

WSM, MARCH 23, 1947

Good Morning, Friends:

The Republican Party in the House of Representatives has finally reported its tax bill from the Ways and Means Committee and the battle lines are drawn for a legislative battle on this bill in the House next Wednesday and Thursday.

The republicans contend that taxes should be cut; the democrats are saying, no, they should not be cut ^{now} because of the tremendous war debt and because world conditions are so unstable that it is impossible to know what our international commitments may cost us. The republicans are saying, "Well, be that as it may, we are going to cut any way and this is how we are going to do it; give everybody a 20 percent cut in his taxes with a little sugar coating for those with a net income of one thousand dollars and less."

The democrats say, ~~Well~~, if you are going to cut taxes, that is the wrong way to do it. You should recognize the ability to pay. Twenty percent for the little man is one thing and twenty percent for the big man is quite another." "Although we are opposed to reducing taxes at this time," the democrats say, "if you must reduce them, you should give st ~~more~~ relief to the people who need it most."

And so the argument goes, and so it will go next Wednesday. But it being a republican Congress, the republican bill will very likely pass and it will very likely pass unchanged, too, because the bill will be considered

under a rule which forbids even the offering of an amendment, so there will be no middle ground on to which wavering Members can take refuge. They either vote for it or against it.

The repercussions of President Truman's proposed ^{foreign} policy are re-ver'berated. The over-all attitude of the Congress is favorable, but some doubts have arisen and a genuine concern has arisen as to the effect this unilateral action by the United States will have upon the United Nations. And this is indeed a serious question. ^{a question on which the president will undoubtedly speak well and perhaps soon} The United States took the lead in creating the United Nations. Into this effort went the whole soul efforts and hopes of many an American, including some of its greatest, Cordell Hull and Franklin D. Roosevelt, for instance. Into that Organization has come a majority of the civilized nations of the world. It is the grandest scheme yet for world civilization and peace, the repository of the hopes and the ambitions that have been nurtured and kept burning through the ages for a parliament of man. ^{for collective}

World security

The Washington Post

Registered in U. S. Patent Office

An Independent Newspaper
(Published every day in the year)

PHILIP L. GRAHAM, Publisher

HERBERT ELLISTON Editor
ALEXANDER F. JONES Managing Editor
CHARLES C. BOYSEN Business Manager
DONALD M. BERNARD Advertising Director
WAYNE COY Assistant to the Publisher

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

1337 E Street N.W., Washington 4, D. C.
Telephone National 4200

New York Office.....270 Madison Avenue (16)
Chicago Office.....360 North Michigan Avenue (1)
Philadelphia Office.....225 South 15th Street (2)
Detroit Office.....General Motors Building (2)

CARRIER DELIVERY City Zone

Daily and Sunday	Sunday Only	Daily Only
One week...\$.30	One week...\$.10	One week...\$.20
One month...1.35	One month... .45	One month... .90

Daily and Sunday	Sunday Only	Daily Only
One week...\$.35	One week...\$.15	One week...\$.20
One month...1.50	One month... .65	One month... .90

Daily and Sunday	Sunday Only	Daily Only
One year...\$18.00	One year...\$7.80	One year...\$10.40
Six months...9.00	Six months...3.90	Six months...5.20
Three months...4.50	Three months...1.95	Three months...2.70
One month...1.50	One month... .65	One month... .90

Rates to Foreign Countries
will be furnished upon request.

Entered at the Postoffice, Washington, D. C.,
as second-class mail matter.

*** Saturday, March 22, 1947

Spring Portent

Spring arrived officially in Washington at 6:13 a. m. yesterday, and it looks as if the weatherman read his almanac. For our part we shall be perfectly satisfied if this spring is the prelude, locally at least, to a summer just like the last one. It is customary to herald the new arrival as the fairest of seasons, to refer to the physical rebirth as a symbol of spiritual rebirth, and to anticipate glowingly the birds and the flowers that will soon be with us. Nor are these thoughts maudlin. These things, little as they are, are important because they are our environment. They are just as real as the atomic bomb, and the endless refreshment and healing of nature is one of the truly wonderful facts of existence.

