

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
by William Bruckart  
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Washington, D. C.

Washington.—His name will mean little to anyone except the rather wide circle of friends and business associates who admire his courage and thrift. Since there are hundreds of thousands like him in this country, I will identify him by his nickname—"Swarty." I have known him some ten or eleven years as a friend and a neighbor, a fellow who could be properly called the salt of the earth. Swarty's story is most interesting because it illustrates a condition.

He was the son of a country doctor. In his early twenties, he became a traveling salesman. His personality and his ability carried above the ranks of the average order-taker. He saved his money. He and his wife inherited a few thousand dollars each from their respective fathers. Swarty went into business for himself here in Washington. The business prospered to the extent that Swarty had built up a backlog of savings and a reserve and had bought his own home, a modest place. They are a happy little family and in that as well they are like hundreds of thousands of others in this country.

There came the depression of seven years ago. Sales by Swarty's little plant declined. He kept his ten employees on the rolls, however, as long as he could. The drain became too much and he had to reduce the payroll; indeed, he had to draw on the backlog. After nearly five years, things began to pick up. He started again to restore the reserve so that there could be something on which to draw again if business was slack. But almost simultaneously, Swarty found a lot of new taxes coming in the front door. One of them was the ridiculous levy that said in effect that he could not build up that backlog again because if he did he would have to share the excess with the federal government.

There had been some other taxes before that one, but it was the most disastrous in its effect. There were other taxes after the surplus earnings tax, too, until lately he told me that he was paying nine different taxes each month, and each year he has to pay an income tax on the salary that he allows himself for managing the business and, besides all of these, he has the strictly local taxes of the District of Columbia. Among these, of course, is a tax on the little home that he owns; a business privilege tax which assesses him a certain percentage of his total receipts; a license tax for the privilege of doing business; a tax on his motor cars which he uses in his business, a tax on the gasoline which powers the cars, and a few other odds and ends.

I made no mention in the above paragraph that he, like you and I, pays several hundred taxes that are not called taxes. He smokes cigarettes, for example, and the federal tax is six cents a pack. (Many states have a state tax in addition.) He bought his wife a piece of jewelry for Christmas, and there were three different federal taxes hidden in the price he paid.

I could go on and on with a revelation of the taxes, but I mention them only incidentally. The taxes that I am concerned with in this story of his affairs are the taxes directly on his business. They are important for the reason that he told me the other night that if it were not for all of these taxes, he could re-employ several men whom he had to discharge when the business was at its lowest. He can not hire them now, however, because the margin of profit available to him is small. He has to accomplish as much with six men as he used to with eight or nine or ten in order to make a living out of the business for himself and his family.

Swarty recounted the details of his own business to me about the time that the great Westinghouse corporation of Pittsburgh made public its tax story. In substance and in brief, Westinghouse pointed out that its tax obligations had increased from around two million dollars eight years ago to something over sixteen million dollars in federal payments in the last year. In the years 1935, 1936 and 1937, the taxes paid by Westinghouse were held to have been sufficient to have maintained about 6,500 additional workers on the payroll.

I know that someone will retort that a great corporation like Westinghouse ought to pay big taxes. There can be no doubting the truth of that assertion. But there is a much graver condition shown by exposition of the tax affairs of the big business of Westinghouse and Swarty's little business.

The only difference between the problems of the two is that Swarty, being a "little fellow," is not slapped and cuffed and called crooked by the demagogues. Swarty's government is doing to him, however, exactly what is being done to Westinghouse by the same authority.

Thus, I believe it is fair to conclude that these two cases illustrate beyond possible refutation how government has become topheavy, how its machinery has grown to a point almost beyond comprehension. These two cases, among tens and tens of thousands, show what the ship of state is costing. Indeed, I feel more and more that if we have a ship of state, it is leaking so badly that half of the taxes collected flow into the ocean of ineffectiveness and economic waste. The condition obtains from the smallest unit of township administration to the doors of congress and the White House in Washington.

