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Give us the news and the People Will Find Their Own Way

## Taxes and the Cost of Living

SINCE few of us really have any comprehension of what we mean by a billion dollars, discussion of the \$39.6 billions the federal government proposes to spend this coming year is necessarily rather vague.

It is only when you break it down, as the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce has just done, and find that the average Indiana family is expected to pay \$1061.12 of it, that it begins to have much real meaning.

It is going to be more than the \$20 a week grocery bill that the average Indiana family probably will pay this year. It is what it would cost to rent a house at \$85 a month for the whole year. It is considerably more than most Indiana families will pay for clothing in 1948.

This comes out first, of course, before any food or clothing or rent. Since it is an "average" naturally it means that while some families will pay less than \$1061.12 many families will pay a great deal more. Nor is this their whole tax bill. There's about \$300 more—maybe \$400—for this same family to pay toward the cost of state and local government besides.

ALTOGETHER, again on the "average," government will cost about 28 cents of every dollar any of us earn this coming year—about 21 cents for federal government, about seven cents for state and local government.

So the man who works a standard five-day 40-hour week puts in the first day-and-a-half working for his government, and the remaining three-and-a-half days working to support his own family. With prices up where they are today that three-and-a-half days' pay often has to be stretched pretty thin to cover a family's needs—but taxes take another bite out of it there, too.

Every dollar that is spent for bread or milk or hamburger includes—and has to include—its share of the taxes on the farm where it was grown and the mill where it was processed and the store where it was sold. And that helps to keep prices up.

NONE of this \$1061.12 by the way, is intended to pay on the national debt, which now amounts to around \$6450 for the average family in Indiana, although it does include interest payments on that debt. Any debt reduction that is made, however, would have to be added to the \$1061.12.

Many of these expenditures, obviously, are necessary and just simply can't be avoided. But, as the Chamber's statisticians point out, a good many of them can be cut out of that spending program, and a good many of them should be pared down.

After all, a man with a family to support can't be working a fourth of his time for somebody else, and expect to make ends meet indefinitely.

## He Knows Politics

THROUGH the many years he served as Senator from Montana, Burton K. Wheeler prized most his independence of conscience and action. He spoke and voted according to his own beliefs, and didn't care much who liked it or who didn't.

So it is not surprising that Mr. Wheeler, in considering the offer to become director of AFL's Political Education League, should promptly announce that he does not favor the defeat of all Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act. That is what some union bosses have been advocating and threatening, but Mr. Wheeler makes it clear he will not go along with a policy that is both unfair and politically stupid. He disapproves some provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, but he knows that many Senators and Representatives friendly to labor voted for the law and thinks that neither this, nor any other one measure, should be the sole test of whether a candidate receives the political support of union members.

If Mr. Wheeler's saner attitude prevails, organized labor's political effort in this campaign will be more effective than it was in 1946.

## The People Gain One

HIROHITO continues to ensnare our interest because he is an individual in a peculiar transitional stage. He is an ex-god trying to get a job as a man—experience limited.

Recently we made note of his reputed ability to hold a fan between his toes and fan himself while swimming in the rain with an open umbrella in one hand. To do this he may have had to draw a bit on some of his old-time powers, so the feat is none too conclusive evidence that he had descended all the way from divinity.

But now comes new testimony of his progress. In a speech opening the Japanese Parliament a few days ago he used the significant phrase, "We, the People."

Japanese quickly noted that it was the first time the former emperor in a formal statement had put himself in the same category as an ordinary citizen.

## In Africa, Too

THE native of Portuguese West Africa does not commute or ride the subway. The din of traffic, the juke box, the singing commercial are as foreign to him as the supercharged tempo of western life in general. Yet he has stomach ulcers—even as the most civilized warrior.

The reason, says a medical missionary, is the witch doctor. He scares his patients right into peptic and duodenal tizzies. All we can say is that if he can achieve the net result of civilization's myriad annoyances by his primitive witchcraft, there must be powerful magic in masks, rattles and mumbo-jumbo.

