

## NEW CORPORATE TAX PROPOSED BY ROOSEVELT

Revision of Whole Setup Is Asked by President in Message.

(Continued From Page One)

000,000 in permanent revenue which would be needed to finance a continued farm program and the increased amortization costs due to immediate payment of the bonus.

Mr. Roosevelt criticized present corporate taxes as containing "inequalities" and "leaks."

The accumulation of surplus in corporations controlled by taxpayers with large incomes is encouraged by the present freedom of undistributed corporate income from surtaxes," he declared.

### Equality Aim, He Says

The President said that, since stockholders are the "beneficial owners of both distributed and undistributed corporate income, the aim, as a matter of fundamental equity, should be to seek equality of tax burden on all corporate income whether distributed or withheld from the beneficial owners."

"As the law now stands our corporate taxes dip too deeply into the shares of corporate earnings going to stockholders who need the disbursement of dividends, while the shares of stockholders who can afford to leave earnings undistributed escape current surtaxes altogether."

Mr. Roosevelt pointed to past difficulties with this problem and asserted that "repeated attempts by the Congress to prevent this form of evasion have not been successful."

"The evil," he said, "has been a growing one. It has now reached disturbing proportions from the standpoint of the inequality it represents and of its serious effect on the Federal revenue."

### Calls Proposal "Suggestion"

The President emphasized that his proposal should be treated as a suggestion but said that "the Treasury Department will be glad to submit its estimates to the Congress showing that this simplification and removal of inequalities can, without unfairness, be put into practice so as to yield the full amount of \$620,000,000—the amount I have indicated above as being necessary."

In connection with the corporate tax, the Treasury explained that the proposal applied to all profits with the exception of those distributed to stockholders, but not to accumulated surpluses of previous years.

The Treasury pointed out that the proposal might be expected to increase personal income tax returns since corporate earnings distributed in the form of dividends would be taxed as reported by individual taxpayers.

### Uses Caustic Language

President Roosevelt referred in caustic language to those who profited by return or non-payment of processing levies.

"By far the greater part of the processing 'saxes,' he said, "was in the main either passed on to consumers or taken out of the price paid producers."

"The Congress recognized this fact last August and provided . . . that, in the event of invalidation of the processing taxes, only those processors who had borne the burden of these taxes should be permitted to receive refunds."

"The return of the impounded funds and failure to pay taxes that were passed on result in unjust enrichment, contrary to the spirit of that enactment. A tax on the beneficiaries unfairly enriched by the return or non-payment of this Federal excise would take a major part of this windfall income for the benefit of the public."

### Seeks to Recover Losses

Mr. Roosevelt emphasized the difference between the two types of taxes proposed. The corporate tax change would be permanent and intended to pay costs of permanent additions to government expense.

The so-called "windfall" tax and the proposed broader processing tax would be intended only for the purpose of making good Treasury losses due to the Supreme Court AAA decision. They probably would apply only in the next two or three years.

### Termed Substitute Taxes

The President reassured his belief that the bulk of the new tax program represented "substitute" taxes.

"We are called upon," he said, "to raise by some form or permanent taxation an annual amount of \$620,000,000. It may be said, truthfully and correctly, that \$500,000 of this amount represents substitute taxes in place of the old processing taxes and that only \$120,000,000 represents new taxes not hitherto levied."

### OFFICIAL WEATHER

United States Weather Bureau

Sunrise . . . . . 6:15 | Sunset . . . . . 5:39

TEMPERATURE

—March 3, 1936—

7 a. m. . . . . 40 | 1 p. m. . . . . 48

—Today—

6 a. m. . . . . 32 | 10 a. m. . . . . 46

7 a. m. . . . . 36 | 11 a. m. . . . . 47

8 a. m. . . . . 41 | 12 (noon) . . . . . 53

9 a. m. . . . . 41 | 1 p. m. . . . . 59

BAROMETER

7 a. m. . . . . 29.87 | 1 p. m. . . . . 29.72

Precipitation 24 hrs. ending at 7 a. m. . . . . 00

Total precipitation since Jan. 1 . . . . . 4.54

Deficiency since Jan. 1 . . . . . 1.49

OTHER CITIES AT 7 A. M.

St. Louis, Mo. . . . . 61 | Weather. Bar. Temp.

Amarillo, Tex. . . . . 68 | Cloudy 38

Bismarck, N. D. . . . . 40 | Cloudy 38

Boise, Idaho . . . . . 52 | Cloudy 32

Chicago . . . . . 52 | Partly Cloudy 34

Cincinnati . . . . . 48 | Cloudy 38

Dallas, Okla. . . . . 52 | Cloudy 34

Heaven, Mont. . . . . 52 | Cloudy 34

Jacksonville, Fla. . . . . 58 | Cloudy 38

Kansas City, Mo. . . . . 44 | Cloudy 44

Little Rock, Ark. . . . . 44 | Cloudy 44

Los Angeles . . . . . 52 | Clear 52

Minneapolis . . . . . 68 | Partly Cloudy 32

Mobile, Ala. . . . . 54 | Cloudy 32

New Orleans . . . . . 54 | Cloudy 32

New York . . . . . 36 | Cloudy 36

Oklahoma City, Okla. . . . . 44 | Clear 44

Pittsburgh . . . . . 58 | Rain 32

Portland, Ore. . . . . 46 | Cloudy 46

San Antonio, Tex. . . . . 46 | Cloudy 46

San Francisco . . . . . 54 | Clear 54

St. Louis . . . . . 42 | Clear 42

Tampa, Fla. . . . . 46 | Partly Cloudy 46

Washington, D. C. . . . . 34 | Foggy 34

WHEN BOYS START FLYING KITES, IT'S A SURE SIGN SPRING IS NEAR



As sure a sign of spring as the Chinook winds is that these boys got out their kites and let them fly with the wind above the War Memorial Plaza yesterday.

