

You Get More On  
The Eastern Shore

# The Somers

BALTO.

VOLUME XIX

PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND, THURSDAY, June

On Sunday, May 23rd, Comptroller & Mrs J. Millard Tawes, accompanied by four friends, left Crisfield, Md., & drove to Camp Wheeler, Ga in an official State of Maryland Cadillac & returned to Crisfield on Friday, May 28th. The purpose of their visit was to visit their son & 'other Crisfield boys.'

† † † †

(According to the Crisfield Post, their guests were Mrs Alice V. Tawes, Mrs A. W Tawes, Mrs Marvin Tawes & Mrs John W. Nycum. They "were in teh audience of Bob Hope, at Camp Wheeler, Ga., when he broadcasted this week.")

† † † †

Friday night, upon her return to Crisfield, Mrs J. Millard Tawes favored us with a telephone call (although we are being asked not to use trunk lines for unnecessary calls because of the war & because some soldier may be standing in line to make a call from one of the over-taxed booths at Army camps) to tell us just what she thought of us for writing as we did last week about this shocking use of gas & a State car for personal pleasure.

† † † †

Mrs Tawes explained to us that as her husband, the Comptroller, often used her car for official State business reasons, she saw nothing wrong in their use of a State car for personal reasons, even though that little junket last week caused the wear & tear to State property that an estimated 2000 mile round trip would cause.

† † † †

Mrs. Tawes informed us that it was none of our business what her husband did with State property. Of course, we begged to differ with her. We pointed out that as a taxpayer we are a part owner of the limosine which took her, her husband & friends in such style & comfort to Georgia, while others stayed home, or rode uncomfortable daycoaches or busses. Mrs Tawes retorted that we were the only taxpayer in Somerset who would object to such a use of a State automobile.

† † † †

Futhermore, if we didn't like it, we could report it to Governor O'Conor. "A lot of good that will do!" we replied. But we will, for the record. Because the Governor says he is vitally concerned about the gas situation & from time to time has given newspapers stories about how much State car gas rations are being cut.

† † † †

If one of our clients comes to our office & gives one of our employees \$10, which he owes us, our employee puts the money in his pocket & never turns it over to us, what is he?

A THIEF!

If one of our employees uses our machinery to do some work for a friend, charges nothing for the work, & never hands us any money for this work, what is he?

A THIEF!

If one of our employees without our permission & consent, takes our power saw home with him & uses it to cut up his firewood, what is he?

A THIEF!

What is a State official—who is your employee & ours—who uses State machinery—yours & ours—for his own personl pleasure?

A THIEF!

The answer is that simple. Mr. Tawes!

† † † †

## LETTERS FROM EDITOR

(In Reference to Pleasure Trip of State of Maryland Comptroller & Mrs Tawes, using gas for 2000 mles, after pleasure trip ban was ordered on May 13th by OPA officials.)

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

On Sunday, May 23rd, Comptroller and Mrs. J. Millard Tawes, and four friends, left Crisfield, Md. in an official State of Maryland Cadillac and drove down to Fort Benning and Camp Wheeler, Georgia, to visit relatives. They returned Friday, May 28th.

This act, in our opinion, verges upon sabotage of the war effort, tends to discredit the entire gas rationing program and the ban on pleasure driving, and

since he is a Democrat, brings much dishonor to the Party.

Locally it is said Mr. Tawes "is big enough to get around the OPA" and that "no one horse paper can stop him." We would like to hear that both statements are wrong.

We respectfully suggest an investigation.

Yours for Victory

Rives Matthews, Editor

May 29, 1943  
The Somerset News,  
Princess Anne, Md.

† † † †

Hon. Harold Ickes  
Secretary of Interior (Petroleum Co-ordinator)  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ickes:

On Sunday, May 23rd, Comptroller and Mrs. J. Millard Tawes, and four friends, left Crisfield, Md. in an official State of Maryland Cadillac and drove down to Fort Benning and Camp Wheeler, Georgia, to visit relatives. They returned Friday, May 28th.

How can you expect the little fellow to save gas, to walk, ride trains or busses, when 'the second biggest official in the State' can take such a pleasure trip at such a time?

His wife, who was annoyed by our calling attention to this trip, tells us her husband is big enough to take care of the OPA State Director, Mr. Leo H. McCormick, whom I requested by telegram to investigate on May 25th. I have since been told by local people that nothing will come of this investigation, since Mr McCormick and Mr. Tawes are said to be friends and to have gone ducking together last Fall.