## The Cradle Vote

THIS truly is an election year (what-will-they-think-of-next division). A New York state legislator has introduced a bill at Albany permitting working mothers to deduct the cost of hiring baby-sitters in computing their state income taxes.

With exemptions for babies and, prospectively, exemptions for baby-sitters, our vote-seekers might as well make a clean sweep and promise free diaper service.

## In Tune With the Times

### SHOVEL AND PUFF

YESTERDAY, almost before the purple of night was thinning into the gray of dawn, thousands of citizens, all good neighbors, were out with their snow shovels, their coal shovels, their brooms, or whatever they could find, to remove the snow from their sidewalks.

It wasn't easy. It was a heavy, wet snow. It made their back muscles ache, their fingers numb. But they were good citizens, all doing their part to dig the town out of the heaviest snowfall of the year.

The shoveled sidewalks spoke well for what they thought of their town and their neighbors. And somehow we cannot, but think that any town in which the citizens voluntarily do so much for one another cannot be such a bad place after all. It makes me glad we live here where hospitality speaks with mittened fingers and a snow shovel so others may walk where it's safe and dry.—H. H.

We can live to be 200 if we breathe properly, says a French doctor. And we can live forever if we breathe at all.

### MELODY AND YOU

Do I appreciate and recognize, The value of a song— I'm glad I may have such fun, And listen all day long. I know my heart would thrill At any serenade. While listening to a symphony. The present seems to fade.

When I am surrounded by tasks To be done And hear a touch of melody, Work seems like fun. Yet if I were discouraged And nothing seemed right, A song would help cheer me, And life would seem bright.

Oh! Yes, I do love music, And I will truly say A song inside is sweet And welcome any day. Familiar songs keep living on, In most of us 'tis true. But music does so much for me, Because I once knew you!

—AVOLYN YOUNG BLAKE.

Los Angeles is expected to register a bumper crop of 40,000 babies in 1948. And they keep telling us they don't have squalls in California.

### WALKING IN THE SNOW

THE MAN who arises, looks out his bedroom window at the snow and grumbles, is missing something. While he wants to hop right back into bed until the middle of May, there are others who know what a snow can be. When it is freshly fallen, dry and fluffy as the white wool on a teddy bear's ear, it's fun to make a fresh path, through the fields if there are any close by, and if not just to plod along down the street a few feet to the right or left of the sidewalk.

The air is cold and exhilarating. It bites a little as it goes up your nostrils and snaps your lungs into action like a quick-acting tonic. You are cold when you start out, you aren't long. Soon your blood is running warm into the far reaches of your last capillary. You are warm from the tips of your toes to the tip of your nose. And it's strange, you aren't tired. Your cheeks take on a rosy glow and your eyes have a glistening gleam. You are alive, every ounce of you, as you plant your feet rhythmically, ankle-deep or more, in the night's fall of snow, soft as pine needles and as white as the mothering clouds which linger overhead.

It's fun to lie in bed, but it's more fun to walk in the snow. Try it and see. —K. B.

When the freezing days are over it'll be just as foolish to put alcohol in the radiator as in the driver.

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Currently making the rounds in Australia in connection with the U. S. loan to Britain is a poem which goes:

"Uncle Sam Hubbard Emerged from the cupboard To lend a poor Bulldog a bone. But a tight-fitting collar Designed like a dollar, Was also attached to the loan."

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS . . . By Earl Richert

### Control Law May Aid Renters Who Lease

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Restoration of federal rent controls on the 1,600,000 houses and apartments which now are controlled because the tenants signed the "voluntary" 15 per cent rent increases was forecast today by Sen. C. Douglass Buck (R. Del.).

"I think Congress will end up by freezing the rents on these places at the increased 15 per cent level," said Sen. Buck. He guided the rent-control bill through the Senate last year and now is a member of the Senate Subcommittee drafting a new rent extension act.

Republican leaders have promised to renew the rent-control law for one year after expiration of the present law, Feb. 29. And their most perplexing problem has been what to do about the control-free houses.

