

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON
By Ralph E. Church
Representative, 10th Congressional District

Washington, D. C., March 7—On Tuesday the President submitted his tax message to Congress, calling for \$1 billion 137 million in new revenue. Almost immediately the House, Ways and Means sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Samuel B. Hill, Democrat, of Washington, began a study of the President's declared revenue need and his proposed plan for meeting it.

It would be folly to anticipate what revenue raising methods the committee will recommend to Congress. Doubtless within the next few days a tentative bill will be prepared and introduced, which will serve as a working basis for committee hearings. We shall then be in a better position to make observations on the administration's tax program.

There seems to be two major proposals under consideration by the committee for replenishing the coffers of an overburdened treasury. One is that of the President. In substance it provides for an average tax of 33 1/2 per cent on undivided surplus of corporations with the removal of certain dividend exemptions on individual incomes. It also calls for a revival of the processing tax over a period of years on certain agricultural commodities, as well as a tax aimed at the processors who received the impounded processing taxes following the Supreme Court's decision on the AAA.

The most controversial feature of the plan is the graduated tax on undivided corporate surpluses. It is, to be sure, a matter which must be given extremely careful study, not only as a means of revenue but also as to the long time affect of such a tax upon business. It is perfectly possible that such a tax can operate so that when business reaches a low ebb the corporation will not have the capital to draw upon to continue operations. There is no question that a number of corporations were able to maintain a fair standard of operation during these depression years because of their respective reserves.

In reply to this criticism of the plan the administration leaders assert that the corporations will be permitted to maintain a "reasonable reserve." But the word "reasonable" is an obscure term, subject to many definitions, dependent upon each individual case. The question therefore is where to draw the line in affixing the tax rates. How can the Congress arrive at a practical principle of what amounts to a reasonable reserve which would

be applicable in each corporate situation.

To illustrate how the proposed graduate tax on corporation surpluses would operate, let us take a corporation which nets a profit of \$1,000,000. On a basis of one-third of the profits, the government would obtain approximately \$22,333. Rather than pay this tax the corporation may elect to pay the profits out in dividends to the stockholders. In that case each individual stockholder will have to pay a proportionate amount into the United States Treasury by way of dividend tax.

The other revenue raising method under consideration by the committee is a manufacturers' excise tax and the lowering of exemptions on individual incomes. We pay federal excise taxes at the present time on a number of commodities, such as gasoline, cosmetics, etc., but they are hidden taxes and we are not always aware that a tax is included in the price of the article. Treasury experts report that if a 5 per cent general manufacturers' excise tax is levied it should raise \$910 million.

It is reliably reported that the committee preparing the tax legislation has under consideration the lowering of the exemption on the individual income for a single person from \$1,000 to \$800 and for a married person from \$2,500 to \$2,000, at the same time increasing the surtax rate in these lower brackets of personal income.

For example, if a single person has an income of \$1,200 per year, under the present law he is allowed \$1,000 exemption and he would pay a tax of 4 per cent on \$200 or \$8. If the exemption is lowered to \$800 and the tax rate increased to 5 per cent, his federal income tax would thus become \$20 per year.

It is a fair presumption that the tax legislation will keep Congress in session much longer than anticipated. The objective of the administration is to have a bill enacted with as little controversy as possible. There are many of us who believe that it should become the immediate objective of the administration to devise ways and means to eliminate its unnecessary activities and to economize in its expenditures rather than to devise ways and means to raise money from the people without political difficulties.

Deerfield's civic problems thirty-five years ago were far different from present-day situations. In a column called "Here and There in the County in 1899," in the Libertyville Independent - Register is the following from the March 8, 1901, issue:

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Spring Is Here
The gardening enthusiasts are beginning their spring reading in earnest. The library is catering to this demand by a display of seed catalogs and a special section of shelving devoted to gardening books. There are lists of books about gardening for distribution.

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- "Herbaceous Borders for Amateurs"—Woolley, Robert V.
- "Another Gardener's Red-Book"—Wright, Richardson Little.
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- "Garden Club Manual"—Fisher, Mrs. Edith R.
- "Gardens and Gardening": The Studio Garden Annual, 1935.
- "Garden Design"—Cautley, Mrs. Marjorie.
- "Everybody's Garden"—Eaton, Walter Prichard.
- "Patio Gardens"—Fox, Mrs. Helen.
- "Who Loves a Garden"—Jones, Mrs. Louise.
- "From a New Garden"—King, Louise.
- "Gardener's Colour Book"—King, Louise.
- "Planning and Planting the Home Garden"—Murray, Mrs. Pauline.
- "Down the Garden Path"—Nichols, Beverly.
- "Annals in the Garden"—Orloff, Henry Stuart.
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in arranging a group. Morris is giving course in nature on Monday eve. school troop welcomed members and a new member E. Garwood. on the first field at the Presby.

the petition for Deerfield railway. he signed one of have the depot th. left where it Highland Park right way and the road crossing have to wade in neck to get to it.

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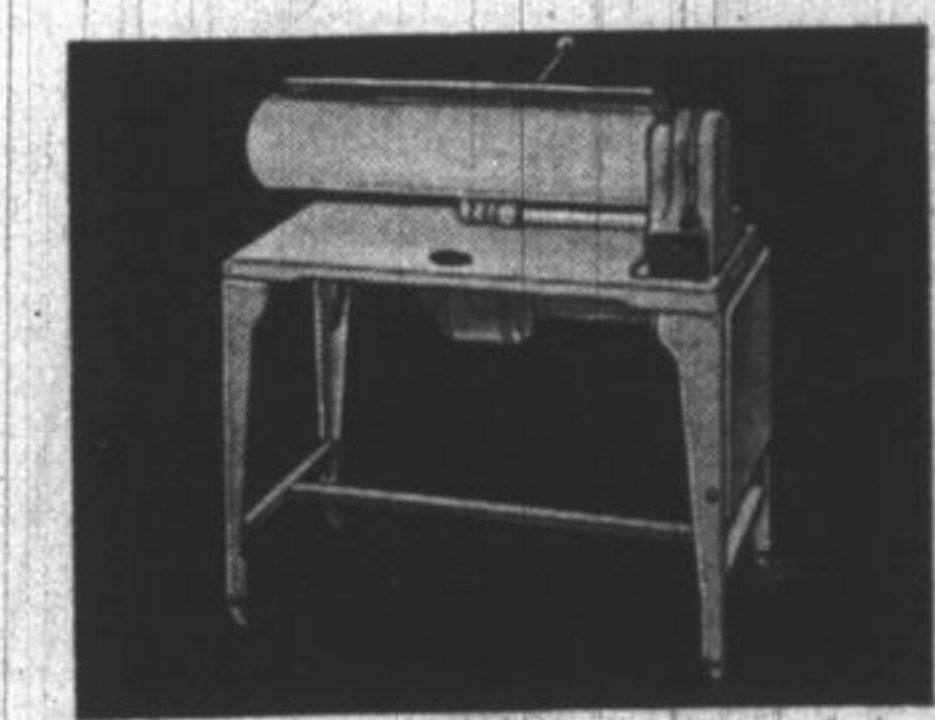
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