



The Indianapolis Times

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

A Balanced Budget

The federal budget will be balanced. That is the hopeful significance of the revenue bill amendments submitted by the ways and means committee Tuesday and promptly taxed up by the house.

This is not surprising news. But it will have a lifting effect on business just the same, because it will kill the propaganda myth prevalent during the last month that defeat of the sales tax would mean an unbalanced budget.

The Scripps-Howard newspapers have pointed out daily that there were plenty of ways to balance the budget more effectively for the government and less harmfully for the country than the un-American sales tax.

We deserve no credit for seeing that. It had been demonstrated several months ago by submission by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon of a revenue plan which would balance the budget without a sales tax, and has been demonstrated since by numerous other expert plans.

Just as we supported in principle the original Mellon plan to make up part of the deficit by nuisance taxes, and just as we have continued ever since to support that plan, so now we support the principle of the ways and means committee amendments for nuisance taxes.

As to the details—whether one particular nuisance tax in the Hoover-Mellon plan or in the new Democratic plan is preferable—all of that, of course, is subject to discussion as each item is taken up.

But, relatively, that is unimportant compared with the main fact—that the budget can and will be balanced.

We accept the nuisance taxes as a lesser evil than continuing federal deficit. But we accept them under protest.

We accept them only because one group of politicians and propagandists has a gun at the heart of the government, and refuses to let the government take the revenue which rightfully belongs to it and which could balance the budget without the nuisance taxes. We mean a beer tax.

Even if the country could forget for a moment all the evil moral results of prohibition—the increased crime and lawlessness, the racketeering, the increase in hard liquor drinking, the fact that it acts as a great barrier, blocking political action on most of the vital national issues—there remains the additional fact that it denies the government essential revenue in a time of crisis.

No one—no matter how fatal—can deny that a beer tax quickly, easily and surely could raise the revenue which now must be raised by these nuisance taxes.

Every time you buy a postage stamp, a box of matches, a package of cigarettes, an automobile, a tire, a radio, a theater ticket, an industrial stock, a package of gum, you will be paying more than you should pay more than is returned to the capital and labor which produced it.

You will be paying to perpetuate the bootlegger and racketeer. You will be paying indirectly the beer tax which the government refuses to make the liquor industry pay.

We say, which the government refuses to make the liquor industry pay. The citizens of the country do not refuse. The country is at least 2-to-1 in favor of a beer tax, as revealed by all recent polls.

But representative government in this matter can not be blocked much longer. Today congress can refuse to balance the budget with a beer tax. In June, however, both political parties, at their conventions, will be put on the spot of public opinion.

In the campaign and election which follow, every party and every candidate will be made to face this issue.

And when the new congress meets next winter—if not before—there is a good chance that the nuisance taxes will go out and the beer tax come in. Until then, they must be paid.

The nuisance taxes are here to stay—just so long as the people of the country permit the dry politicians to defy representative government.

In the midst of the relief and the cheering over prospects of a balanced federal budget, let no one forget for a moment that the plan depends not only on increased taxes, but also on cuts in expenditures of a quarter billion dollars or more.

Congress is to be congratulated on its apparent willingness to make those cuts. Congress should be supported by public opinion when the inevitable lobby pressure begins against cuts.

Equally important is the point made by President Hoover Tuesday in his courageous statement regarding the bonus. There is no use putting ourselves on the back for adding a few hundred million in new taxes and cutting a few hundred million from government expenses if we are going to turn around and spend two billions on a cash bonus.

This newspaper favors adequate care of veterans who need the care. It is particularly solicitous for two classes of veterans, the disabled and the unemployed.

But we believe those special needs can be met without a two billion dollar bonus given regardless of individual need. And we believe those special needs can be met without endangering federal finances in this emergency.

If congress will carry out its plan of cutting a quarter billion or more from the budget, and refrains from such additional outlays as the cash bonus, it will be holding fast to the economy line which is essential.

The Public Defender

Shall the poor man have a fair break before the law? This is the core of the public defender issue.

It is obvious that the poor are at a great disadvantage today in all litigation. This fact has been emphasized by jurists as eminent as Chief Justices Taft and Hughes and Elihu Root. It was proved by a vast bill of particulars in Reginald Heber Smith's "Justice and the Poor."