We are into a new session of congress this week, the regular annual session. The extra session that met November 15 amid a great deal of ballyhoo as to what it would accomplish has gone into history. It left a record of which no one can be proud. But that's gone by and the new session is starting with a fine field waiting for cultivation—except that 435 members of the house and some 30-odd senators face primaries and elections. That fact alone provides the answer to many things you will see unfolded in the next four or five or six months. The boys will play politics aplenty.

But before we go into that, let us examine the little game of politics which President Roosevelt has initiated. I think it cannot be gained that the President has tossed a very hot potato into the lap of congress. Some time ago, it will be recalled, the President said with emphasis that the budget must be balanced this year—that spending of government money must not exceed the income as it has done now consistently for seven years. There was much applause of that pronouncement at the capitol. It seems, however, they are laughing out of the other side of their mouth now because suddenly the politicians discovered that if the budget were brought into balance, great gobs of political pap, patronage and projects would have to be eliminated.

There was a reaction to the President's statement. Mr. Roosevelt very promptly said, in effect, "Well, boys, if we cut down spending we have to start somewhere. How about cutting off a couple of hundred millions from the federal contribution for road building," and a howl went up to the skies. Quit building roads, never! So the President tried again. Lately, he has sent a letter to Representative Cartwright, Oklahoma Democrat, saying that if Mr. Cartwright did not want his committee to act on the road fund curtailment, congress and its individual members would have to take the responsibility when the budget shows up out of balance.

I suppose there could be a slowing down in road building, but members of the house tell me there are hundreds of other places where spending could be reduced without harming a permanent national policy. There will be much hauling and filling but if congress really wants to curb spending, let it give a few minutes look at the things discovered by Senator Harry Byrd, the Virginia Democrat, and his investigating committee. That committee brought forth information, I am informed, as to how half a billion dollars of New Deal experiments could be eliminated and our United States would never miss a single one of them. (I do not mean the patronage boys on the payrolls. Of course, they would miss their soft jobs.)

To get back to the hot potato, however, the President has told congress in effect to sort out the things it would kill and pass the legislation that would eliminate the spending and bring a balanced budget. By so doing, he has dodged all of the backwash from local politicians of his own machine and has made the representatives and senators the goats in front of their own people.

