

TAX

The Senate and the House agreed on the tax-the-rich program today. The Senate had passed one kind of tax bill and the House had passed another kind of tax bill. So they staged a conference to frame a compromise bill agreeable to both houses. They wrangled and debated, and came to an agreement today.

The difference between the Senate and House bills mostly concerns inheritance taxes. The New Deal President Roosevelt wanted a big inheritance tax. But in the compromise bill adopted today that was dropped altogether. Instead, an Estate Tax was put in. What's the difference between an Inheritance Tax is collected on the property left by somebody. Instead of collecting at one end, you collect at the other - get you either coming or going. The Inheritance Tax was finally dropped from the compromise bill because they said it would be so difficult to collect.

The unsophisticated layman finds it hard to see so much difference between the two. The main question seems to be how much. The bill that's been adopted merely increases the present

estate tax. The new rates will run from two to seventy percent --

seventy percent in the case of those really giant estates. If a

man leaves ~~them~~ <sup>more than</sup> fifty million dollars, the government will

take seventy cents out of every dollar over the fifty millions, <sup>and less</sup>  
<sup>and less under that.</sup>

The new bill won't have the Borah amendment which would forbid the government to issue any tax-exemption bonds in the future. Senator Borah wanted this, as a way to stop great fortunes from being invested in government bonds, on which no taxes had<sup>d</sup> to be paid. But the conference turned the Borah amendment down.

In general the tax bill is pretty much the same ~~as~~ as we have been hearing -- heavy tax-the-rich levies on incomes <sup>of</sup> ~~over~~ <sub>1</sub> fifty thousand dollars a year and more.

It hadn't been expected that the Senate and House conference would come to an agreement so soon, but agree they did. Maybe it's because they are so anxious to adjourn and go home.

SOCIAL SECURITY

From Washington we hear about a dark horse. That figure of speech usually suggests the presidency, so maybe it shouldn't be used in connection with membership on the board that will administer the Social Security Program. Anyway, it's hardly proper to speak of a dark horse, when the person in question is a lady. The entrance of women into politics calls for a revision of a lot of those familiar political expressions. You wouldn't walk up to a lady and say: "Madam, you're a dark horse." She might reply: "You're no beauty, either." So, in the case of a lady candidate we'd better say, not dark horse, but white gazelle. The white gazelle in this case is Miss Margie ~~M.~~ Neal of Texas.

There's been a lot of speculation and ambition <sup>no hope</sup> in Washington about the appointment of a woman member on the Social Security <sup>Board.</sup> ~~Program~~. The job of administering the unemployment insurance and old age pension <sup>s</sup> is one of ~~the~~ most important, and membership on the board is a big time affair. Three favorites have been mentioned - Josephine Roche, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Grace Abbott, former Chief of the Children's Bureau, and Lavina Engle, former member of the Maryland State Legislature. ~~Any~~ Any one of these three would

be supported by Miss Perkins, Secretary of Labor, and by prominent Democratic women.

But now the white gazelle appears suddenly and seems likely to get the coveted post. The lady from Texas is said to have the support of Vice-President Texas Jack Garner. She is also backed by the Texas senators and by the Lone Star delegation in the House. Margie Neal used to be a school teacher, then she ran a newspaper, and later became a member of the Texas State Legislature.

KARPIS

The Department of Justice today revealed a bit of news with a blaze of melodrama behind it. It is word from Public Enemy Number One. That expression's a bit out of date -- "Public Enemy Number One." The G-men have hunted down those kingpin criminals with such success that they seem to be a bit of ancient history. Nevertheless there's one they never got. They bore down hard on Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd, the Barkers, and many another. But Alvin Karpis is still at large. Of all those public enemies he ranks as one of the most dangerous. A most intense search by all the detective powers of the Federal Government has failed to lay hands on him. <sup>H</sup> But what about Karpis today? He has written a letter -- a letter to J. Edgar Hoover. And he threatens the head of the G-men with death, vows he will kill him. <sup>H</sup> The Chief of the Investigation Bureau of the Department of Justice receives many a threat from the underworld, but it is exceptional when he gets a menacing death threat from Karpis, whom they call Old Creepy.

J. Edgar Hoover takes it all as a part of the day's work. He makes no comment on the letter from Karpis. To him it means merely a possible clue, a marker on the trail. The letter was ~~xxx~~

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mailed from a town in Ohio. The G-men bloodhounds are trying to pick up the track from there.