I know you are a very busy man and that you have your hands full, but I really believe that until you start cracking down in Washington on the 'big fellows' whom everyone thinks 'can get away with' gas chiseling, you are not going to get the co-operation you need from the millions of 'little fellows.'

This man Tawes, right now, couldn't be elected dog-catcher in this county. Last Fall, he lost all but two of the men he put on his ticket. In the State, it is still a different matter. He was also the Republican nominee—by default—simply because that Party didn't have enough fight for more than the governorship. So from a political angle, the New Deal would gain, rather than suffer, by making an example of this man who has done everything—just about—to discredit the New Deal and the Democratic Party in this county.

Yours for Victory

Rives Matthews, Editor

May 29, 1943  
The Somerset News,  
Princess Anne, Md.

† † † †

Governor Herbert R. O'Conor  
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Governor O'Conor:

On Sunday, May 23rd, Comptroller and Mrs. J. Millard Tawes, and four friends, left Crisfield, Md. in an official State of Maryland Cadillac and drove down to Fort Benning and Camp Wheeler, Georgia, to visit relatives. They returned Friday, May 28th, having travelled an estimated 2000 miles in State property.

Mrs. Tawes informs me it is none of my business how she and the Comptroller make use of State property, and suggested that if I didn't like it, that I write to you.

Especially now that gasoline is so important to Maryland's farmers and war workers, it would seem to us that such a trip ought to be investigated and I would appreciate a statement for publication in next week's issue from you.

Yours for Victory

Rives Matthews, Editor

May 29, 1943  
The Somerset News,  
Princess Anne, Md.

† † † †

Hon. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On Sunday, May 23rd, Comptroller and Mrs. J. Millard Tawes, and four friends, left Crisfield, Md. in an official State of Maryland Cadillac and drove down to Fort Benning and Camp Wheeler, Georgia, to visit relatives. They returned Friday, May 28th.

This act, in our opinion, verges upon sabotage of the war effort, and tends to discredit the entire gas rationing program and the ban on pleasure driving.

Locally it is said Mr. Tawes "is big enough to get around the OPA." Is he?

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I respectfully suggest an investigation.

Yours for Victory  
Rives Matthews, Editor

May 29, 1943  
The Somerset News,  
Princess Anne, Md.

† † †

Hon. Prentiss Brown, Director  
Office of Price Administration  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brown:

On Sunday, May 23rd, Comptroller and Mrs. J. Millard Tawes, and four friends, left Crisfield, Md. in an official State of Maryland Cadillac and drove down to Fort Benning and Camp Wheeler, Georgia, to visit relatives. They returned Friday, May 28th.

How can you expect the little fellow to save gas, to walk, ride trains or busses when 'the second biggest official in the State' can take such a trip at such a time?

It is said locally that Mr. Tawes is big enough to 'take care of the APA.' Is he?

I would appreciate a few words from you for publication in my next issue on Thursday, June, 3rd, as I feel this is a very important question and otherwise would not trouble you at this time, if I did not believe that the OPA program was endangered by such behaviour.

Yours for Victory  
Rives Matthews, Editor

May 29, 1943  
The Somerset News,  
Princess Anne, Md.

† † † †

Because of the pleasure driving ban, Ocean City business men experienced the worst Decoration Day weekend in their history, but

Comptroller & Mrs Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

Last week a young Princess Anne matron & her very young baby had to ride a day coach to join an Army father at a distant camp & the baby was sick all the way, but

Comptroller & Mrs Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † †

Waiting in Florida right now are the wife & baby & car of an ensign from Princess Anne. He has been ordered to sea duty to help fight Hitler. His wife can't get gas to come home right now because of the shortage, but

Comptroller & Mrs Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † †

Last week the license numbers of several 'little people' were taken by State cops who suspected them of driving their cars to attend a High School dance—they could hardly have burned 250 gals.—but

Comptroller & Mrs Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

All over Somerset County, farmers began wondering whether they could get enough gas to operate their tractors, haul their crops to market, every radio for months has blared that food will win the war, that gas must be saved, that pleasure driving must stop, Governor O'Connor, with an eye for headlines, has yelped for help from Washington, has stated that war production would have to stop if essential workers & farmers in Maryland didn't get gas soon. Eastern Shore filling stations started to run dry last week, the people on the entire Eastern seaboard are being asked to do all they can to save gas but

Comptroller & Mrs Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

At Camp Somerset, the use of gas has been cut 50%. Training programs are being held up & soldiers are being cautioned not to waste gasoline, but