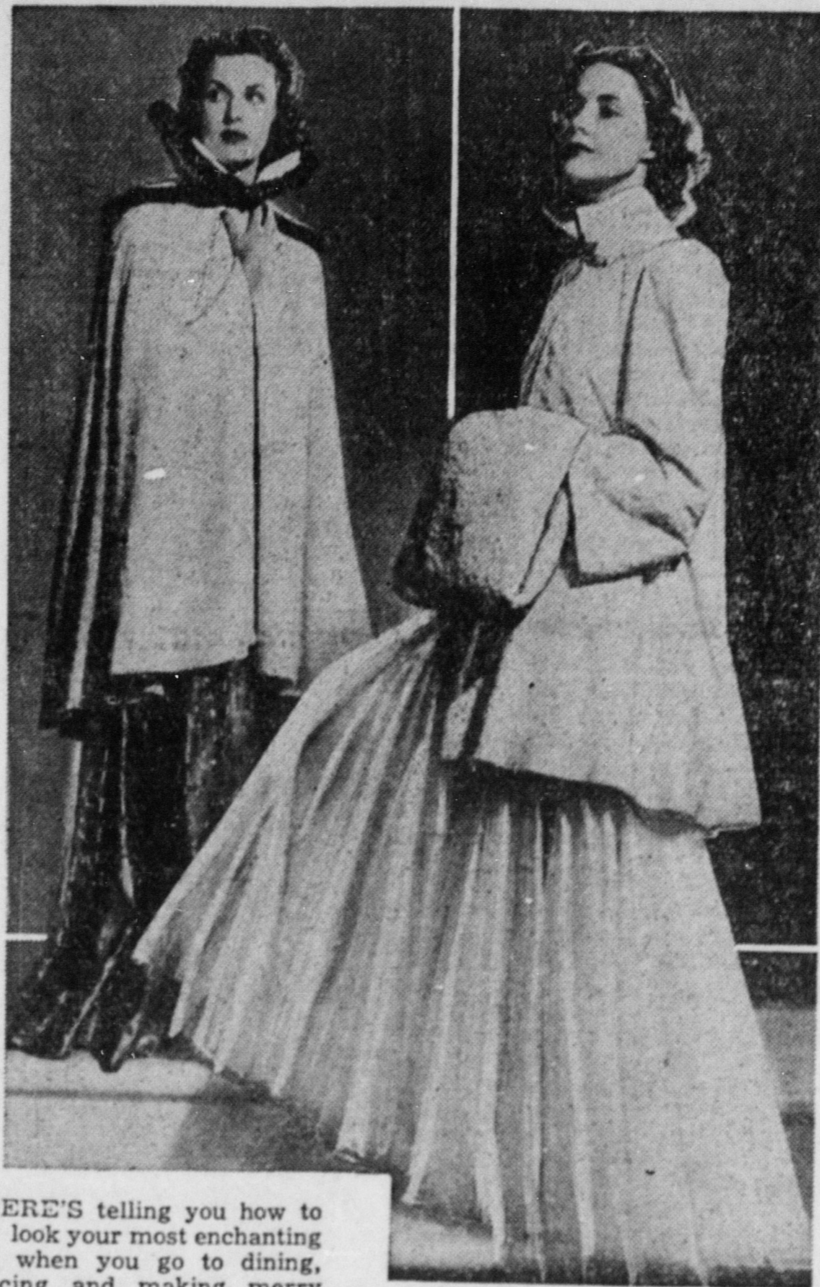
I must not fail to report to you about the plight of the citizens of Greenbelt, that model community erected by the distinguished re-moulder of men, Prof. Rexford Guy Tugwell, where cheap rents were to prevail and economic royalists dare not tread. For \$14,000,000, Professor Tugwell built apartments for 185 families, provided no family had more than two babies. The government is going to get its money back in 232 years.

But a great blight has fallen over Greenbelt. The tenants did not read the fine print of their leases. Too late, they learned that the fine print prohibited them from having dogs, or any kind of pets. I understand there has been a bit of boot-legging of pets but anyway there is a prohibition against such things. Now, however, a great movement is under way in Greenbelt. Petitions are in circulation demanding that Landlord Uncle Sam change the lease. One never knows where such things will lead.

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## All-White Wrap Is Chic This Winter

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



HERE'S telling you how to look your most enchanting self when you go to dining, dancing and making merry during the winter social swirl. Told in fashion's own language the message is to wear flattering white—your gown, your wrap, your corsage, all-white. White flower head-dress, too!

The ingenue's choice is for full-skirt romantic entrancing creations made of frosty, frothy diaphanous whites that dazzle with glittering, glistening sequin, crystal and rhinestone accents. If you happen to be of the stately, statuesque type rather than the airy-fairy sort you'll be voted the belle of the ball clad in a glovefitting skillfully draped low decollete gown made of heavy white crepe which makes trimming conspicuous by its utter absence save for a chaste corsage of waxen-white camelias or gardenias or white orchids if you will have it so.

White wraps to wear over these beguiling frocks are so smartly in fashion they are literally taking the world by storm this season. They may be of cloth or velvet (often luxuriously furred with white fox) to ensemble with the gowns they top or they may be of snowy fur, preferably ermine, for ermine is notably in the lead whether it be for jacket, medium-length coat or floor-length wrap, or bolero fantasies.

Then, too, there is the new-this-season erminecrush that makes up exquisitely into wraps such as pictured herewith. An ensemble of coat and muff made of snowy erminecrush as shown is adorable for the girl who is invited to parties galore. Under it the young lady wears

one of the new tulle frocks with voluminous skirt and expertly fitted bodice that is so quaint and so chic all in one.

