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From the Congressional Record

THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT  
by  
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AMUSEMENT AND GAMING DEVICES

For the first time, Congress has officially recognized the existence of coin-operated machines which are designed either for amusement or gaming and has provided for a tax on such machines. This provision does not in any way nullify the validity of local ordinances or state laws which make such devices illegal but merely undertakes to impose a tax on them if and when and where they might exist. The new taxing Act divides such devices into two classes. On the first class which are operated solely for amusement and are known as pin ball machines the tax is \$10 per year and is payable by the person who maintains such a machine for use or permits it's use on his premises. The second class as defined by the bill itself includes "so-called slot machines which operate by means of the insertion of a coin, token or other similar object and which by the application of the element of chance may deliver or entitle the person playing or operating the machine to receive cash, premiums, merchandise or tokens." The tax on these devices is \$50 per year and payable by the person who maintains the machine for use or permits his premises to be used for it's use and operation. The Senate Finance Committee originally proposed a tax of \$200 per year on so-called slot machines. This was reduced to \$50 when Senators from a certain far western state assailed this tax as ruinous to a well known town called Reno.

JOBS IN DEFENSE

Many persons, actuated by sincere and patriotic motives would like to devote their talents to the government service at a time when the world is in crisis. Perhaps a note of explanation might prove helpful. All civilian workers in any defense agency, whether it be the war or navy department, the Office of Production Mangement, the Civilian Defense Administration or others are recruited from civil service rolls. Only in rare instances where some type of highly specialized service is required are persons directly hired by such agencies. When persons are needed, these agencies send a requisition to the U.S. Civil Service Commission stating the number of persons needed, the type of work to be done and the qualifications for such work. The Civil Service Commission maintains registers of various classifications of work. To get on these registers, one of two kinds of an examination is necessary. The one is called competitive and consists of a written examination which is held at a designated time and place. This type of examination applies to such services as typist, clerk, stenographer etc. The other is known as an unassembled examination. It consists of a statement filed with the Commission showing the experience education and training of the applicant for a certain type of work. It applies to such classification as architect, engineer, chemists, etc. Complete information can be obtained by addressing a letter to the U.S. Civile Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

#### WAR CASUALTIES

There have been very few comprehensive figures on casualties in the present war. Foreign governments have been rather secretive about this matter and figures have been hard to obtain. However, a survey was made recently based on figures obtained from foreign embassies in the U.S., from the War and Navy Department, the Congressional Library and other sources. Total casualties for the first two years of the present struggle total 10,324,000. Of this number, 2,520,000 have been killed. The remainder constitute wounded and missing. Greatest tragedy is that 1,052,000 of these casualties were civilians and innocent bystanders in bombed cities. Of this number 232,000 were killed. Thus does death rain from the skies.

#### DISCHARGE FROM THE ARMY

Every Congressional Office receives many inquiries concerning the discharge of young men from the army and we believe it will be informative to summarize the essential facts contained in a statement released by the War Department on August 29, 1941. If the foreign situation shows no material change, about 200,000 enlisted men will be released from active duty before January 1st. Releases will be made in the following order of priority. First, dependency and hardship cases. Second, enlisted men who have served their terms of enlistment. Third, selectees and guardsmen requesting release who attained age 28 on or before July 1, 1941 and before their induction into service. Fourth enlisted men other than in the Regular Army who have served a year, who are married and who request release. Fifth, any enlisted man who has served normal term of Federal Service. This last class however will be released in order of length of service beyond 12 months. The formula for securing release from active duty is simple. The soldier merely states in writing to his company commander that he desires a release and sets forth the reason. It may be a case where the father died, leaving a soldier as the sole support of the family. It may be that the soldier has a family of his own. This request is forwarded to the Commander of the Division. If the case is meritorious, the Division Commander orders the soldier's release. One so released is then transferred to the Enlisted Reserve Corps. He remains a member of the Reserve until he reaches age 45 or until he has served 10 years or until he is discharged therefrom.