The boys (left to right) are Robert Keller, Jimmy Gillock, Miles Berks, Major Willis, Earl Williams, James Lawson, Jack Hitchcock, Robert Stafford, William Fryer, Junior George, Paul Hill and Farrell Senderl.

## Text of Roosevelt's Tax Message

By United Press

WASHINGTON, March 3.—The text of President Roosevelt's tax message to Congress follows:

"To the Congress of the United States:

"On Jan. 3, 1936, in my annual budget message to Congress, I pointed out that without the item for relief the budget was in balance.

"Since that time an important item of revenue has been eliminated through a decision of the Supreme Court, and an additional annual charge has been placed on the Treasury through the enactment of the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act.

"The net effect of paying the veterans' bonus in 1936, instead of 1945, is to add an annual charge of \$120,000,000 a year to the \$160,000,000 already in the budget.

"We are called upon, therefore, to raise by some form of permanent taxation an annual amount of \$620,000,000. It may be said, truthfully and correctly, that \$500,000,000 of this amount represents substitute taxes in place of the old processing taxes, and that only \$120,000,000 represents new taxes not hitherto levied.

set expenditures which will be made annually as a result of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act recently enacted by the Congress and approved by me; and an additional sum recurring annually for nine years will be required to amortize the total cost of the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act.

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"I said in my budget message: . . . . . The many legislative acts creating the machinery for recovery were all predicated on two interdependent beliefs. First, the measures would immediately cause a great increase in the annual expenditures of the government—many of these expenditures, however, in the form of loans which would ultimately return to the Treasury. Second, as a result of the simultaneous attack on the many fronts I have indicated, the receipts of the government would rise definitely and sharply during the following few years, while greatly increased expenditures for the purposes stated, coupled with rising values and the stopping of losses would, over a period of years, diminish the need for work relief and thereby reduce Federal expenditures. The increase in revenues would ultimately meet and pass the declining cost of relief.

"This policy adopted in the spring of 1933 has been confirmed in actual practice by the Treasury figures of 1934, of 1935, and by the estimates for the fiscal years of 1936 and 1937.

"In this case also the formulation of taxes lies wholly in the discretion of the Congress. I venture, however, to call your attention to two suggestions.

"TERMS REFUND WINDFALL

"The first relates to the taxation of what may well be termed a windfall received by certain taxpayers who shifted to others the burden of processing taxes which were impounded and returned to them or which otherwise have remained unpaid. In unequal position is that vast number of other taxpayers who did not resort to such court action and have paid their taxes to the government.

"By far the greater part of the processing taxes was in the main either passed on to consumers or derived from unincorporated enterprises or from incorporated businesses and then distributed to the real owners as earned or withheld from them.

"The existing difference between corporate taxes and those imposed on owners of unincorporated businesses renders incorporation of small businesses difficult or impossible.

"The accumulation of surplus in corporations controlled by taxpayers with large incomes is encouraged by the present freedom of undistributed corporate income from surtaxes. Since stockholders are the beneficial owners of both distributed and undistributed corporate income, the aim, as a matter of fundamental equity, should be to seek equality of tax burden on all corporate income whether distributed or withheld from the beneficial owners."

"If we are to maintain this clear-cut and sound policy, it is incumbent upon us to make good to the Federal Treasury both the loss of revenue caused by the Adjusted Compensation Payment Act, I emphasize that adherence to consistent policy calls for such action.

"To be specific: The Court decision adversely affected the budget in an amount of one billion and seventeen million dollars during the fiscal year 1936 and the fiscal year 1937. This figure is arrived at as follows:

"Deficit to date (expenditures chargeable to processing taxes less processing taxes collected) in excess of that contemplated in the 1937 budget \$281,000,000.

"Estimated expenditure to be made from supplemental appropriation approved in the supplemental appropriation act, 1936, \$296,000,000.

"This method of evading existing surtaxes constitutes a problem as old as the income tax law itself. Repeated attempts by the Congress to prevent this form of evasion have not been successful. The evil has been a growing one. It has now reached disturbing proportions from the standpoint of the inequality it represents and of its serious effect on the Federal revenue. Thus the Treasury estimates that, during the calendar year 1936, over four and one-half billion dollars of corporate income will be withheld from stockholders.

"If this undistributed income were distributed, it would be added to the income of stockholders and there taxed as is other personal income. But, as matters now stand, it will be withheld from stockholders by those in control of these corporations. In one year alone, the government will be deprived of revenues amounting to over one billion three hundred million dollars.

"A proper tax on corporate income (including dividends from other corporations), which is not

estimated to be made under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act \$440,000,000.

"Total additional deficit 1936 and 1937, due to Supreme Court decision and adjusted farm program \$1,017,000,000.

"For the purposes of clarity, I divide the present total additional revenue needs of the government into the permanent and the temporary ones.

"Permanent Treasury income of 500 million dollars is required to offset

the effects of the new tax law.

"FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, "The White House, March 3, 1936."

TERMS METHOD EVASION

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TERMS FREE SOUP

"The other suggestion relates to a temporary tax to yield the portion of \$517,000,000 not covered by the windfall tax. Such a tax could be spread over two years or three years. An excise on the processing of certain agricultural products is worth considering. By increasing the number of commodities so taxed, by greatly lowering the rates of the old processing tax and by spreading the tax over two or three years, only a relatively light burden would be imposed on the producers, consumers or processors.

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