Many Senators and Congressmen regard the renewal of rent controls on these units as breaking a contract between the government and the landlords who signed leases running to Dec. 31, 1948, under a law which said they were to be control-free after next Jan. 1.

### Unfair to Tenants Who Signed Leases

BUT THEY say it would be unfair to permit rents to go up on these places after the leases ended while those tenants who did not sign leases still would have the protection of federal rent control until March, 1949.

As it is now, a landlord can charge any rent he can get for an apartment or house vacated by a tenant who had signed a 15 per cent increase lease.

Congressmen say most tenants who signed these lease agreements do not realize that they are now out from under rent control and that they do not go back under rent control upon termination of the lease—unless the law is changed.

### Wants Freeze at Increased Level

HOUSING EXPEDITER Tighe E. Woods told the House Banking Committee he knew of several instances of "evasive practices" by landlords to get tenants out of leased apartments in order to raise rents.

He asked that the 15-per-cent-increase units be put back under rent control and frozen at the increased level. He said the alternative in order to bring about equitable rents for all, were either to roll back the 15 per cent increase or to raise other units 15 per cent.

The present dilemma occurred because Congress in passing the current law last summer thought it would be the last rent-control measure. If put in the lease provision so that the landlord could get an immediate increase in rent and the tenant could be assured of a place to live at a fixed sum for 10 months after expiration of the rent control.

Mr. Woods told the House Committee rents on uncontrolled apartments and houses were 69 per cent higher than on comparable controlled units.

"What has happened to these uncontrolled rents indicates what would be likely to happen to all rents in an uncontrolled market," he said in urging extension of federal rent control until March 31, 1950.

## There Will Be a Slight Delay



## WORLD AFFAIRS . . . By Marquis Childs

### Soviet Hand Feared in Palestine

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Behind the headlines is so much that is unspoken, so much that is whispered. Above all, that is true of the festering wound of Palestine, where mankind's hope of peace seems to die a little each day.

The fear motivating British policy is a fear that Palestine is well on the way to becoming a Communist state. It is a fear that rides Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. He believes that within 10 years Palestine will be completely communized.

Some reflection of this was seen in a recent dispatch to the New York Times containing details supplied by the British Foreign Office on Communist infiltration from Soviet satellite states into Palestine. Of the 15,000 unauthorized immigrants on two seized refugee ships, the Pan York and the Pan-Crescent, 1000 were said to be members of militant Communist organizations.

No one was willing to stand for this statement officially. In the same way, Mr. Bevin has never expressed publicly the extent of his fears over what he believes is happening in Palestine. But those fears are deep-seated. Mr. Bevin puts the blame on Washington for what he thinks is happening.

Here is the significance of the Bevin viewpoint. It has been communicated to top policy-makers here, and today it overshadows what is done, or rather not done, with respect to Palestine.

There is a terrible, explosive potentiality in this approach to the Palestine problem. Keeping the problem under cover or ignoring it will only make the explosion more disastrous when it does occur. That is why it seems to me to be long past time to try to get at the facts and bring them into the open.

### U. S. Knows What's Going On

THE Department of State and National Defense have both received reports of Communist infiltration like those which have come out of London. They are perhaps not so detailed as those in the possession of the British Foreign Office, but they appear to have convinced leading policy-makers of the serious danger of a Communist Palestine.

The argument runs more or less in this fashion. Since the refugees were assembled in Soviet satellite states, they would not have been permitted to depart without the approval of Moscow. Approval would not have come unless the exodus served Moscow's objectives both directly and indirectly. British intelligence has furnished what purports to be proof of the infiltration.

Russia's agreement to the plan for the partition of Palestine is examined in the same light. It is assumed that agreement would never have been forthcoming if the Politburo had not believed that partition would further Soviet domination in the Near East.