Yes indeed, this winsome muff and wrap set is one any stylish-minded woman would love to own. Well, why not even if you happen to be one among those to whom evening elegance at little cost is a problem to be met. Listen close, while we whisper a secret idea we feel the urge to pass on to you. If you needs must keep within a limited budget why not buy a few yards of white erminecrush and "make your own" little cushion muff and swank coat?

We might say that if you would be intrigued with the thought of a little bolero, muff and hat set, patterns are easily available and such a trio made of erminecrush would carry you through a winter with unmistakable style distinction and allure.

An all-white cape is also a possession to be coveted. See the one in the picture. The lavishness of the velvety weave has been added unto by the trim of sable-dyed kolinsky. You would not necessarily have to keep your white cape or coat for formal for the beauty about erminecrush is it is really quite practical. Cruising in tropical waters or vacationing up North, attending opera and making the rounds of teas and musicales, it is an ideal choice because it can be packed without fear of wrinkling since erminecrush naturally has a soft snowy white deeply crushed pile.

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### HIGH-STYLE SUEDE

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



If you are properly style-minded you will set your heart on having a suit tailored of richly colorful suede. The handsome suede suits that feature so conspicuously in the present fashion picture are ideal for rain or shine as they are made of a shelter suede that is shower-proof and winterproof. The jacket has padded shoulders with a military air. For longer steps mildly has only to unbutton the bottom leather covered button that fastens the front opening.

### BLACK IS FAVORED FOR DAYTIME WEAR

Black worn with white and light colors is Bruyere's choice for smart daytime clothes in the mid-season collection. Light wool costumes in black with white satin blouses are a highlight of the showing, and rhinestone clips are the leading trim.

A black two-piece daytime ensemble is made in lightweight wool with straight-cut skirt and waist-length jacket of bloused design, fitted to a snug wide belt. With the costume is worn a lustrous white satin blouse, with long, fitted sleeves. The bodice is draped from center of the waistline, where it is fastened with a wine grosgrain ribbon which forms a corselet belt, dropped lower at the back. The suit jacket, opened to the waistline, is trimmed with a pair of rhinestone clips at the neck.

### Sumptuously Furred Tweed Suits Are High in Favor

An increasing interest in suits made of striking tweed is noted. These are not just tweed in the ordinary sense of the word, but they are sumptuous affairs of gorgeous tweed that "gets you" because of the grand and glorious coloring and the fascinating nubby knobby textures. The opulent furs that trim these elegant suits are a fitting tribute to the tweed itself. These colorful tweed outfits give an excellent opportunity to vary the all-black vogue that has persisted for so long a time.

**Covert Slacks.**  
Wool covert cloth, long a favorite for topcoats, is being used for slacks by well-dressed undergrads at several leading Eastern universities.

**Accent Your Dress**  
Large rectangular and triangular clips of rhinestones, baguettes or jewel-tone sets are seen at high necklines of dark afternoon frocks.

## Three Little Words



NEXT time you or yours want "something nice to wear," remember me and my three little words: Sew-Your-Own! Yes, Milady, sew-your-own because it pays big dividends. It's good for you! Instead of worrying about clothes you can't have, you'll be humming about all the pretty things you can have—and all because you sew, sew, Sew-Your-Own! Won't you join us today or very soon?

**White House or Cottage.**  
Even if your home were the White House, Milady, you would need a little frock like today's 1413 to see you through your housekeeping chores. It has that style usually reserved for expensive frocks and its simplicity will fascinate you. A young collar tops its shirtwaist styling, while the trim short sleeves and shirred yoke are features to be appreciated every time you put it on. It will make you smart in crisp new gingham, and it's more than chic in silk crepe. Try it both ways—you'll like them!