Comptroller & Mrs. Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

In the Crisfield Times, a paper which has always favored the political interests of Comptroller Tawes, there appeared this statement the day Mr & Mrs T returned from Georgia: "In view of the gasoline crisis that threatens Eastern food production operations, every patriotic motorist will rule out for himself all the trips

in his car that are not absolutely essential, John S. Holland, chairman of the Crisfield War Price and Rationing Board declared this week. This made nice reading for 'little people,' but

Comptroller & Mrs. Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

"Mr. Holland warned, however, that the Rationing Board will be quick to investigate reported violations of the ban. 'Every effort will be made to detect violators and not only to revoke their present rations, but to suspend their right to any further rations for the duration, or for an appreciable time,' he said," but

Comptroller & Mrs. Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

"Plans have been made to assure speedy hearings of cases brought to the Board," the Crisfield Times says, but

Comptroller & Mrs. Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

On Tuesday The Baltimore Sun reported that the OPA has the license numbers of 1036 Marylanders suspected of pleasure driving, but

Comptroller & Mrs. Millard Tawes could get enough gas to go about 2000 miles last week (about 250 gals.)

† † † †

State officials who abuse their car & gas privileges should be among the first to be penalized & fined for violating OPA rules. If so-called 'big shots' haven't enough sense to set a good example & to practice what officials are preaching at humbler folk, then their privileges should be taken away from them, they should be stripped of their honors as we strip officers in uniform of their insignia when they are found derelict in their duty.

† † † †

We don't know how Maryland officials get gas but we do know that the taxpayers don't give them cars to be used for unofficial, personal business—and we don't see how they have the gall to let their wives use them.

† † † †

With war plants on the verge of having to shut down because of the gas shortage, with many essential operations threatened because of it, we don't see how any state official, no matter how important, feels a several hundred mile trip to visit Army relatives can be excused or defended. Such a man deserves to be given the stiffest penalties a court can hand out so that he'll be an example of what happens to 'big shots' when they fail to set good examples.

† † † †

From now on, we shall continue to report Federal, State & County officials who are seen pleasure driving, as Fulton Lewis, Jr in Washington has done over the air. We will do so in a spirit of public service, for only when our officials are made to realize that they, too, have a responsibility to this nation, only then will we get the type of honest, decent, patriotic men we need in office so badly at this critical time.

† † † †

It is all very well for newspapers to publish articles about saving gas, to report that license numbers are being taken down so as to frighten timid souls & keep the Milquetoasts from driving. But frankly, as an editor & publisher, we are beginning to wonder what good all this accomplishes so long as criminal elements & political 'leaders' can get away with rationing violations. Can anyone tell us the name of any 'big shot' who has had his gas taken away for a week, a month, for the duration? Can anyone give us the name of any 'big shot' who has been fined \$10,000 or any part of it or who has been given a jail sentence?

† † † †

What is the point of having laws if they are not going to be enforced? How can we expect 'little fellows' to obey the laws when they are openly flouted by big shots.

† † † †

More than a dozen people in Princess Anne Monday afternoon saw Millard Tawes drive by in a mud spattered State car & the mud wasn't the color of Eastern Shore mud.

† † † †

When gas is so scarce, couldn't servants of the State travel back & forth between Annapolis on trains or busses, as the 'common people' have to do?

† † † †

It is a commonly held belief that all officials

(Continued from Page One)

are crooks. That's a pretty sad commentary on Democracy, if it should turn out to be true. And we still do not share this belief.

† † †

Nor do we believe that men like Millard Tawes are big enough to 'get around' laws. We still have faith in Democracy, & in the collective good sense of voters who will finally rid this county, state & nation of such men.

† † † †

It may be that nothing will come of the OPA investigation of Tawes we requested. If we shall not lose faith in Democracy & our readers should not. It takes a lot of time to get rid of such men. It took three years before last Fall of constant discussion to get rid of most of the Tawes' henchmen in the county.

† † † †

If it is true that Mr Tawes plans to run for Congress next Spring, we can get 'shet' of him them. Of course, he should be impeached right now—but we can wait until next Spring if we have to.

† † † †

If the people of Somerset are resigned to seeing the type of appointments O'Connor made on Tawes' say-so to the Liquor Board, if they can take the appointment of a Liquor Buyer at \$2300 a year, when you can't buy liquor: you just take what the wholesalers ration you—then we can wait until next Spring, or even two more years to see Somerset get rid of this trash & get some decent, patriotic, serious minded, responsible, socially-conscious men & women in public office.