Yet this new spring holds a meaning of far greater significance to millions of people throughout the world. The spring onslaught of war has been replaced by an equally terrifying onslaught of hunger. Spring is the signal for hope—hope of a favorable growing season, of an ample harvest, hope of an end to the gnawing that makes life a burden instead of a joy. In well-fed America it is hard to visualize just how much hinges on the weather of this season. Our own fields can make and have made a big contribution to relieving hunger, but the goal of all people is to help themselves. If a beneficent and propitious nature can bring fulfillment of these hopes, it could make a big contribution to the

Saving The United Nations

It is a heartwarming sign to note the concern in Congress and the country over the danger to the United Nations of our aid-to-Greece project. The fear is not entirely illusory. Nothing is easier than to slip into a habit of doing things oneself at a time when the doing must be quick and decisive. That habit would be impermanent. And the choice of a future in which we must espouse the everlasting world because we are the kingpin of it lies between an American imperialism and copartnership in a community of nations. The choice in favor of world organization will depend upon an alert public opinion ready at all times to keep our foreign policy riveted to the United Nations.

It is our conviction that this is the aim of the Truman policy. The President's object is to restore respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter. It is an effort to come to grips with a species of disloyalty to the U. N. which is subterranean and destroying. It is a bid to the Soviet to cut out its nonsense and work with us honestly in realizing the plain purposes of the U. N. Time out is required to reestablish the United Nations as the powerhouse of action that it was intended to be.

In this respect, Moscow since San Francisco has played the role of the great saboteur. We will restrict the evidence to the Greek affair. The Charter pledges the signatories to "refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state." Yet the integrity of Greece since the end of the war (in which she played a stirring and noble part) has been the object of a vicious attack conducted by Russia and her Balkan satellites. All of them ganged up against Greece at the peace conference in Paris. A visitor from Mars, watching the campaign, would have imagined that Greece was the leading Axis power. The offensive was resumed at the succeeding meetings in New York. But Greece could not be intimidated. She put her complaints of Yugoslav, Bulgar and Albanian interference before the Security Council. The ensuing filibuster or procedure conducted by Russia went on so long that The Post commented December 12 on "the grim fact that the principal organ of the United Nations is in a state of semi-paralysis." Eventually a committee of investigation went to the Greek frontier, though with a limited mandate and a circumscribed field of operations. It is still there—

The peril to the national integrity of Greece is clear and urgent to all our observers in Greece. Work in the fields and in the factories has been halted by guerilla forays. How could the United Nations prevent a Greek collapse? How—when the Security Council was subjected to a filibuster last winter when the case came up for discus-

sion? Let us imagine the procedure. A split report is bound to come from U. N.'s Balkan committee. The report or reports would lead to an interminable wrangle in the Security Council. For deeds there would be words. Much has been made of the lack of any progress (again a Soviet responsibility) in agreeing upon even the principles governing the creation of United Nations forces. But, even if such a force were available, every inch of the way to its employment could and would be blocked by Moscow. The delegates would be still talking about Greece when Greece had become a geographical expression.

It is being forgotten that the United Nations is helpless in any dispute in which a big power has an interest in behalf of aggression. Russia has up her sleeve a veto power on action. She has used it (as the Australian delegate put it last September) in such an "arbitrary, irresponsible and dictatorial" way as to bring the Council "into disrepute throughout the world." She has already established the practice (against both letter and spirit of the Charter) of exercising the veto merely by refusing to give an affirmative vote on a question of substance. The filibustering got so bad last summer that Secretary General Lie had to go to Moscow and plead with Stalin himself for moderation.

Now suppose Greece were talked to death and there were no more independent Greece. It would look like an inside job. In that event the United Nations would have difficulty in establishing any mandate whatsoever for action. Thus we would have this ironical situation: the real threat to Mediterranean and world peace would come after the world had been presented with an accomplished fact beyond U. N.'s capacity to change.

This aggression is being disguised so skillfully that the facts are as elusive as the investigators are divided. Its success would be the result (as Russia is fond of saying) of a "situation" and not a "dispute." Thus the world is watching a type of aggression against which there is no protection in the Charter save reliance upon self-restraint. It has also watched the emasculation of the U. N. in dealing with it. This is the reason we say that the Truman action is aimed at restoring respect for the United Nations. What the Secretary General could not produce last summer, the United States may. It is idle to talk of the danger of war. Non-action is more dangerous than action in a situation in which power centers are being eroded for Russian seizure. Russia's whole security system is being expanded and built up without the slightest reference to the United Nations. In not one of her satellite treaties is the world organization mentioned. The present is a chance that may not recur of re-educating Russia in action of the United Nations of her obligations to it.