex of the} boiling point is Washington. Republican senators denounced it as "a political gesture; a bill not to redistribute wealth but to redistribute poverty." They also describe it as a gag to catch votes.

On the other side of the fence, the most important defense of the bill came^s from President Roosevelt. At his press conference today, he described it as not only equitable but necessary. He says it's necessary because under existing circumstances too many rich people are escaping taxes. In 1933, a lot of them got out of paying anything on a considerable part of their income. They did this because they bought tax exempt securities and established trust funds for their families. The President, ~~published~~ ^{makes} the accusation that this was done by fifty-eight of the richest people in the United States.

LEAD -2-

Of course the new heavy income tax measure, when it is passed, will not solve that problem. Rich people, the master of the White House pointed out, will still be able to avoid a considerable share of their taxes by buying those exempt securities. So, he repeated, the only way to cure that will be by a Constitutional amendment, an amendment that will make the income from all government, state and municipal bonds taxable.

A lot of hard words have been flung at public utility companies in the last few weeks. But something happened in New York today that may stem part of the tide of abuse. The ^{huge}~~big~~ Consolidated Gas system of New York announces a big cut in the price of electric light and power. It is estimated that this will save the consumers in Father Knickerbocker's town around Seven million Dollars a year. ~~So maybe that will bring out a few kind words in one part of the country at~~
~~house.~~

However, the Senate Committee that's investigating the lobbies is saying no kind words at all. The probing senators are annoyed. They are tired of asking: "Where is H.C.Hopson?" and getting no reply. ~~Even~~ ^{the} The attorney for ^{the} Associated Gas and Electric told the Committee that even he didn't know where the giant company's missing Vice-President could be. He, too, has been trying to find him, but in vain. *Hopson's choice, apparently, is -- not to be found.*

There was a report in Washington today that the Chairman of the Committee had received hot information on Mr. Hopson's whereabouts from some mysterious source. Whether that ^{'s} true or not, the Committee today issued a subpoena for the missing millionaire

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Vice-President. And they put it up to Uncle Sam's marshal in New York to find ^{him} ~~the witness~~ and bring him to Washington. If he isn't found in New York, a call will be sent out to United States marshals all over the country to run him down.

It seems strange to hear a song of cheer on the subject of relief. Especially when it comes from the Middle West. What's more it comes from the agricultural districts.

~~It isn't fooling either, and it isn't any visionary optimism.~~ The relief rolls in the Middle-West are shrieking and shrinking fast. Within a couple of weeks no fewer than twenty-seven thousand people were taken off the dole in Wisconsin. Ten thousand who had been nourished by government and state in Kansas are now at work; eight thousand in Minnesota, three thousand in Nebraska. In other words forty-eight thousand people who have been getting handouts are now supporting themselves and their families.

What's the reason? Big crops. Also the loan situation is easing up. The mortgage crisis has been relieved.

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However, there's another side to the picture that's not so gladsome. Edward F. McGrady, Assistant Secretary of Labor, tells ^a ~~the~~ tale of woe. He says that the killing of the Blue Eagle deprived nine million people of their jobs. When the N. R. A. was declared unconstitutional hours of work were

lengthened and wages were cut. In some cases the working period has been increased twenty-percent.

So there we have it -- farm workers are doing better -- folks in the cities ~~are~~ not so well off. Mr. McGrady speaks with feeling. He's out in Cleveland trying to settle a strike of rayon workers. ^P It's in the big industrial centers that conditions are not so gay.

MOSCOW

There's going to be another big strike of longshoremen in America. The plans have all been laid, the date has been fixed. That's what we hear from Moscow. A leader of the Communist Party in America made the boast ^{at} ~~that~~ the proceedings of the World Congress of the Communist International. After the big strike on the Pacific coast, an agreement was made between the longshoremen and the ship owners. But that agreement lasts only until September, and it is then that the ^{next} ~~big~~ blow-off is to come.

That's part of the news that our Ambassador, William Bullitt, has been learning in Moscow today. At the orders of the State Department, he has been watching that Congress closely. ^π If there is any truth in ^{the strike prophecies} ~~this plan~~, the ship owners certainly have plenty of warning.