**So Simple, So Sweet.**  
Little Miss Two-to-Eight will use her very nicest three-syllable words to exclaim over this frock (above center) designed especially for her by Sew-Your-Own! It is one of those so-simple, so-sweet little affairs that every mother and every daughter has a weakness for. The new prints or criss-cross gingham will look more than appealing on your little "forty pounds of charm," especially if the trimming is of gay red ribbon to match the bows in her hair.

**That Poured-in Look.**  
"Something nice to wear," in the full sense of the phrase, is the

**Keep a Goin'**  
A man we knew had rounded out more than ninety years when a little bit of a windfall came to him. The first thing he did after counting the money was to say, "Now I'll set out another orchard!" He did not flinch in the face of his years. He was ready to start right in where he started 50 years before. Time ought never to down any of our folks. Let's not be downed by the old scamp.—Trotty Veck Messenger.

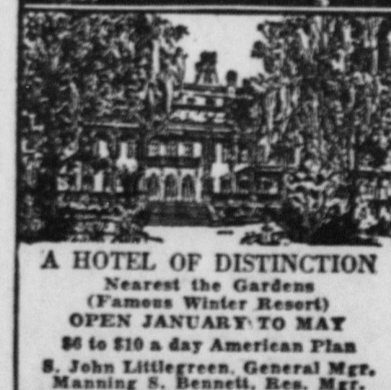
brand new frock at the right. Your teas and bridge will be dates to look forward to with this smart model in black satin or velvet, awaiting your call. Fashion says: "that poured-in look," and Sew-Your-Own said "when" just in the nick to make this your most figure-flattering frock. It is equally effective for the sub-deb and young executive. It belongs in every well-groomed lady's wardrobe. Why not in yours?

**The Patterns.**  
Pattern 1413 is designed for sizes 34 to 50. Size 36 requires 4 1/2 yards of 35 or 39-inch material. Pattern 1852 is designed for sizes 2, 4, 6, and 8 years. Size 4 requires 2 1/2 yards of 39-inch material plus 6 yards of ribbon for trimming, and 1 yard for belt. Pattern 1383 is designed for sizes 14 to 20. Size 16 requires 2 3/4 yards of 54-inch material.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

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### Pine Forest Inn and Cottages



A HOTEL OF DISTINCTION  
Nearest the Gardens  
(Famous Winter Resort)  
OPEN JANUARY TO MAY  
\$6 to \$10 a day American Plan  
S. John Littlegreen, General Mgr.  
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### Summerville South Carolina

## Calotabs Help Nature To Throw Off a Cold

Millions have found in Calotabs a most valuable aid in the treatment of colds. They take one or two tablets the first night and repeat the third or fourth night if needed.

How do Calotabs help nature throw off a cold? First, Calotabs are one of the most thorough and dependable of all intestinal eliminators, thus cleansing the intestinal tract of the virus-laden mucus and

toxins. Second, Calotabs are diuretic to the kidneys, promoting the elimination of cold poisons from the blood. Thus Calotabs serve the double purpose of a purgative and diuretic, both of which are needed in the treatment of colds.

Calotabs are quite economical; only twenty-five cents for the family package, ten cents for the trial package.—(adv.)

**Bear With Others**  
If thou wilt thyself be borne with, bear also with another.—Thomas a Kempis.

**Prefer Hate**  
There are few who would not rather be hated than laughed at.—Sydney Smith.

CHEW LONG BILL NAVY TOBACCO 5¢ PLUG

## The Housewife . . .

"Research Professor of Economy"

SHE'S not a Ph.D. or an LL.D. She hasn't a diploma or a cap and gown. Her research is not done in the laboratory or the library. As a matter of fact, her findings are made, usually, in the street car, in the subway, in the suburban commuter's train.

She reads the advertisements in this paper with care and consideration. They form her research data. By means of them she makes her purchases so that she well deserves the title of "Research Professor of Economy." She discovers them after them, as the years roll on, combining high quality with low.

It is clear to you at once that you . . . and all who make and keep a home . . . have the same opportunity. With the help of newspaper advertising you, too, can graduate from the school of indiscriminate buying into the faculty of fastidious purchases!