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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way"

Shall We Reduce Taxes?

A short time before President Hoover assumed office, a federal deficit of \$97,000,000 was in prospect for the current fiscal year. All departments of the government were asked to keep their expenditures at the minimum and congress was warned against excessive appropriations.

Now the situation has changed. A surplus of at least \$200,000,000 seems assured.

This has revived talk of tax reduction. President Hoover has expressed himself as desiring such reduction if the condition of the treasury will permit it and the Republican majority in congress, with a congressional election approaching, naturally is eager to make a showing.

All sources of revenue have been yielding larger sums than anticipated. Income and corporation tax collections for the calendar year so far amount to more than \$1,900,000,000, which is \$271,000,000 in excess of last year.

Ordinary receipts for the fiscal year which started July 1 are \$128,000,000 ahead of last year. On Sept. 21 the treasury had a surplus of \$41,000,000, as against a deficit of \$124,000,000 a year ago.

This is a rosy picture, but nevertheless serious doubts remain as to the wisdom of reducing taxes.

The increased income tax collections are credited in large part to the profits made in the phenomenal rise in the value of stocks on the New York Exchange. This is a precarious source of revenue at best, and one which conceivably might disappear as rapidly as it appeared.

Business and industry have been booming, and their profits have swelled the federal coffers. It generally is believed that prosperity will continue, but it would not take a very great recession to reduce tax payments materially.

Further, tax reduction contemplates abandoning the \$100,000,000 safety margin which the treasury heretofore has thought it necessary to maintain. A reserve of this size in connection with expenditures approaching the \$5,000,000,000 mark does not seem excessive.

Question of the public debt must be considered. It has been reduced from its wartime peak of \$25,500,000,000 to \$16,700,000,000, and it is agreed pretty generally that this process should continue. But if there is tax reduction, and revenues do not reach the expected amounts, debt reduction will be curtailed.

Meantime, not only are ordinary expenditures growing, but the government is committed to large future outlays. These include cruiser building, flood control, Boulder dam, inland waterways, farm relief, the public building programs, and other projects.

Tax reduction may not be as simple, or as wise, as it sounds.

Senate Sensibilities

Senator McKellar's attack on the proposed naval agreement is a warning that President Hoover faces the same kind of senate minority fight that wrecked Wilson's policy and has turbid foreign relations throughout our history.

This is a disagreeable fact which can not be ignored. Past experience shows that the President who faces it in advance accomplishes most in the end. Had President Wilson been somewhat more considerate of senate sensibilities, this country probably would be a member of the League of Nations today. And better co-operation between the two branches of government might have prevented the years of unseemly bickering that has delayed our adherence to the world court.

The provision which gives the senate veto power over the executive's foreign policy is basic in our Constitution, and a valuable democratic safeguard. That it often has been abused is no more the fault of the senate than of the White House.

Obviously Mr. Hoover even now should be preparing the ground for that senate support without which any carefully negotiated naval agreement will die unratified.

Part of that White House-senate co-operation involves inclusion of minority party leaders in informal and formal negotiation of international agreements. When the question at issue is a matter of party policy, such procedure is difficult. But it should not be difficult in such a matter as arms limitation, which is as much a Democratic as a Republican policy.

The prospective naval treaty fight in the senate will not be a party division, but a cross-party struggle by a small minority. At least it probably will be no more than that if the President has been wise in making the Democratic leaders jointly responsible with the Republican administration for the treaty.

Hence the necessity of giving the Democrats some direct representation in the informal departmental deliberations now in process, and in the coming discussions with Premier MacDonald, and on the American delegation at the formal five-power conference.

True, this is rather a cumbersome method of getting things done. But democracy itself is more cumbersome than dictatorship. The idea is that the slower method accomplishes more and better results in the long run. That long run in the case of any American treaty means the always difficult senate ratification.

None of Our Business

Ramsay MacDonald, prime minister of England, soon will be a guest of the United States.

He is coming on a mission of supreme importance—an endeavor to insure the permanence of the century of peace that has existed between the two most powerful nations in the world.

Every patriotic American will wish him success. No one with the interests of this country at heart would do anything that might in any way cloud the horizon.

And yet—there is already a murmur in the air; a murmuring that may, if allowed to proceed, mar the cordiality of our welcome and make the British prime minister the center of an undignified, petty and utterly senseless quarrel.

