

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field
FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington.—Five hundred thousand additional workers must be absorbed in private employment to avoid an additional relief appropriation. That is the calculation of experts here who figured on the precise meaning of President Roosevelt's message.

To put it another way, federal relief expenditures are to be cut, under the President's plan, precisely the amount that private employers can save the government relief rolls by hiring people off them. Roosevelt figures on a saving by this method of \$400,000,000. This is the amount—on the boondoggling type of project—that taking care of 500,000 workers would cost.

The cost to private employers would be much greater, of course, for private employers pay better wages than are paid on the boondoggling projects. It is fair to compare with boondoggling projects, for the President made it perfectly clear that everything from now on is to be WPA and there is to be no more PWA.

This was quite a blow, incidentally, to Harold L. Ickes. He has been conducting a great propaganda campaign for "worthwhile" projects, showing that the country approved them enormously, as indicated by various referendum ballots taken in various sections on bond issues, etc.

Mr. Ickes had a list of nearly 1,500 projects, estimated to cost \$350,000,000, all approved if and when the money should be appropriated. All these are now out the window. They didn't even get as far as Quoddy and the Florida ship canal, which Ickes never did approve.

Would Cut Relief Cost

If business does come through with the employment of an average of 500,000 additional men throughout the year, relief expenditures for the year beginning July 1 will be just \$400,000,000 smaller than for the year ending June 30 next. For the present year, according to the best estimates obtainable, relief expenditures will be \$3,500,000,000. For the year beginning July 1 they will be, again according to estimates, \$3,100,000,000.

Next year's figures are obtained by adding the \$1,500,000,000 that the President just asked to \$600,000,000 already in the congressional estimates for CCC camps and other public works, and then adding in the \$1,000,000,000 that, it is calculated, will be in the federal bill on July 1, left over from this year's appropriations.

It is actual spending that counts, not appropriations. Naturally anything looks good compared with that \$4,880,000,000 in last year's relief bill. But that billion dollars left over—at least that is what the government actuaries say will be left over—changes the picture materially.

Aside from the cost of relief and its obvious effect on taxes, the most important phase of the President's message was what it may mean to hours of labor in this country. On the very day before the message was read to congress, Senator Black announced he would make no effort to push his 30-hour bill.

The President has no intention of presenting legislation to force this shortening of hours. He alluded regretfully to the NRA codes, but there is no indication they are coming back. Indications are that the President will work for his objective of shorter hours by the labor union route, which is more satisfactory to union labor leaders, but leaves out a lot of unorganized workers.

Make Corporations Pay

There is a strong possibility that President Roosevelt's idea of eliminating present corporation taxes, as part of his new plan to force greater distribution to stockholders of corporation earnings, will be abandoned before congress concludes its labors with the tax bill.

Congress, in a way of speaking, has virtually set its heart on making corporations, and corporation stockholders, pay all the additional money needed by the treasury. It would like nothing better than to forget all about the proposed excise taxes, which were, under the President's original plan, to finance the new farm program.

But it is already realized by those familiar with the treasury revenue tables which have been submitted to the house ways and means committee that this cannot be done if the President's general idea is followed. It certainly cannot be done if all the present corporation taxes are repealed.

The point is that present corporation taxes are yielding slightly under \$1,000,000,000 a year to the federal treasury. It is estimated that were they continued they would yield more than \$1,000,000,000 for the calendar year 1936, because most corporation earnings promise to be better this year than last.

It is also generally conceded that most corporations would boost their dividend rates—assuming they are

now pursuing the policy of putting something into surplus every year—so as to avoid the very high tax levies. There is such a thing as mass pressure, even among corporation stockholders. Treasury figures show the astounding figure of 124,120,030 persons who would draw additional dividends although their incomes are so small that they do not pay income taxes at all! True, the additional amount they would be paid is only a little more than \$3 a year each, but it amounts to \$383,000,000. Quite a sizable chunk to deduct from corporation taxes. The treasury loses about \$60,000,000 right there!

Big Loss to Treasury

The next group number 2,191,302 persons, who would draw \$310,000,000 more in dividends. These have incomes from \$1,000 to \$5,000, thus getting the lowest income tax rate. So that on these dividends the treasury would get 4 per cent—maximum—instead of the 15 per cent they would pay as corporation income taxes, plus the capital stock tax and the excess profits tax.