And that's the latest in one of the most extraordinary manhunts on record -- the chase for Karpis and his series of successful escapes.

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## ETHIOPIA

The foreign news tells of a revolution in Equador.

All rather vague. But it looks like a military coup de etat.

We're hearing a lot about the possibilities of another world struggle -- that is, in addition to the Italian-Ethiopian conflict, which is now definitely scheduled. But let's look at the possibilities, based on today's events. I don't believe Mussolini expects a general outbreak, but he does make it clear that he is ready for any eventuality. Italy stands prepared to the limit, in case anything should happen as a result of events in East Africa.

What's in today's news to back that up? Why, the order for the Italian war games - and the Duce's command that every member of the Italian government shall take part in the maneuvers which begin Saturday. With a quarter of a million men prepared to advance in East Africa, Italy is throwing half a million into military exercises on her Alpine border. And then there's the Italian air force, to be increased by the addition of sixteen thousand men. That will jump the Italian sky fleet to a strength of more than forty thousand war aviators and mechanics.

So the logic of it now looks eloquent. The Italian war news heretofore has consisted mostly of - troops to Africa. But the emphasis changes. Now it's placed on the military establishment kept in Italy - the home force. So isn't that a reflection of the fact that there has been a similar change on the diplomatic front? Instead of talking about peace and war in Africa, the statesmen now are worrying about the possibilities of a flare-up in Europe.

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There is word from London that has an even graver tone. Heads of the British government are saying that they believe Mussolini's African policy is an outright threat against the power and possessions of the British empire. And that's the most serious sort of idea to be held in London - that Italy intends to expand at the ultimate expense of England, and plans to get control of the Mediterranean. And this opinion is expressed in military reports - that Great Britain will re-enforce her regiments in her colonies bordering on Ethiopia:- Six thousand picked Indian troops, Sikhs. And there's even a rumor that London may send the British fleet into the Red Sea. And Britain is preparing

to advocate economic sanctions by the League of Nations.

Let's ask two sets of questions:- How far will England now go in opposing Mussolini's Ethiopian expedition? London is getting ready to lift the arms embargo against Ethiopia. This will be a gesture against Italy, but probably nothing to cause an explosion. But will England try to stop the transport of Italian troops and war material by closing the Suez Canal? That would indeed be a world crisis, and might lead to anything.

The second set of questions concerns Italy. Would Mussolini dream of a war with England? Would he think of facing the British fleet? Do the Italians have notions of grandeur - that by the use of submarines and a great bombing sky fleet, they could make life impossible for British warships in the Mediterranean? - at Malta, Cyprus, and so on. Do they believe that submarines and planes could block the Straits of Gibraltar, and keep the British fleet out?

For my part, I don't believe for a moment that the British will gamble on a world war by closing the Suez Canal. Or

that the Italian government would risk a desperate challenge to the British fleet. So it seems to be a good guess - there won't be any war beyond the East African battle in spite of all we are hearing.

Nevertheless, we find George Lansberry, head of the British Labor Party, so convinced of the possibility of a world

conflict - that he announces today that he has written letters to the Pope, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the most eminent leaders of the British Evangelical Churches. He calls upon these church dignitaries to summon ~~was~~ a world peace congress to meet in Jerusalem, on Mount Calvary. And there, on the ~~right~~ site where the Saviour was crucified - ~~has declared~~ to declare in the name of Christianity, "Let there be peace". George Lansberry thinks that such a conference should declare, "a truce of God".

~~Which reminds us how in the middle ages the Church opposed the prevailing war spirit by declaring, "a truce of God", helping the cause of peace.~~

The latest word of all comes from Washington, where the Congress of the United States thinks the <sup>world</sup> war danger is so great, it's <sup>time</sup> ~~getting~~ to do something about it. ~~The law-makers are afraid that the Italian Abyssinian scrap will draw in other nations, and they want to be sure that we're not drawn in.~~ The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has sketched a series of laws and regulations to enforce American neutrality. Just what they are in detail has not been made public, but they will be soon. They'll come out in the open when the neutrality program comes up before the two Houses.

And that is expected to occur right away, pronto - tonight or tomorrow.