To listen to this gradually rising muttering, you would imagine that the great question of the hour is not, "Will America and England reach agreement on naval limitation?" but, "Will Ramsay MacDonald drink wine while he is in prohibition America?"

While in Washington Mr. MacDonald will stay at the British embassy. Technically, he will be on British soil. Legally, he will have every right to drink all the wine he cares to.

Why, then, should anyone make a fuss about it?

The question, indeed, would not be worth raising.

except for the fact that a great many well-meaning people seem to be bothered about it. To some people, evidently, it appears that American prohibition will in some way be mocked if the British prime minister fails to bind himself by its limitation while he is in Washington.

That attitude is not only mistaken; it is stupid and rude.

To begin with, it is none of our business. The British embassy in Washington is not prohibition territory. Mr. MacDonald may do as he likes there; it is no concern of ours.

In addition, we ought to realize that there is no sort of moral obligation resting on the premier to abide by our prohibition law.

When our ambassador to England, General Dawes, reached London, he proceeded very quickly to make it plain that he was not going to observe one of the oldest customs of the British court. He refused, quite bluntly, to wear the knee breeches that years of usage have made the correct garb for formal affairs at court. Instead, he followed the custom of his own country and wore ordinary evening dress.

Similarly, Mr. MacDonald has every right to bring his own customs with him when he visits us; and if those customs include the serving of wine at his meals—well, that is Mr. MacDonald's affair.

The whole business is hardly worth mentioning, if it were not so evident that some ardent prohibitionists seem to feel that a great wrong will be done if Mr. MacDonald does not go "dry" during his stay in Washington.

Such an attitude is utterly senseless, not to say asinine. It simply is not any of our concern.

Enlightened Selfishness

There was a time when business of all kinds, big and little, was practically united in favor of high tariff legislation. Business men were a band of brothers, all in favor of more protection for themselves and willing to let the other fellow have his.

That time is past. In connection with the present tariff bill, it would seem that almost as much of the business world is lined up against the bill's sweeping increases as is for it.

The big auto men of the country rejected the idea that they need a tariff wall to protect them against the world. They are selling yearly, instead, half a billion dollars worth of autos to the world.

The National City bank, the country's biggest financial institution, is fighting as hard against the raise in the sugar tariff as progressive senators. Other banks and big corporations engaged in international trade apparently would be glad to see the bill defeated.

Now the organized dry goods retailers, speaking through their national association, charge that the higher rates so will unsettle business that they may destroy our prosperity, and that the measure violates the Republican campaign pledge to equalize conditions for agriculture.

Of course, all these protests against the bill are selfish in their nature, perhaps almost as selfish as the pleas in favor of it. The protests, however, are the result of more enlightened selfishness. Those who make them realize that the prosperity of all of us is more to be desired than that a few great corporations shall pile up further profits, and that a world-trading nation, such as the United States has become, is more dependent for continued prosperity upon its trade relations with the world than upon higher and still higher tariff walls.

REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

WE like the poem Mrs. Coolidge wrote about her son on the fifth anniversary of his death and its philosophy is the same which has sustained the world throughout the ages.

Even if immortality be nothing but a dream, that dream is worth more to humanity than all of its realities.

This is the thought which makes one regard the professional atheist as the most obnoxious of pests, for in a land where there is liberty of conscience, there is no occasion for one to thrust his unbelief upon the contented minds of others.

Think what you will, but let other people alone.

This is where the Russian government made a mistake. Just because the czars prostituted religion to strengthen their tyranny, the bolsheviks would uproot it entirely from the hearts of the peasants, a thing they learn they can do not.

Had they been good politicians, they would have put bolshevik clothes on the saints and let the masses of the people keep their faith, thereby strengthening the new order.

WE are against any bunch that goes forth, spraying the flowers of hope with concentrated lie, whether that bunch be a boisterous group of the unwashed in some great city or whether it be a nation, for to put out your own hopes is as foolish as to put out your own eyes and to put out the hopes of others to become the lowest order of animal life.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon states that the chances of a young man's making good in business are ten times better today than when he was a boy, which will cause people generally to believe the charge that the secretary keeps something in his cellar.

It did not take great heroism for Bishop Edgar Blake of Indianapolis to denounce the twelve disciples as a "tough lot of Galilean fishermen," for there is very little probability that any of them will sue him for slander at this late day.

THE President has talked with several Governors about law enforcement, but the two big things about the proposition are to get the lawyers to consent to let the laws be enforced and then get the Governors to consent to let the guilty stay in after they've been sent up.