Also, the earnings thus forced out in dividends would distribute about \$370,000,000 a year to institutional investors who would be exempt under any plan that has a Chinaman's chance of going through. Another loss of \$60,000,000 from the present system.

All of which, as the ways and means committee members know perfectly well, is without making any allowance whatsoever for increased spending by corporations, which would seek to build up surplus in another form than dollars or additional plant. For example, by advertising.

Some of the biggest surplus accumulators among corporations are those which manufacture and sell to the public articles whose continued sale is dependent upon advertising.

No "Must" List

President Roosevelt has practically no "must" list of legislation for congress, if one excepts the tax bill. True, he is back of the Norris bill, which would lend \$50,000,000 a year for two years, and then \$40,000,000 a year for eight more, for the development of the rural electric projects. But this has already passed the senate, and it is the senate where the time element is important. The house could arrange to adjourn a week from any Tuesday and not even have to hurry its normal speed.

But there are pending a great many measures which are of enormous importance, especially to business men, manufacturers, shippers, and tax producers generally. Interest in them for the last ten days has been almost entirely submerged by the greater importance of the tax bill, the one "must" measure. But there they are, and some of them will probably pass.

For instance, there is the Patman-Robinson bill. It aims at preventing manufacturers from giving big customers what the Federal Trade commission regards as an unfairly large discount. The two shining targets, of course, are the chain stores and the mail order houses.

Maybe this measure will be so emasculated that it won't mean anything. Maybe in final form it will be so drastic that it will really do what its backers hope for. Consider the possibilities of the latter. One is that the big chains and mail order houses would just go in for manufacturing in a big way, probably buying out the present independent manufacturers who are selling to them more cheaply than they sell to the "little fellows" who are the competitors of the chains and mail order houses. Either that or the manufacturer whose chief business comes through orders from the chains or mail order houses simply decides to throw in his lot with the big ones altogether. The law can prevent discriminations, but it cannot force a manufacturer to sell when he doesn't want to do so.

Walsh-Healey Bill

Consider the Walsh-Healey bill. They are really two bills. But they aim at forcing contractors getting government money to comply with the old NRA codes.

In view of the fact that the government is spending such a prodigious amount these days—in fact a very sizable percentage of all the money spent, especially in the heavy industries—here is a law that is of vital interest, to put it mildly, to a lot of business men. The odds against its passage should be about three to two, but there is no telling.

Important to all railroads and truckers, and stockholders in either, is the Pettengill bill. This would permit the railroads to forget all about previous rules on long and short hauls. It would virtually permit the railroads to make rates so as to get the business, or any particular bit of it, without revising all their rates and throwing their rate structure haywire.

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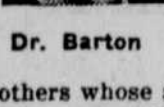
HOW ARE YOU TODAY

DR. JAMES W. BARTON
Talks About

Cutting Down on Water
PRACTICALLY every overweight individual knows that potatoes, bread, and sugar help greatly to form fat in the body and accordingly these three items are usually eaten in very small amounts by those who are faithfully trying to reduce their weight.

Most overweights also know that fat foods—cream, butter, fat meats, nuts, egg yolks—by preventing wear and tear in the tissues prevent loss of body weight.

However it would seem that there are still a great many overweights who do not seem to know that water in the body tissues adds greatly to the weight of the body, makes life uncomfortable, and interferes with the proper action of the organs and tissues just as does fat tissue itself. This fact is known to boxers, wrestlers, jockeys and others whose athletic endeavors call for speed, skill and endurance. The first thought of boxers, for instance, after being weighed in, is not food but water or other liquids, as the "drying out" process has left them terribly thirsty.



Dr. Barton

And when we remember that every pound of fat tissue can and does often hold over three pounds of water, we can readily realize what it means to the weight of the body if too much liquid is not used, as liquids feed water to the fat tissues of the body.

This is the reason that exercise is such a wonderful weight reducer. The exercise heats up the body, first gets rid of surplus water in the skin, then draws up the surplus water in the fat, and then heats and removes some of the fat itself. And the great point about exercise is that the water and fat are gradually replaced by muscle tissue. This muscle tissue not only strengthens the individual and makes him willing to take more exercise, but muscle tissue does not hold extra water as does fat tissue.