The public defender movement has grown up as the answer to this challenge. The idea underlying it is well summarized by Charles Mishkin in an article in the "Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology."

"It is axiomatic that one of the primary duties of the government is to administer justice. Rich and poor should be on an equal plane when before the bar of justice; but in practice are they equal?"

The rich man has his corps of brilliant attorneys and sufficient funds to employ investigators to discover witnesses, gather evidence, and prepare an adequate defense on his behalf.

The poor man, on the other hand, is helpless, without funds, often not understanding what the proceedings are all about, and is forced to rely for his protection upon an attorney assigned to represent him without compensation.

"Honest and well-meaning though the attorney may be, he is handicapped by lack of funds to con-

M. E. Tracy

Says:

The Nuisance Taxes Should Be a Constant Reminder That Prohibition Has Increased Our Tax Burden and Fostered an Era of Gang Rule.

NEW YORK, March 30.—Last week, millions of people imagined that the federal budget could not be balanced without a sales tax. Now they know better. It took the ways and means committee only three days to frame a substitute, and it took the house only three hours to pass all the items.

In one sense, this substitute imposes a sales tax of varying degree on certain specified articles and transactions, but the fact that the articles and transactions are specified makes a great difference.

If the general sales tax measure had been adopted, consumers could not have told just how much they were paying the government because the amount would have been hidden in the price.

The substitute leaves no doubt on that point. When you pay 3 cents for a postage stamp, instead of 2, or an extra 6 cents when you buy a dollar theater ticket, you will not have to guess at the amount Uncle Sam is getting.

"Lest We Forget"

THE substitute will be as annoying as the general sales tax would have been in some respects, but it will be open and easily identified. For that reason, it will not lend itself to price boosting.

Because it is specific and itemized, people constantly will be reminded of its presence, and how it might have been avoided.

It should be thought of and referred to as a compound of nuisance taxes, and a tribute to racketeers.

It could have been avoided by a tax on beer.

That is something for people to remember every time they pay over the pennies, or percentages for which it calls.

"Beer Could Bear It"

IT goes without saying that the budget should be balanced, and that cutting down government expenses by \$250,000,000 and raising \$300,000,000 by taxation represents a sensible way of getting the \$550,000,000 required.

The \$300,000,000 to be raised by taxation could have been produced by levying 2 cents a pint on beer.

Instead, this vast amount of money, and a whole lot more, will continue to finance an illegal traffic, with political corruption, disrespect for law and increase of crime as the logical by-products.

"Tribute to Outlawry"

YOU and I would not be confronted with the necessity of paying these nuisance taxes which congress is now adopting, except for one simple fact.

Politically dry law-makers, who still represent a majority in congress, would rather tax us than the beer barons. They do not put it that way, but that is what it amounts to.

These nuisance taxes represent a tribute to unlawful trade, political graft and broken laws.

Outside of producing the cash which is needed to meet an emergency, their one virtue consists in the fact that they may arouse a long-suffering public to express itself with such force as politicians can not misunderstand.

"Sped the Day!"

PROHIBITION has done as much as the slump in business, if not more, to create financial embarrassment at Washington and subject the American people to tax burdens such as they never knew in time of peace.

In addition, this "noble experiment" has set the stage for such an era of gang rule and racketeering as is unique in the history of government.

If the nuisance taxes about to be imposed on us lead to a realization of these two points, they will be well spent.

If the people accept them as a makeshift until such time as congress can be persuaded to do the sensible thing they will have accomplished a purpose of as great consequence as balancing the budget.

Questions and Answers

Was Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh graduated from a college?

ONE of the things this country needs," writes an enraged editor, "is revival of the old-fashioned sewing circle. Too many women are skilled in the mechanics of contract bridge, while American manhood is crying out for feminine architects who will rebuild damaged socks and turn collars on frayed shirts."

Good gentlemen, does not this smack of treason? Is it not vicious and insidious propaganda designed to break down big business?

For our editor evidently forgets that American manhood also is crying out for women to keep up normal spending. Otherwise, so other editors tell us, things will collapse. The women must spend every cent they possibly can, so business may go on as usual and jobs may be kept and prosperity return.

