

TAX PLUMS JUICEST ON THE FINAL DAY

Yield in the City Estimated at
\$1,207,791,638—One Check
Is for 'Only' \$127,000,000

By DAVID ANDERSON

The juiciest of income tax plums dropped lightly into the Internal Revenue Bureau's baskets here late yesterday to bring the day's yield for the Federal Government to an estimated \$1,207,791,638, which is considered very good indeed for the first quarter of any year.

Some of the payments handled yesterday were so large that they rock the imagination. However, even they were only installments, usually about 40 per cent, of the full tax to be paid. They were, of course, from corporations.

Waiting until the banks closed, for the most part, were company executives serving now as top level messengers. Senior among them to report at the Custom House office of Dennis J. McMahon, Director of the New York Second District, was the bearer of a check for \$127,000,000. In the Third District office, 110 East Forty-fifth Street, another distinguished runner waited for Director Harold B. A'Hearn with \$48,000,000 in his hand. Over in Brooklyn, there was a \$12,500,000 check ready for delivery to Henry L. Hoffman, the director for Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk.

Things Better a Year Ago

Betraying no real pleasure in these contributions, the Government men recalled that things had been better a year ago, when both the Upper and Lower Manhattan districts produced record single payments substantially higher than those received yesterday. However, the total of all income tax receipts appeared to be well ahead of the 1952 figure.

The public responded with patient dignity to the demand for tax filing before the midnight deadline. There were 4,000 persons crowding the facilities at 110 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, until mid-afternoon, when the rush slackened and dwindled away to a handful in the late evening hours.

Mr. A'Hearn clocked 3,000 at the Forty-fifth Street office and another 1,000 at 42 East Forty-first Street. They came in waves for information and help in filling out the tax forms. Sometimes several hundred were in line and an hour later none at all. Down near Battery Park, Mr. McMahon said, it had been the biggest year for servicing the public since 1942. At least 2,500 persons visited the Custom House on income tax errands yesterday.

Accurate estimates of the tax yield were hard to come by because important percentages for every district are still in the mail and will not be counted until today. A total of \$120,000,000 was "in the till" in Mr. Hoffman's area, with \$80,000,000 more expected for the quarter. The former figure represented the payments received since Jan. 1.

Armored Cars Summoned

The rich Wall Street zone that reaches north as far as Thirty-fourth Street collected \$800,000,000 in the day which, Mr. McMahon reported, was to be added to the \$396,000,000 filed earlier. Armored cars were summoned by Mr. A'Hearn in the afternoon to carry an \$88,000,000 deposit to the Federal Reserve Bank, 33 Liberty Street, and again late in the evening to transport an additional \$275,000,000. His district embraces the upper half of Manhattan.

No troublesome incidents of any kind developed in the course of the day, although the customary band of pickets turned up outside the Forty-fifth Street headquarters for an hour at noon. Recruited by members of the Tax Refusal Committee of Peascombers, of Sharonville, Ohio, were representatives of the War Resisters League, 5 Beekman Place and The Catholic Worker, 223 Christie Street.

They either refused to pay Federal income taxes or sympathized with those who did not because "the huge program of armaments can only lead to a third world war." Weapons, it was claimed, eat up seven-eighths of the national budget. In Philadelphia, other groups of pacifists objected on the same grounds.

A number of factors made this year's income tax collection here different from that of a year ago, or what it will be in 1954. It was noted that the public seemed to have forgotten the tax bureau scandals of 1951-52, or was at least content to let the matter rest. Next year, taxes must be paid by March 15—not on March 17, as in 1952, or on March 16, as this year. Also, this is the last year for the old division of districts here.

Treasury Department Order 150-7, dated Sept. 17, 1952, which provides for the inclusion of three new counties—the Bronx, Westchester and Rockland—in the Third New York District, will become effective on July 1. Thus the Bronx will at last be brought into the New York City fold. It has been grouped with twenty-one other counties reporting to Albany.

A move is under consideration to balance the division here further by extending the Second District half a mile north from Thirty-fourth Street to Forty-second Street, thereby handing 10,000 lucrative industries in the garment area to the lower Manhattan collection office. The inclusion of the Bronx and Westchester and Rockland Counties will bring 1,000,000 new income taxpayers into the upper Manhattan office.