

NUMEROUS KICKS ON INCOME TAXES AROUSE CONGRESS

Movement Started to Uncover
Causes of Complaints
From Everywhere.

BILLIONS IN REFUND CLAIMS

Public Without Knowledge of
Big Appropriations to
Correct Errors.

By C. C. LYON
Times Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—A move
to bring about a congressional investigation
of the working of the Federal
income tax system is under way here.

There is hardly a Congressman who
has not received from constituents
complaints against the present methods
employed by the Government in the
assessment and collection of income taxes.

On the other hand Attorney General Daugherty, in his report to Congress, declared the Bureau of Internal Revenue now has before it refund claims amounting to "billions of dollars."

Nevertheless, under the system in
vogue, the public is kept in absolute
darkness as to who wants the "billions
of dollars," and to whom are
now being paid the \$100,000,000 ap-
propriated by Congress for cash re-
funds. Congress itself doesn't know.

The enforced secrecy which surrounds the system, a secrecy imposed by law, not only invites favoritism but the Government could be defrauded of hundreds of millions of dollars annually without the knowl-
edge either of the Secretary of the Treasury or the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Fine for Disclosures

Officials and employees who would divulge an income tax or tax refund secret would subject themselves to fine and imprisonment and bar themselves from ever again holding Government office or employment.

Such information as Congressmen have come largely from taxpayers who have learned conditions through their own personal experiences in dealing with the system.

Some of the Allegations are:

That the small taxpayer is unable to have his tax claims adjusted because of priority given large corporations with million-dollar claims.

That claim handled by attorneys, who were once officials or employees of the income tax division, are given preference over claims handled by attorneys who never had any such connection.

That changes made in the manner of handling cases by the abolition of the audit review division have made it possible to "railroad" claims through the division.

That most of the force of the income tax division, since Jan. 1, 1922, has been concentrating upon claims for refunds to the neglect of Government claims for additional tax assessments that remain uncollected amounted to hundreds of millions.

That the statute of limitation is liable to become operative, with consequent great loss to the people, unless there is a reform.

That the audit review division, now abolished, last year alone saved the Government millions of dollars through its discovery of errors in the audit of returns.

These are a few of the things that Congressmen are being told is wrong with the income tax system and should be remedied.

ASKS RILEY CELEBRATION

Superintendent Requests Schools to
Observe Poet's Birthday.

Benjamin J. Burris, State superintendent of public instruction, has addressed a letter to all school officials calling upon them to join with the pupils and citizens of Indiana in celebrating Riley Memorial week, Oct. 1 to 7.

Mr. Burris called attention to Riley's love of little children and pointed out that a great many human-interest lessons could be learned from a careful study of his popular works.



MAJ. MAURICE E. SHEARER

BALL BROTHERS DONATE \$50,000 TO RILEY FUND

Hospital Campaign Secretary
Announces Largest Single
Gift for Institution.

DONOR MAKES STATEMENT
George A. Ball Says Riley Hos-
pital Is Needed and
Worthy.

A gift of \$50,000 from Ball Brothers of Muncie to the building fund of the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children, now in course of construction here, was announced today by James W. Carr, executive secretary of the State executive committee of the hospital. The gift is the largest single one which has yet been made to the hospital which, when entirely completed, will represent a total expenditure of \$2,000,000 and will care for sick and crippled children from every Indiana county.

The gift from Ball Brothers, who are known as among the leading manufacturers of the State, was made known by George A. Ball, a member of the State executive committee of the Riley hospital. In announcing the gift Mr. Ball said it was presented to the hospital building fund by Ball Brothers and the estate of William Ball, who died about one year ago. The estate participated in the gift, Mr. Ball said, because William Ball had participated in conferences relative to this and other gifts which have since been made by the Ball family of brothers. In addition to George A. Ball the brothers participating in the gift are Edmund, Frank and Lucius.

"We consider the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children one of the most needed and most worthy institutions of its kind," said Mr. Ball in presenting the gift.

"You know," Mr. Ball continued, "the Riley Hospital for Children will really be the gift of the people of the State to the State in memory of James Whitcomb Riley, and for the children he loved. It is an ideal conception."

The public service commission today was expected to overrule the motion of the Indiana Bell Telephone Company, asking that rate increases in the Indianapolis and toll cases, be approved until such time as the commission made State-wide investigation of the Bell system, provided the Bell Company would withdraw its injunction suits in Federal Court.

Informal discussion of the matter by public service commission members supported the belief that the motion would be a veritable acceptance of all that the Bell Company could hope to gain by Federal injunction and that such action would be a sweeping reversal of the commission's stand in the matter.

It has been the contention of commissioners since the Bell cases were reopened that the matter should be carried to a definite conclusion and that no compromises should interfere with the commission's investigation of the company's affairs.

AMERICANS HEAVY DRINKERS

Pop Bottles From One Year Would
Circle Globe Five Times.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 19.—Bottles used in marketing carbonated beverages consumed in the United States annually, if placed upright side by side, would make approximately forty-two rows extending from New York to San Francisco, or five rows encircling the globe. This estimate was arrived at by Dr. W. W. Skinner, United States Department of Agriculture, and one of the leading water and beverage authorities in the world, after an extensive survey of the soft drink consumption.

This enormous consumption is attributed by Dr. Skinner to the recognition by the public of the real merit of present day bottled carbonated beverages. It has resulted in this branch of the food industry being one of the best policed industries in the country.

The Federal Government is constantly watching the manufacture of these beverages for interstate shipment to see they are of the highest quality.

Every State has the most stringent laws governing the manufacture of the bottled beverages. In some respects bottled carbonated beverage manufacturing is easier to police than others, for if the best ingredients are not used and the highest sanitation not attained the product will spoil on the hands of the manufacturer before he can get it into the hands of the consuming public.

WHEELBARROWS STOLEN

Four wheelbarrows were stolen from a new building at Alvord and Twenty-Third Sts. early today. A. D. Brown, 2242 Broadway, told the police that they were worth \$20.

SORORITIES NAME PLEDGES FOR 1922

Butler College Girls Choose
New Members for Start
of Fall Semester.

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LOW VISIBILITY

According to a newspaper, stockings were invented in the eleventh century.

And they were not seen until the twentieth.—LIFE.

THRIFT SHOE STORE

Many complaints have been registered with the main office and the various branch offices of the Hoosier State Automobile Association concerning lax methods or lack of method employed by some of the contractors and road officials in indicating detours around closed roads.

It is pointed out that few barriers on highways have red lights at night, and that this, aside from being a law violation, is an offense against the commonest of safety rules which should not be condoned in any community. Local members of the Hoosier State Auto Association are now asked to check up on all improper barriers and improperly marked detours and make reports thereon. As much as this membership covers the entire State it is expected many reports will be forthcoming to the headquarters office.

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