Behind all of this, of course, is the conviction that the oil of the Near East is essential to U. S. security and that a Communist Palestine would be a threat to that security. On lower levels this is being expressed with increasing crudeness and bluntness, in which ancient prejudice comes to the surface. Thus the fire smolders and the danger grows.

### Insists Immigrants Screened

MOSHE SHERTOK, an official of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, has issued an indignant denial of the British charges. He says the immigrants were carefully screened by Jewish Agency officials in Rumania and that their departure was bitterly criticized by Jewish Communists in Rumania.

But it seems to me important to raise this above the level of charge and denial. What is said in private should be said in public so that it can be examined honestly. That is the only way to cure the whispering and the suspicion.

In the present atmosphere, the truth is lost sight of. In Palestine the modern world faces the feudal world of the Arabs. To allow the modern state of Palestine to be destroyed would be a crime that would have incalculable consequences. It would be a direct repudiation of the United Nations, a blow from which that beginning institution could hardly survive.

There is a deadly parallel in the recent past. At the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, the western democracies followed a policy that was evasive and shifting. It was neither realism nor idealism but a pathetic effort to avoid seeing and hearing what was actually happening.

As one consequence the legal government of Spain, which had been a comparatively moderate government, came under the control of the Communists. Soviet Russia was then only country sending help to counter the planes, tanks and troops that were coming from Germany and Italy. The end was inevitable—a dictatorship of the right finally overcoming a dictatorship of the left.

Something like this can happen in Palestine. It can happen if decisions are evaded in an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust.

## Hoosier Forum

"I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Write what you think on any subject or public issue plainly and clearly. Effective letters are brief. We do not return letters and all contributions are subject to editing. Write what you will—for here the people speak.

### They're Not Railways Employees

By Evan Walker, Indianapolis Railways.  
In response to the letter of L. T. Comstock, published in The Indianapolis Times on Jan. 28, we would like to advise that Indianapolis Railways has no authority over the ticket-sellers in the Terminal Station. They are employed by the various overland bus lines that operate in and out of the Terminal, and hence their actions are not the responsibility of this company.

Also, we would like to advise in response to the suggestion that we "maintain someone to spot aged people in distress," that the Travelers Aid Society (a Community Fund agency) has an attendant on duty at the Terminal Station during the heavy hours of the day to aid all persons in transit who become confused or are in difficulty. Also, a "train caller" is on duty at all hours to give out bus information.

We certainly do not condone discourtesies on the part of any Terminal Station employees, but wanted this opportunity to point out that Indianapolis Railways can scarcely be held responsible for the actions of persons it does not employ.

### Rid of Hidden Taxes

A. J. Schneider, 504 W. Dr., Woodruff Place.  
Since Mr. Truman's recent \$40 per vote bribe offer, Mr. Taft made a radio address in which he stated that if such a tax reduction were made and the tax loss saddled on industry, there would actually be no saving to the taxpayer voter.

The reason is that industry would merely pro-rate the tax increase and add it into the cost of the commodity as "hidden taxes."

This is a fact. But it also points to the only real solution to the problem of high cost of living—squeeze the "hidden taxes" out of the cost of everything we buy.  
The Constitution reserves the right to levy, assess and collect taxes, to the various governmental subdivisions. Industry is illegally usurping the rights of government when it levies and collects the "hidden taxes."

These "hidden taxes" have assumed such proportions, with some 50 in a loaf of bread, eight in a pair of shoes, and more than 700 in an automobile, that about 20 per cent of all the money we spend, goes to hidden taxes.  
A sample resolution of Congress, to terminate this illegal practice, deny the privileges of interstate commerce to commodities whose sale price includes any part of the manufacturer's tax bill, and assessing stiff penalties, would be the best possible reduction of the high cost of living.

This would not affect the "nuisance" or "luxury" taxes, which have been levied and assessed by Congress, delegating to business only the chore to collect—and these taxes are always shown as extras in addition to the regular price.

This is a crusade worthy the best talents of the Scripps-Howard newspapers.