Already Water-Logged.
The thought then for overweights is that while water is necessary to every one, and most of us do not drink enough of it, the overweight is already water-logged and does not need so much water. The overweight should drink some water whenever he feels he must, but a quarter to one-third of the usual amount is all that should be taken.

Another point that is not remembered by overweights is that eating too much salt will prevent loss of weight, as it has been found that a grain of salt will hold seventy times its weight of water. Thus a person can easily carry one to one and a half gallons of water in his body, kept there by salt, without showing swelling.

Now salt is necessary for health and for life itself. Salt preserves the tissues from disorganization and putrefaction, is needed by the blood to hold certain materials in solution, it regulates the chemical reaction of the blood and various juices of the body.

Use Small Quantities.
However, in overweights, anxious to rid themselves of water, salt must be taken in small quantities. This is a real hardship because overweights are usually good eaters and like their food well-seasoned.

Now how are these overweights who have developed a liking or perhaps a craving for salt going to cut down on salt without too much hardship?

Dietitians tell us that raw vegetables do not require salt; that there is enough salt in them to make them "tasty."

Meat can be made tasty without the use of salt by browning it quickly and adding only a little water. Natural condiments such as caraway seed, mustard, nutmeg, onions, cheese, butter, and lemon can be used.

Treating Varicose Veins
There seems to be a tendency towards varicose veins in some families, while other cases are due to overweight or to overlifting. When the veins are small, cause no discomfort, no swelling or other symptoms they should be forgotten as there is no need for treatment. When, however, there is discomfort or the veins are unsightly, their removal by the injection treatment or by surgery must be considered.

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Color and Cushions Surround a Mezokovesd Baby.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

"WANTED, female servant; wages by the month to be clothes, potatoes, carrots, beans—and sixty cents."

This is not a line from a musical comedy, or a funny movie subtitle, but the translation of a bona fide "want-ad."

In an American newspaper it might reasonably have aroused curiosity, if not investigation by a local union, but it caused no unusual stir among the crowd of peasants in the small town of Mezokovesd in Hungary, as the town crier shouted it out. There was all the weekly news, as well as the rest of the "advertising" to be heard. The oral journalists of Mezokovesd were informing the townspeople of the week's events, at the usual Sunday morning gathering.

Even with Lenten restrictions, there is little curbing of gaiety among the peasants on their treasured weekly holiday in Mezokovesd. True, you may have no opportunity of seeing a marriage dance. Nevertheless, the air is full of merry excitement and happy chattering. And no one can smile more wholeheartedly and infectiously than the young Hungarian girl!

Mezokovesd is a most typical of Hungarian villages; there the traveler may see the real peasant life of the country. The town's population is some 20,000; it is about three hours' ride to the east of Budapest, and only two trains a day make the trip.

Sunday afternoons the healthy lot of villagers parade in their festival finery, the heavily embroidered costumes ablaze with bright colors. And of a Sunday morning the life of the town centers in the church, always crowded to the doors, and in the weekly "newspaper."

At ten o'clock on Sunday morning you find the streets almost deserted. It is a brisk day and you are glad to have the protection of a heavy coat.

First Church, Then News.

You walk to the center of the town, some distance from the railroad station, and enter the church. If it were not for the saving landmark of the church steeple, it would be easy to get lost in any Hungarian town. Since all the whitewashed mud houses are low, the guiding steeple can be seen from any place to which one may wander.

There is little standing room in the church, and you find the air too incense-laden to linger long. Besides, your presence causes much curiosity, so that the chanting women, with shawl-covered heads, and the men, telling their beads, are being distracted from their devotion. So you leave and walk about the square, marveling occasionally at the sight of an American-made product in one of the shop windows.

And presently the church bells announce the close of the service.

Then the church doors open and crowds of black-clad figures pour out. As if waiting for this signal, two gendarmes take their places on opposite sides of the large square in front of the church and begin to beat a vigorous tattoo on their drums. From the church the people gather in two crowds about these officials, who draw forth important-looking documents of paper and begin their reading.

It is an education and a revelation to hear the news of Mezokovesd. "A cow was lost on Tuesday. If anyone has found her let him report to the town headquarters."

There is a long list of farms to rent and sell; plows to rent, servants to hire. The usual monthly wage of the servants is seldom more than three or four pengos (a pengos is worth about thirty cents) added to certain supplies and their needed clothing. It is sufficient, no doubt; their wants are few.