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GERMANY

German is a pretty tough language for people of other countries to learn. But foreigners say that if you're in the Fatherland today, you can get by if you understand just one word -- "verboten." They used to say that about the Fatherland when it was under the reign of the Hohenzollern. But when it comes to forbidding things, the Nazis are making the poor old Hohenzollerns look like thirteen grandmothers.

Most of the new "verbotens" apply to Jews. But non-Jewish Germans have to keep their eye on the "verboten" list because they are not supposed to have any dealings with their Jewish fellow subjects.

As for the Catholics, they're in almost the same plight. Likewise veterans of the Steel Helmet Organization.

Even Der Fuhrer himself is becoming hedged in with "verbotens". We haven't heard much from his own lips of late. Hemmed in by the two principal groups of his followers, he is "verboten" to say too much for fear of offending either one wing or the other. On his right hand are the moderates, on his left the fanatics. They agree only on one thing, - that is loyalty to him. He wants the good-will of foreign nations for Germany. And he knows that to get that he will have to lean to the moderates, with whom he is in secret sympathy now. But if he does that, he alienates the Jew baiters and the Catholic haters, who are his most violent partisans.

And into the bargain he has the growing unrest of his people on his hands. Labor is grumbling. Meat is scarce. Prices are high. Even the most faithful and docile Germans will grumble when they are hungry. For nine months this danger has been growing, and it is coming near to the boiling point.

The Berlin government tacitly admitted as much today. It issued a new "verboten" to meat dealers. It is "verboten" to charge more than a certain price.

Among the innocent bystanders who suffer from this hubbub, are the gentlemen ^{over here in Washington.} ~~from our own foreign office.~~ By the customs of international courtesy and by the express wish of the President, they are ^{forbidden} ~~verboten~~ to take sides. But ~~from all sides~~ the pressure on the State Department is tremendous. Congressmen and senators think Uncle Sam should tell Germany what he thinks about her in ~~forceable terms~~ forcible terms. Jewish organizations, Catholics, the American Federation of Labor, are all bombarding the government with the cry, "Protest, Protest!" Tell them what we think of them!"

The Secretary of State is on his vacation and in his absence the brunt falls upon tall, elegant, soft-spoken Bill Phillips, Acting Secretary. It must be admitted that suave Mr. Phillips has just accomplished an impossible job with incredible skill. He couldn't come right out and say that "the United States government deplores the treatment of various religious and racial groups in Germany." Instead of that he declared: "The American people are always sympathetic to the concepts of religious freedom and liberty of conscience in the United States." You will observe that this doesn't commit the government to anything. But he

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pacified the protesting organizations by saying, "in the United States as well as in other nations."

And that sounds like ~~almost~~ a masterpiece of diplomatic circumlocution.

Meanwhile the State Dept. is drafting a reply to the German note of protest about the Bremen flag-tearing incident.

The word "type" is also of great importance in Herr Hitler's country these days. Your comfort, your well-being, your safety, may all depend on what type you are. If you are a printer a great deal depends on what type you set. A linotype operator on a newspaper in Baden has found that out to his cost.

He had to set up those sacred words- "Heil Hitler," which as you ~~doubtless~~ know mean "Hail Hitler." But the compositor's finger slipped. He struck an extra key. So next morning his paper appeared not with the Nazi salute, but with the words:- "Heilt Hitler." That means, "Cure Hitler."

Well, you will ask, did the authorities pass that off as a joke? They did not. They arrested the linotyper. What is more the court convicted him of an attack on the government. The judge said that the mere suggestion that der Fuehrer might need curing is lese majeste, and all such horrible things. So for printing one letter too ~~many~~ much the hapless linotype operator gets seven months in the coop.

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ETHIOPIA

The Ethiopian squabble moved to Geneva today. There it nestles in the uncomfortable lap of the Council of the League of Nations. The Council convened this morning with the pudgy, [^]ad[^]oit Maxim Litvinoff, Foreign Commissar of Russia, in the Chair. Yes, a Red Commissar presiding over the body that is trying to establish peace between ^{Fascist} [^]Rome and ^{Imperial} [^]Addis Ababa.

Those delegates have a job that nobody needs to envy. Just to make things more difficult, they had hardly taken their seats when they received a telegram from the Ethiopian government, a telegram well calculated to throw sand into the machinery. It reads: "Under no circumstances will Ethiopia consent to be governed under a mandate of either Italy or the League of Nations." No matter how good it might be, for the Ethiopians, they would not stand for it. "No matter what prosperity we might achieve under the rule of a foreign power, it would not make up to us for the loss of our independence."