There's plenty of action to ~~enforce~~<sup>force</sup> that neutrality bill through. The Senate Munitions Committee, headed by Senator Gerald Nye, declares that if Congress does not adopt a neutrality bill, ~~it'll~~ they'll start a filibuster. They will start speech-making and block everything. And that might delay the adjournment of Congress. The President wants Congress to go home. So, it is believe that the full power of the Administration will be behind the neutrality bill, which the Munitions Investigators are demanding, with the threat of a filibuster.

## OLYMPICS

In Berlin today men were working underground, when a catastrophe descended upon them - a catastrophe in the form of a collapse, a cave-in. And you can chalk the accident to the account of the Olympics.

They were building a new subway for the benefit of next summer's tournament of the athletes. The Nazi government is making enormous preparations to put those Berlin Olympics across in a big way. Even though their anti-Semitism and anti-this-and-that may persuade various nations to keep their runners and jumpers at home, Berlin is getting ready for huge crowds; and one way of getting ready is to dig a new subway, to shuttle the multitudes back and forth from the heart of the city to the Olympic Stadium.

Today the street segment sank - Hermann Goering Street.

The cave-in occurred at the thoroughfare named after Hitler's chief lieutenant. *Near the Brandenburg Gate.* Men were working in the tube when it collapsed. And the casualty list is - fourteen. Not only did the tunnel give way, and come crashing down - but water mains were broken. And the underground wreck was flooded. That's why disaster was so black today, in the building of Berlin's Olympic subway.

MONACO

In the military news today, tidings from the realm of arm and strife, we find that things are not so good for - gambling. Mars, the god of war, gets a kick in the ribs, because the roulette wheel doesn't spin with such a golden whirl any more. An army vanishes, a war machine disbands, because the house isn't doing so well in the baccarat <sup>h</sup> game. At Monaco!

We've heard from time to time that gambling is in the red on the Riviera. The depression hit hard at Monte Carlo. And world economic recovery has not meant Monte Carlo gambling recovery. So affairs have been in trouble in that historic palace-of-chance, also in the little principality of Monaco, which is supported by the profits on the games of chance. The government, kept going by roulette and baccarat, <sup>h</sup> is in financial distress, broken. It must cut expenses. And that brings us to the military aspect of the gambling tragedy, *and today's further details are pathetic.*

Prince Louis of Monaco has abolished his army - that brilliant war machine in vivid uniforms of red, white and blue. Seventy-six men -- cost Eighty thousand dollars a year. That isn't a huge military budget, as military budgets go. But it's too much for the Prince of



Monaco, when millionaire gamblers are not losing their golden shirts at Monte Carlo. The demobilized army doesn't know what to do. <sup>Today's</sup> ~~They~~ further news is <sup>^</sup> that some of the seventy-six Monte Carlo fighting men are planning to go to Ethiopia, to fight for the King of Kings, although the gambling may not be so good at Addis Ababa either, gambling with bullets and bombs instead of chips.

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It's all a melancholy indication of a slump and a set-back at the grandiose temple to the <sup>gambling</sup> god. ~~of chance~~. It's always proper, when times are downcast, to tell tales of former days of glory. So let's have a story of the fabulous Monte Carlo legend, in the days when kings and queens, dukes and grand-dukes, thronged around the gambling tables. The German Kaiser, William the Second, in the height of his glory during the times before the war, came to Monte Carlo. He had a system. He had bought it from a Heidelberg professor who had figured out an absolutely positive way to win. The Kaiser tried it. He lost Twenty thousand dollars at one sitting, and then gave up the system in disgust, saying *Donerwetter, and some more. Under-* viter.

## HAIR-CUT

Over in Czecho-slovakia a bunch of soldiers are in the guard house - because they wouldn't get a hair-cut. It's a cavalry regiment, and they were growing flowing locks and bangs, just about ready for a permanent wave. The order was given to report to the regimental barber for a hair-cut. But they refused. The reason is that their time of service is up in two weeks and they don't want to emerge into civilian life with a Czecho-slovakian hair-cut. They say they'll have to get jobs and they want to make a good appearance, and you know how a fellow looks when the clippers have clipped right down to the bone.

It's quite an army scandal in Czecho-slovakia, something of a mutiny. The cavalrymen and their flowing locks have been ordered to prison, to be kept there until they change their minds. It's a sad story of men against hair-cuts. And I'll be snatched baldheaded unless I say,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.