If while this ship lobbyist is being investigated at Washington, all the other lobbyists could be rounded up, it would simplify greatly the task of taking the national census.

Senator Brattan of New Mexico is right in his insistence that all aviation should be under the control of the United States government, for that would provide every possible safeguard in a very hazardous business.

True, under our form of government, the nation has no legal right to control flying that is entirely within a state, but public opinion soon would force every pilot to qualify for a federal license, and the flier who could not show a card with Uncle Sam's name on it would go without passengers.

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M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

We Can Not Hope to Stop Lobbying; the Evil Goes With a Republic and Is an Inescapable Weakness of Democracy.

LIEUTENANT JAMES H. DOORLY climbs into the darkened cockpit of an airplane, takes off files around a triangular course off, flies around a triangular course he started, without once looking at anything but his instrument board. The feat is made possible by the reaction of delicate indicators to a radio beam, and is described rightly as epochal.

It liberates aviation from the perils of night and fog, and represents one of the very greatest achievements in the interest of safety.

Those in charge of the Guggenheim fund, which financed the preliminary work, are to be congratulated.

They have made a worthwhile contribution to the science of flying.

It remains for science to produce some kind of a device which will enable business men to tell whether they are hiring an "observer," or plain propagandist.

Testimony in the Shearer case leaves little doubt that ordinary human faculties are unequal to the task.

To let them tell it, half a dozen high-powered executives never suspected that they were helping to break up a naval conference at Geneva or pass a cruiser bill at Washington, though their "observer" kept them constantly informed of the "shots" he was firing.

There are fogs and fogs.

Tariff More Important

IT is not to be presumed for one moment that the Shearer case is an isolated incident. That other publicity experts have not sold themselves in like manner, or that three shipbuilding companies, were the only ones to fall for the idea of lobbying through printers' ink.

As a matter of common sense, the tariff is of far greater concern to American business than a naval conference, or cruiser bill, while manufactured propaganda has become too much of a fad for anyone to doubt its use on every possible occasion.

If one "observer" was considered necessary by shipbuilders at Geneva, how many would the various interests affected think desirable at Washington in connection with a tariff bill?

We can not hope to stop lobbying, of course, whether by high-priced lawyers, publicity hounds, or vamps.

The evil goes with a republic and is an inescapable weakness of democracy.

The thing can be identified, however, and labeled according to the food and drug act, which would go to destroy its pernicious influence.

The danger of a third house at Washington consists mainly of what it can do in the dark. Turn on the light, and it ceases to be much of a menace.

He'll Open His Eyes

IT is natural to suppose that the mayor of Berlin comes to New York, with the expectation of seeing not only a bigger, but a better town, and of learning something which he can take back home with advantage to his own community.

So far as engineering goes, he will probably not be disappointed.

Not pausing to enumerate her seven wonders, over the identity of which there seems to be some controversy, New York certainly contains institutions that are peerless, but when it comes to politics—

As the New York World points out, the mayor of Berlin arrives just in time to enjoy the chatter which goes with the performance of electing a new city government.

It probably will strike him as novel, if not enlightening, and lest he should make the mistake of supposing it is due to local, rather than national, habit, he ought to go to Washington and listen in on Congress, especially when prohibition is up for debate.

To hear senators twit each other about knowing what is going on, or knowing too much, certainly represents a new, if not a higher, brand of statesmanship.

Brookhart Out in Open

SENATOR HOWELL, who created something of a sensation the other day by declaring that Washington was wet and that the President could make it dry, thinks the latter a "little unfair," in demanding specific instances.

He spoke not from personal experience, he says, but from what was "common knowledge" around the Capitol.

Senator Brookhart is not so shy, but tells specifically of a dinner at which senators were present and liquor was available.

Not only that, but he tells the impression that it might have had something to do with financial legislation, since a Wall Street man was host.

Daily Thought

Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your job; for by faith we stand.—II Corinthians 1:24.

FAITH draws the poison from every grief, takes the sting from every loss, and quenches the fire of every pain; and only faith can do it.—J. G. Holland.

What language is the name of Palatka and what does it mean?

It is a Seminole Indian name meaning either "spilled" or "cow ford."

Who wrote the book "This Believing World?"

Lewis Browne, a Jewish rabbi of the liberal school, who lives in New York.

Herbert, This Can't Go on Forever!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Care Vital in Paralysis Cure

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN
Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygela, the Health Magazine.