

INQUIRY FACES DILEMMA OVER ROOSEVELT TAX

Fish Demands Publicity for Income Return.

BY ARTHUR SEARS HENNING.
(Chicago Tribune Press Service.)

Washington, D. C., July 5.—[Special.]—The investigation of tax evasion initiated by the President is scheduled to conclude this week with a decision by the inquirers on Representative Hamilton Fish's demand for the disclosure of Mr. Roosevelt's income tax return.



Hamilton Fish.

Mr. Fish, a Republican congressman who represents the district in which the President's New York country estate is situated, charged that Mr. Roosevelt avails himself of a legal loophole to deduct from his income the expense of maintaining his country estate in the guise of the operating expenses of a farm. No less legal, according to the treasury department admissions, are the legal loopholes through which those pilloried by the investigating committee have escaped payment of taxes.

Probably Mr. Roosevelt is in no danger of the disclosure of his income tax return by a committee overwhelmingly Democratic. Evidently, however, he deemed it the better part of valor to disarm criticism, if possible.

Raises Christmas Trees.
That was the evident purpose of the tour of his estate at Hyde Park by newspaper reporters he personally conducted yesterday on which he repeatedly stressed the claim that the property is devoted to the business venture of raising Christmas trees. Therefore, the expense of operating would be properly deductible from Mr. Roosevelt's gross income under the law.

Inferentially the President admits Congressman Fish's charges, but pleads the justification of the law, as do those who have been listed by the treasury as tax evaders by the investigating committee. Three years ago the President cited as an illustration of tax loopholes his own avoidance of taxes through depreciation allowances on an ancient barn.

So far it is a list of tax evaders handpicked by the treasury that has emerged from the investigation. Most of those cited are political opponents of Mr. Roosevelt. Senator Robert M. La Follette (Rad., Wis.), has challenged the committee to make public other cases so far suppressed. These presumably are the evasions of taxes by persons close to Mr. Roosevelt or otherwise high in favor with the administration.

Blames Error on Evaders.
The President blames tax evasion for the failure of income tax receipts this year to come up to expectation by half a billion dollars. Thus he seeks to pass to tax evaders the blame for his failure to achieve a balanced budget this fiscal year. The tax avoidance disclosed by the investigation is only an infinitesimal fraction of 500 millions.

The biggest loophole for tax avoidance is provided by tax exempt securities. There were 64 billion dollars of such securities outstanding on June 30, 1936.

Representative Robert L. Doughton (D., N. C.), chairman of the ways and means committee, says he will introduce an amendment to the constitution to enable the federal government to tax state and local securities and those governments to tax federal securities.

Senators Harry Byrd (D., Va.), and Augustine Lonergan (D., Conn.), with

Charges of WPA Rackets in N. Y. Go to President

New York, July 5.—[Special.]—Charges of racketeering in the distribution and conduct of the WPA supervisory posts were sent to President Roosevelt today by Ralph M. Easley, chairman of the executive council of the National Civic Federation. It was the fifth of a series of letters on alleged abuses in the federal relief program.

Project supervisors were described as "miniature czars," whose policy was governed by "their pocket-books and their animal appetites." When general layoffs of WPA personnel are ordered some supervisors seize the opportunity to get rid of "the conscientious workers who live under the delusion that efficiency and honesty pay best on WPA," according to the letter.

"Workers who come across and communist union members are safe, and they know it," Easley said.

Many Lack Experience.
Many WPA supervisors, the letter declared, have had no previous work or executive experience, have never qualified for relief, and perform their WPA duties in name only, leaving the actual work for "their friends and protégés on the project who are also paid by the federal government."

"Among the supervisory employes we have investigated we have found people who are driven daily to their WPA project office in private limousines operated by private chauffeurs; who own chains of apartment houses; either in their own or their wives' names, who have private jobs on the side; whose wives or other family members occupy appointive or civil service positions with the federal, state, or municipal governments; who are privately engaged in real estate, sales work, bookmaking, policy, and other commission occupations; who have bank accounts of considerable size or other income," Easley asserted.

Cites "Kickback Racket."
The President was told that "on numerous projects a very profitable kickback racket is in operation." Workers seeking pay increases are approached by "go-betweens or walking delegates" who guarantee the wage boost in return for payments of from \$30 to \$100, he asserted.

"In cases where workers approached by these racketeers file complaints with the administration," his letter added, "they find themselves called severely to task by the project supervisor for 'squealing' and are branded as trouble makers. This is usually followed by a good beating in the street for not having kept their mouths shut."

Under pressure from his supervisor the average relief worker is forced to part with about 25 per cent of his WPA pay, according to Easley.

Fish Charges Boat; Runs Sword Into Its Occupant
Block Island, R. I., July 5.—(AP)—Capt. Alfred Cyr narrowly escaped serious injury near here today when a swordfish charged a small boat he was in, ran its sword through the frail craft and wounded him in the chest. Capt. Cyr had taken to the small boat after the 200 pound fish, harpooned a short time before. He got the fish.