Any national news of importance is told; new laws are read. It is an amusingly terse, clear effort, when one contemplates the columns of unread copy in our own metropolitan papers.

This rite over, the peasants de-

Village Life in HUNGARY

part to their homes and the town is suddenly as quiet as on a week day, for during the week all the young men and women are out in the fields, and only the very old and the very young remain in the village.

Sunday Afternoon Parade.

Dinner, and then you are among the gaily dressed crowds, on their weekly parade about the town. They wait always until the afternoon before donning their gorgeous costumes and then they pour into the streets like the sudden blossoming of a garden. Indeed, the pretty aprons are surprisingly like gardens, or bright flowers in a basket, or clusters of posies in the sunlight. Their embroidery is peculiar to Hungary. Small pieces of it, on sale at one of the homes may be too gaudy to attract some travelers; but on a black apron and a tightly fitting jacket, it seems most appropriate and quaint.

The men of the town are quite as ornately garbed as the women. They are smartly dressed in black velvet trousers made much like riding breeches, short jackets, and leather boots shined to a glow. Some of them also wear the long black aprons embroidered by a doting mother or an adoring and dutiful sweetheart. And all of them wear green hats, round and high-shaped somewhat like a derby—with feathers of varying size and color perched on the side.

But the Sunday parades are not courting parties. Far from it. The men keep to themselves, and the women walk apart from them, for etiquette in Mezokovesd does not permit any promenade in couples. Not even the married ones walk together.

And so the boys contrive their own little fun as they pass the maidens—calling to them, teasing them by pulling at one corner of their aprons, or tweaking a long braid of hair. Shiny faces blush and the girls giggle—and probably think it the very best part of the entire day! Unmarried girls always go bareheaded, even in the winter months. It is only after the marriage service that a young girl may put up her hair and wear the distinctive headdress of the married woman.

Then the hair ribbons are dispensed with and the long braids are wound about the head, so that a cone-shaped cap can be pinned on. Over this is placed the satin shawl that marks the girl as a young matron.

The new brides are easily found. They will be walking together, few of them more than eighteen years old, and some several years younger, still giggling when they pass their young husbands, and proudly conscious of their new coiffures.

Courting and Marriage.

Courting? Oh, yes, when they meet at the Sunday balls. And at home, too. But the mother is always present there, and it is more an ordeal than a pleasure. But every Sunday afternoon, except during Lent, they hold a dance, and the young people find it very satisfactory for getting acquainted and falling in love.

When a boy has found his chosen wife, and she looks favorably on him, the young man asks her father. If the father is willing, the young fellow sends two of his friends to ask formally for her hand, and this is considered the official announcement of the couple's engagement.

Then follows the wedding at a Sunday dance. The bride, incidentally, must have complete furnishings for her new house, including linens and clothes for herself. Usually some money or a cow goes with her, too. A father of many daughters has his hands full to get her dowry together.

An interesting phase of the social life in Mezokovesd are the community wells, where the women gather daily for their buckets of water. The water is drawn up by a long pole, out of reach of childish hands. This is the club of the neighborhood women, where they chat and exchange the latest news.

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PATTERN 5493

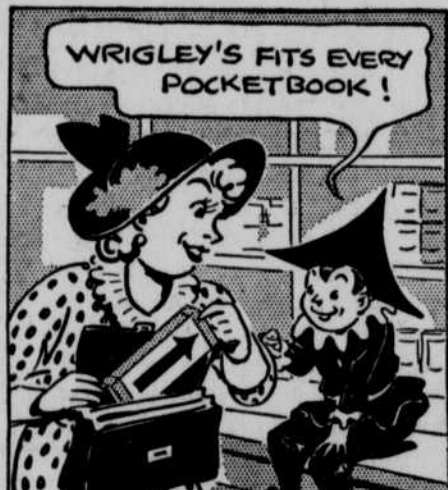
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Smiles

Double Punishment
"The other night I went to an amateur theatrical performance, then went home and had a terrible dream."
"What did you dream?"
"I dreamt I went to it again."
—Tid-Bits Magazine.



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THE OLD HOG

"The farmer's wife tells me it is profitable to keep a pig to get rid of scraps around the house."
"I presume so. I find, however, that my husband will eat almost anything."
Not Even Tarnished
"You ain't got no brains."
"Ain't got no brains? Why, man. Ah got brains which ain't been used."

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