† † † †

A few weeks ago when we first started writing about gas chisellers, people asked us why we didn't go after the big fellows first. Now that we've gone after the second biggest State official, people are asking us why we don't go after

some of the smaller officials. Why pick on poor Millard?

† † † †

Just where should law enforcement begin? We think that if certain laws aren't good enough for 'poor Millard' to obey, then it is difficult to ask poorer fellows to obey them.

† † †

We don't subscribe to the theory that 'the king can do no wrong.' Mrs Roosevelt on more than one occasion has walked from the Union Station in Washington to The White House. Certainly Mr Tawes' relatives could make a point of trying to set similar examples.

† † †

We would like to hear, as the gas shortage gets worse, that our Great Comptroller has inconvenienced himself to the extent of riding busses or trains between Annapolis & Crisfield. When that happens, we may begin to believe some of the hokum the O'Connor machine grinds out for publication in newspapers.

† † †

(Editor's Note: There are many news items we would have had in the paper this week—if we hadn't felt that the paramount issue of the moment was the pleasure driving violation of Millard Tawes. It is at such times that a newspaper can be of real service to its county, state & nation. At such times the ordinary grist for editorial mills must give way.)

† † †

Pvt Arthur Noble returned Monday to duty in Louisiana after spending a ten day furlough at Monie with his wife & child & father, Mr George Noble.

† † † †

The Westover Labor Camp will be opened this week to be made ready for 200 Bahamans sent to this country by H. R. H. The Duke of Windsor, Governor General of the Bahamas. Mr. Lloyd will be in charge of placing the Duke's people.

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Ration Boards this week were ordered not to give 5 gallons of gas to soldiers home on furlough, but last week Millard 'Hawg' Tawes used enough to give at least 50 soldiers enough gas to get around & see their friends.

† † † †

The Baltimore Sun—that great crusading newspaper—has been publishing the names of obscure pleasure drivers, but not those of big shots.

† † † †

The regular monthly meeting of St Andrews Guild will be held on Monday, June 7 at 7:30 in the home of Mrs Charles C Gelder. Members are asked to bring in their pence-cans as this will be the last meeting until September.

† † † †

We had a post-card this week, mailed at Vernal, Utah, from Mrs Jean Maskrey, who is en route to California.

† † † †

The price for picking snap beans has been established by the County Labor Committee at 35-cents a hamper for the first picking, & 40-cents a hamper for all subsequent pickings.

† † † †

Miss Dorothy Wiling of Baltimore is spending a few days with her grandmother, Mrs Charles Lankford of White Haven.

† † † †

Strawberry sales records at the Princess Anne block were:

May 26th—2389 crates	—\$4.00 to \$8.15—Av. \$6.40
May 27th—4149 crates	—\$4.00 to \$8.10—Av. \$5.50
May 28th—2036 crates	—\$4.00 to \$9.10—Av \$4.00
May 31—3489 crates	—\$3.00 to \$8.00—Av. \$5.50
June 1st—1835 crates	—\$3.00 to \$5.25—Av. \$4.40

(A total of 11,089 crates were sold during the first six-day period and 17,759 crates from May 6th to June 1st—a grand total of 28,848 crates.)

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Mrs Earl Murray & son, Jr., & Mrs Margaret Smith & daughter, Anne, all of Glen Burnie spent the weekend with Mrs Murray's parents, County Commissioner & Mrs Norman Dryden.

† † † †

Mrs Edward Abbott of Deal's Island died suddenly last Saturday at the age of 73, just five months after the death of her husband. Funeral services were held at her home, with the Rev Mr Leonard White officiating. Burial followed at the Deal's Island churchyard, where the Daughters of Liberty Lodge took charge of the ceremonies. Mrs Abbott is survived by one daughter, Mrs Tressie Harris of Deal's Island & three sons, the Messrs Oscar & Maurice Abbott of Deal's Island & Alonza Abbott of Baltimore.

† † † †

Mr & Mrs John B Roberts returned Monday from a visit with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr & Mrs John Watts Roberts at Richmond, & their daughter, Lt (jg) Margaret Huse at Alexandria, Va.

† † † †

The Somerset News received two anonymous letters about pleasure drivers. They would have been printed with any signature their authors had indicated—if those authors were known to the editor. This is required by law.

RADIOGRAM

Dear Herr und Frau Tawes: Der Feuhrer was highly pleased to hear of your violation of the pleasure-driving ban. Aside from your using gas that won't be used against Him, it is a great help to His Cause for people of your standing in America to show your international Jewish leaders in Washington you are behind Der Feuhrer!  
Heil Hitler!

DR. JOSEF GOEBBELS