West Virginia Pastor on Trial as Wife's Slayer
Beckley, W. Va., July 5.—(AP)—The Rev. Monte H. Ball, 35-year-old hill Methodist pastor, came before a jury composed mostly of farmers and miners today for trial on a charge of slaying his pretty second wife. Six farmers, four miners, a filling station operator and a finance company manager composed the jury. The trial started just four months after 23-year-old Mrs. Victory Gay Cooper Ball died of shotgun wounds in the parsonage at Rock Creek.

Coast Guardsmen Rescue 14 Adrift in Speed Boat
Coast guardsmen from the Central station yesterday went to the rescue of fourteen passengers in a speed boat which had motor trouble a mile east of Roosevelt road. The boat, piloted for hire by Lawrence Osmussen, was towed back to its landing at the south end of the yacht lagoon in Burnham park.

AFTER EFFECTS OF FALL FATAL.
Thomas Washo, 49 years old, died in the County hospital yesterday of pneumonia which followed injuries incurred on June 12 in a fall on the sidewalk at Racine avenue and 15th street.

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PRESIDENT JOINS IN INDEPENDENCE FETE AT CHURCH

Visits Little Hamlet on Woman's Plea.

BY WALTER TROHAN.
(Chicago Tribune Press Service.)

Mount Marlon, N. Y., July 5.—[Special.]—In a simple political sermon beside a white clapboard church erected 100 years ago President Roosevelt told residents of this hamlet that there is no danger of a change in the American form of government.

"What I hope is that the newer generation, like the older generation, will realize that in meeting new conditions we are not changing the fundamentals of the American form of government," he said.

"We are always going to keep our feet on the ground in the future as a nation just as we have in the past."

Compares European Rulers.
His confidence in the American future was set in contrast to unsettled conditions in dictator ruled Europe. To drive home his point the President pointed out that where government heads abroad never move except under guard of a forest of bayonets, he goes about almost as freely as the citizenry.

"You can multiply that example of the difference between the American form of living and what it is in Europe a thousand times," he said. "That is why I say I am very confident of the future of this country as long as we maintain the democracy of our manners and the democracy of our hearts."

Mr. Roosevelt made his speech seated on the tonneau of his car be-

LEADERS TO BRING UP HIGH COURT PACKING BILL IN SENATE TODAY

Washington, D. C., July 5.—[Special.]—Administration leaders plan to bring their compromise bill on Supreme court packing to the senate floor tomorrow and keep it there until the fight is won or lost. Senator Logan, who will lead the fight on behalf of the compromise proposal, which is to be offered as an amendment to the original administration measure unfavorably reported by the senate judiciary committee, worked throughout the day polishing plans by which he hopes to obtain a final vote within two weeks.

side a smaller speaker's stand on the lawn of the Dutch Reformed church, erected in 1834. Thronged on the lawn were residents of this once pioneer community—the men largely in shirt sleeves and the women in summer prints.

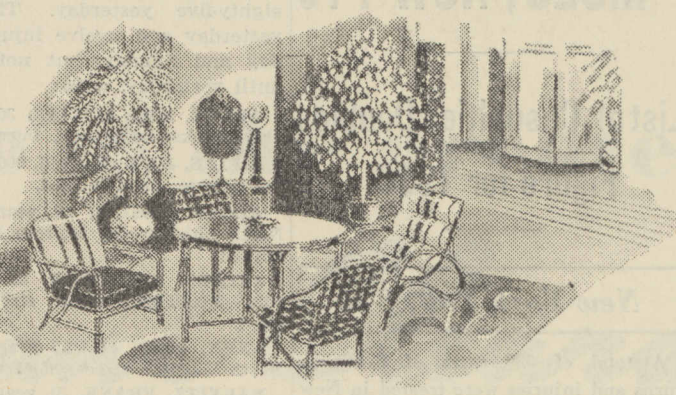
Accepts Woman's Invitation.
The President said he was participating in the Independence day exercises of the community because of a letter received last February. The letter was written by Mrs. Warren Myer, president of the Ladies' Aid society, who blushed on the platform.

Two paragraphs of the letter induced him to attend the community celebration, the President said. One said that the simple meeting might give relaxation from the weary official grind and in the other Mrs. Myer said she came of a pioneer family of seven generations who have tilled the same acres they wrestled from the wilderness for 227 years and gave eighteen sons to the revolution.

The President left by special train at 11 p. m. for Washington. Secretary Morgenthau, who has been spending a few days at his home near Fishkill, also boarded the train here for the return trip.