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So that throws one possible solution of the problem into the discard. Strangely enough, however, European statesmen don't seem to have given up ^{all} [^]hope of preventing war. John Bull and France are at it again, trying to persuade Italy. A secret conference has

been arranged between the three Powers. Anthony Eden will talk for Great Britain, Pierre Laval for France, and Baron Aloisi for Italy. Apparently, the idea is that words don't cost anything, so it won't do any harm to try. At any rate, the folks in Addis Ababa have serious hopes that something may come of this conference. They are pinning those hopes principally on John Bull.

It's not astonishing to learn that the Council adjourned this afternoon without having accomplished anything. Apparently, the principal thing they did was to listen ~~to~~ a flat statement from Italy's representative. He told the other delegates that Premier Mussolini won't consider anything at this juncture except the question of whether he should or should not put his differences with the Ethiopian Emperor up to arbitration. *The Ethiopian delegates demanded that the whole dispute be arbitrated and the British supported them. At adjournment time the Italians were in a huff.*

The Council is going to meet again tomorrow. That is,

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providing the delegates are able to agree on a formula for an arbitration commission, ~~that is~~ a formula that will provide some common meeting ground on which the adversaries can get together.

However, the real probability is that the Council adjourned so as to enable the secret conference of the three Powers to get under way.

There is a curious contrast in two items of information concerning Italy. On the one hand, Premier Mussolini had a sharp turn-down in London when he asked for a loan. The big money men on Threadneedle Street said: "Nothing doing". Then they explained: "We really don't think the ~~Ex~~ chap can win, you know." There is another thing that makes the English skeptical. The Briton of today says: "If the country had been worth grabbing, wouldn't we have grabbed it ourselves in Eighteen sixty-eight after the fall of

That was
Magdala?" *Q* British victory over the Abyssinians.

Incidentally, John Bull is not going to withdraw his legation from Addis Ababa. Instead, he's going to send soldiers to protect his diplomats, a regiment of Sikh fighters from India, some of the finest troops in the empire.

Those tall chaps with bulging turbans and long beards parted in the middle, the same lads who police Singapore, Hongkong and the Bund in Shanghai.

ADD ETHIOPIA

Another paragraph from Geneva! It confirms ~~x~~ unofficial reports that have been trickling into the United States. ~~and~~ Italians living in this country have been getting letters from home telling of terrific suffering among the troops in Eritrea and Somaliland. ~~and~~ Insufficient water, bad water, and disease have raised havoc among the Duce's forces before even a shot has been fired. That's the gist of letters we have been hearing about. The word from Geneva makes it more emphatic. Dysentery is laying the Italian troops low by the thousand. In fact, the figure is estimated at fifteen thousand, *ill.*

SCHULTZ

In a few hours we shall probably know what is to be the fate of Dutch Schultz, the big bad beer baron of the Bronx. His second trial at Malone, New York, is all ^{but} over. It's ^{now} up to the jury, the second jury that's had to listen to the tale of his alleged misdeeds.

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Martin Conboy, special prosecutor for Uncle Sam, wound up his summation with a burst of fireworks. "A gunman" he shouted at the defendant. "A dangerous man, a public enemy!"

The government scored one important point, ⁱⁿ Judge Bryant's charge to the jury. The defense had shown that Schultz' lawyer had advised him that as his income had been acquired by illegal means, he could not pay a tax on it. Judge Bryant sat on that point heavily, saying: "No matter whether income is obtained from legal toil or illegal, people are obliged to pay a tax."

KIDS

Senator Harry Moore of New Jersey while sweltering in Washington this summer, saw some small boys splashing in a big fountain on the lawn of the Capitol. The Senator was just wishing that he too could jump in and splash along with them, when a cop appeared and chased the lads away. So now Senator Moore of New Jersey has presented to Congress a bill to allow any child to wade and paddle in any of the public fountains, basins, or pools in the District of Columbia. He has specified that the kiddy must be properly clothed because it wouldn't do to shock the Congressional modesty. Likewise they are not allowed to jump into fountains, basins or pools maintained for animals, birds, or fish. They musn't try and ride on the back of a swan or scare the goldfish.

The idea is keep children who jump into cold water from getting into hot water. But hot water's what I'll be in unless I say -- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.