Let us see what would happen if the old-fashioned sewing circle were revived. The women probably would start to making their underwear, their house dresses, their pillowcases and sheets, and a good many other things.

MANY manufacturers would be compelled to shut their doors. Dress shops would go out of business. Department stores would suffer. If we turned all the frayed collars on husband's shirts, the shirt makers would set up an awful howl. If we darned and repaired the socks, the hosiery men would protest.

It is obvious that the most harassed creatures at large these days is the American housewife. The above paragraph is merely one of thousands of items offering her advice and criticism.

Already being weighed with responsibilities, this gibe about the sewing circle probably will not move her. She is told on one hand to spend freely and on the other to squeeze every nickel.

It was the great male business genius, if I remember aright, who took all our home work away from us and put up innumerable factories to do it, while he announced that he was ushering in the millennium.

In view of that fact, it's my opinion that the best thing we can do now is to ignore him.

I do not know how things are going to turn out, but I do wish the men would stop giving us advice until they make up their minds about what they want us to do.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

Was Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh graduated from a college?

He had two years in the chemical engineering course at the University of Wisconsin in 1920, but left the university without graduation to enroll in a flying school at Lincoln, Neb., in 1922.

How high are the mountains Whitney, Ranier, McKinley and Shasta?

Whitney is 14,496 feet; Ranier, 14,048 feet; McKinley, 20,300 feet, and Shasta 14,161 feet.

How large a population did San Francisco have in 1910?

At the end of 1930 it had 11,343 miles.

Are atomic weight and specific gravity the same?

Atomic weight is the weight of an atom of a substance compared with the weight of an atom of hydrogen; specific gravity indicates the weight of a substance compared with the weight of an equal volume of water.

Will oxygen ignite?

Pure oxygen will not ignite.

How does Cincinnati, O., rank in population of large cities?

Sixteenth.

Daily Thought

Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.—Ecclesiastes 7:8.

Vanity is the foundation of the most ridiculous and contemptible vices.—Adam Smith.

Make Him Talk or Vote Him Down



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Extreme Care Needed in Using Radium

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

IT long since has been recognized

that radium is of special virtue in the control of cancer. Today early diagnosis, surgical removal, and treatment with radium and X-ray constitute the main reliance in all cases of this disease.

Whenever radium is moved from one room to another, it should be carried in boxes made of lead.

Radium is, however, such an important substance from the point of view of its effects on the human body that all sorts of methods have had to be developed to protect those who use and apply it.

Cases are on record and have had wide publicity in which girls who painted watch dials have suffered destructive bone damage from continued action of radium.

The skin, especially that of the hands, must be protected at all times from direct contact with unfiltered radium.

For this reason, the radium must be handled with long forceps, preferably made of wood, so long that the radium will be at a considerable distance from the body and the hands.

In addition, it is customary to put between the person handling the radium and this material itself a shelf covered with at least one centimeter of sheet lead or its equivalent.

Whenever radium is moved from one room to another, it should be carried in boxes made of lead.

The room in which the radium is kept is usually a lead-lined room and a room in which people do not work constantly.

Dr. E. S. Ernst recommends that radium, when not in use, be stored in a safe with lead protection equivalent to five centimeters of lead for every 100 milligrams of radium.

During the period when the radium is being applied to the patient, his room should not be visited frequently, except by those who are taking care of him, and a sign should be placed at the head of the bed indicating that radium is being employed.

Indeed, it is a little ironical for La Guardia to insist on the safety of regularity, since the local Republican organization knifed him with glee when he ran for mayor of New York City. He owes nothing to the orthodox.

It is fair enough for conservative commentators to attack him as one who has no respect or consideration for the avowed principles of the Republican party. But they are wholly wrong if they attempt to impugn his sincerity and honesty and courage.

It is, in the eyes of many, a Socialist in sheep's clothing, and to-day, in spite of all opposition, he stands as the most powerful and persuasive member of the lower house, if not of the entire congress.

Naturally you have guessed that I mean Fiorello La Guardia.

For many days now you will be reading editorials in which he will be denounced as a shameless demagogue intent wholly upon his own interests and preferment. Even the most ardent of his enemies upon the floor know