System of Collecting Excise Tax to End

WASHINGTON (AP)—The 91-year-old system of collecting federal excise taxes on liquor and cigarettes through the sale of tax stamps will be abandoned next month.

The Treasury said yesterday that starting June 24 distillers and tobacco manufacturers will pay the excises by filing returns twice a month. The department acted under authority voted by Congress five years ago.

Industry officials greeted the anouncement with applause. They have long contended it was unfair to make them buy the tax stamps even before selling their products. The new system means they will pay the tax after they make a sale, not before.

A spokesman for the Tobacco Institute Inc. estimated that cigarette makers have tied up about $150 million a year in tax stamps.

For the Treasury, the changeover will produce a lag in revenues since taxes won't be paid as soon as under the old system. Officials estimated the lag at $59 million and said it would be reflected in the current fiscal year's budget for the period ending June 30.

King Baudouin Arrives, Begins Three-Day Tour

WASHINGTON (AP)—King Baudouin of the Belgians got a warm welcome yesterday from President Eisenhower, who assured him the American people will be happy to see him.

The 28-year-old bachelor King and Eisenhower, both with big smiles, met at the airport in a colorful setting of waving flags and military array.

"Our people have long admired and respected Belgium," Eisenhower told the King.

"When you travel around the country, our people will show you signs of affection and also signs of friendliness and close association with the people of Belgium."

The dark, blond, blue-eyed young King showed little of the gravity — overseriousness, some called it—with which he has reigned since his father's abdication in 1951.

In good command of his English, he thanked Eisenhower and at the same time praised the United States.

"We are indebted to the United States for their assistance in the hours of grave peril, when our very existence was at stake," he said.

"But we owe them so much more: Our faith in justice and our hopes for a better world."

Baudouin is making a three-day official visit in Washington as his first stop on an extended tour, after landing this morning at Langley Air Force Base near Norfolk, Va. His plane flew nonstop from Brussels.

Air Force Chief May Get Surgery

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department said yesterday exploratory surgery is contemplated on Gen. Nathan F. Twining, 61, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Air Force officer has been at Walter Reed Army Medical Center since May 3 for tests ordered by doctors who didn't like the looks of chest X-rays taken during a routine physical examination.

Officials said the surgery may be performed today or tomorrow.

House Cuts Allotments For Federal Agencies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House trimmed 126 million dollars from an appropriation bill for several federal agencies yesterday but gave the Veterans Administration $9,559,000—more than it had asked.

The cuts were made in allotments for the General Services Administration, the Federal Aviation Agency, the National Science Foundation and the Office of Civil Defense and Mobilization.

Employment Record Set For April

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment fell sharply last month as the number of Americans at work reached a record for April.

A jump in the job total of 1,184,000 from March to April took 735,000 off the unemployment rolls. Administration leaders say the gains are double the normal seasonal expectation.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell and Secretary of Commerce Lewis L. Strauss, who jointly announced the monthly employment figures Sunday, said they demonstrate accelerating job recovery from the recession that began in 1957.

Total employment is now 65,012,000, more than two million higher than in April of last year. Although it is a record for April, the record for any single month remains the 67,221,000 employed in July 1957.

The total unemployment figure is now 3,627,000. At the depth of the recession a year ago it was 5,120,000.

Mitchell and Strauss said that in the months since the turning point of the recession, the rate of unemployment is about two thirds of the way back to prerecession levels. During March and April unemployment dropped over a million.

The ratio of unemployment to the total work force was 5.3 per cent in April, compared with 5.8 per cent in March and 7.6 per cent in April 1958.

Bargaining Teams Open Steel Talks

NEW YORK (AP) — Streamlined bargaining teams opened bedrock contract talks covering 500,000 steelworkers yesterday.

United Steelworkers representatives met for less than 2½ hours at the Roosevelt Hotel with agents for the 12 major steel producers.

Their only announcement afterwards noted a "common desire to negotiate labor agreements peacefully and expeditiously."

Yesterday, four-man industry and labor teams got down to work on actual details of a new contract to replace one expiring June 30.

Industry sources have predicted a strike when the contract expires.

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