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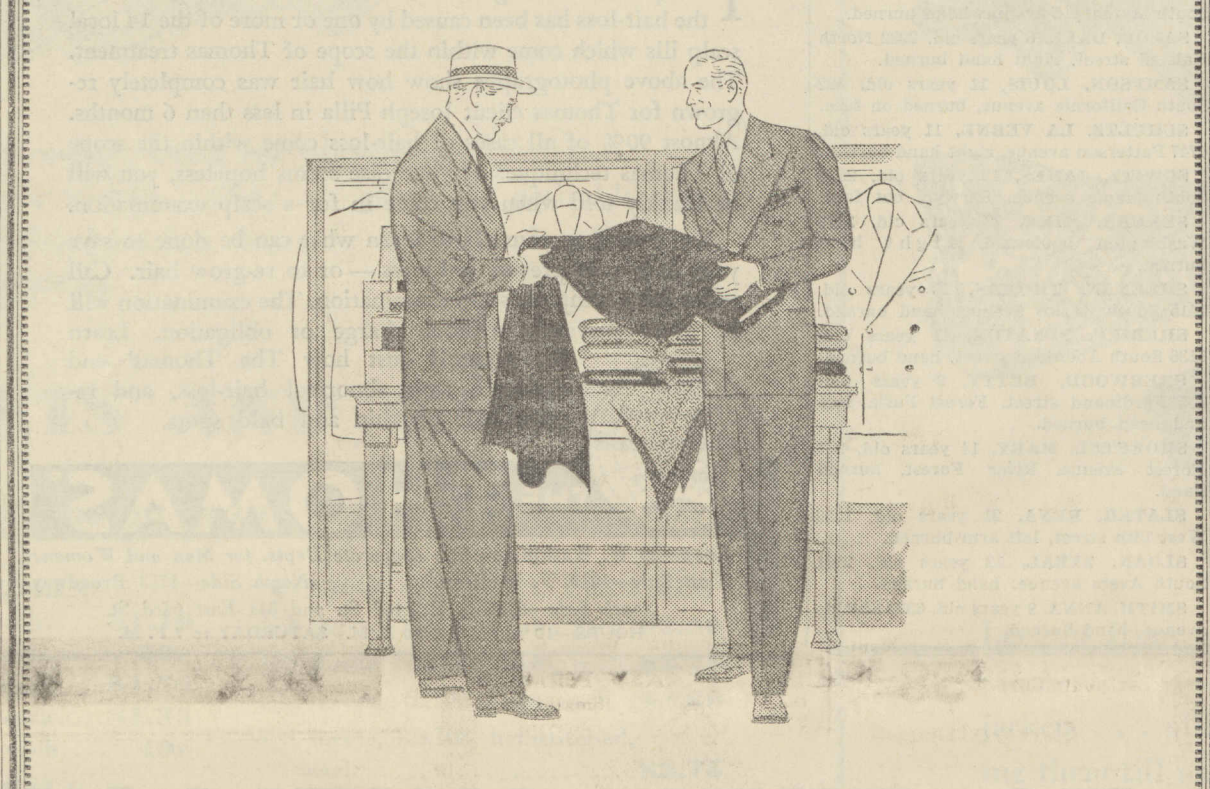


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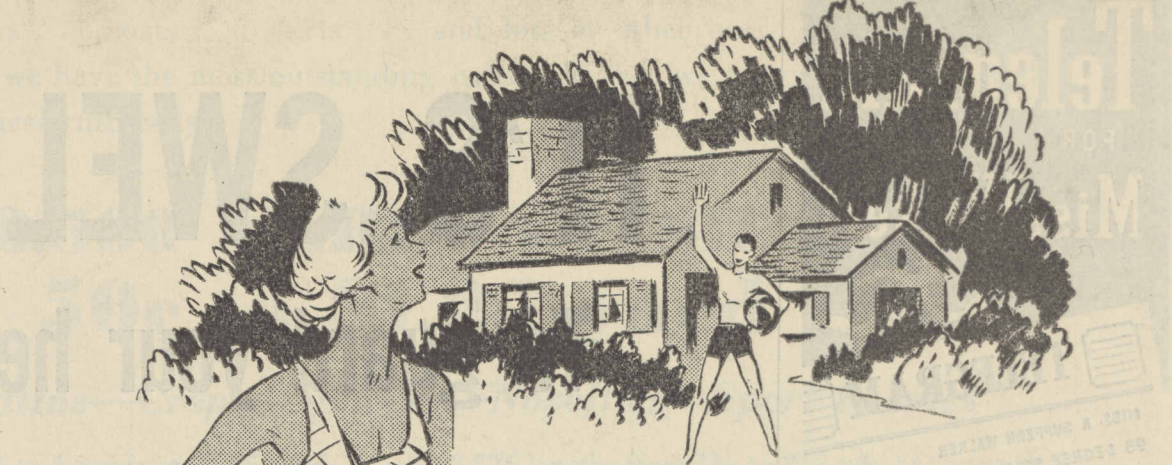
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