### Face the Road to Ruin

By Arthur S. Mellinger, City.  
Secretary of State Marshall made a statement in a newsreel the other day that is alarming if it is carried out. He said we must make the United States so strong that no one dare attack us. It might sound good to make such a boast but it will do little to establish a world peace.

The pages of history are filled with nation after nation that rose to power and declined. One and all fell for such a philosophy. If force is the only restraining power in the world then we are already on the way to ruin. The trouble with force is that it has to be kept up at all costs. Military trainings and personnel are dead weight upon the state. They produce nothing. They eat away the vitals of the body politic. The young are taught that war is a way of life; that there is only one way to get along and that is have more power than anyone else. The way a nation arrives at the top is by taking away the rights of the individual. This is accomplished by taxation. By and by the taxes become so burdensome the people rebel, then the purpose defeats itself.

Governments must maintain order. They must let the individual have a reasonable security for his person and goods. I can't believe prosperity is nurtured upon the blood of our fellowman.

## Side Glances—By Galbraith



"When your uncle came he said he was going to spend Christmas with us—I wonder if he's got it mixed up with Valentine's Day or Easter!"

## SO THEY SAY . . . In the News

Every time a member of the Cabinet refuses to give information to Congress, we have to pass a special law to get it.—Sen. Robert A. Taft (R. O.).

In recent years, too much power has been concentrated in the leadership of our labor unions and that power has been abused.—Harold E. Stassen, Republican presidential candidate.

American automobiles, American furniture, American literature and American clothes are corrupting the French people.—Raymond Bousset, Paris Communist leader.

Capital should not be taxed too heavily; otherwise, investors will lose incentive and the strength of our economic system will be weakened.—Harold E. Stassen, Republican presidential candidate.

Our choice is to live high for a few years, while letting Russia seize the world and use it against us, or to live hard and be subject to no master but God.—William C. Bullitt, former Ambassador to Russia.

## IN WASHINGTON . . . By Peter Edson

### Word Trade Keeps Up With Government

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—Twelve hundred reporters, radio announcers, photographers and news magazine correspondents are now accredited to the congressional press galleries in Washington. Before the war the number was about 500.

The number of accredited correspondents by no means tells the whole story. In addition to the regular news men and women for mass circulation media, there is an unrecorded number of unaccredited correspondents for special and technical reports, news-letters, inside dope sheets, forecasting and interpretive services of restricted circulation. Their subscribers may be members of one industry or trade association.

There is no information on how many of these special news services are in existence. A lot of new ones are born—and die—every year. "A Handbook of Commercial, Financial and Information Services," compiled by Columbia University Library in 1944, listed 577 current, 311 discontinued.

### Government Agencies Turn Out Many Words

THE GOVERNMENT itself is no slouch as a publisher. A Government Printing Office catalogue lists nearly 100 "periodicals" published by government agencies.

All this specialized news reporting business, that has grown up in Washington, has been made necessary by the increasing complexity of government operations.

According to a tabulation by Sen. George Aiken's Committee on Executive Expenditures, the federal government now consists of 632 divisions, 447 offices, 139 branches, 118 sections, 79 bureaus, 55 boards, 54 departments, 22 commissions, 29 corporations, 23 administrations—and 503 other miscellaneous units.

What each of them does is important to somebody. Decisions of the Supreme Court, opinions of the attorney general, regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Interstate Commerce Commission, National Labor Relations Board and all the other independent agencies are, of course, reported first as spot news by the regular newspaper wire services and special correspondents. Not all this gets in the papers. There isn't room.

That's what makes business good for all these unaccredited news services. Their journalistic white wings come along and mop up in more detail.

### 'Washington News-Letter' Very Popular

FAVORITE VEHICLE and commonest form of this type of specialized reporting is now the Washington news-letter. In 1915 a couple of Philadelphia newsmen, Harry Eaton and P. H. Whaley, started the Whaley-Eaton Service from Washington. In 1923, W. M. Kiplinger got into the business with his Washington letter, which perfected his style.

The whole business lives and feeds on this great sprawling monster which the federal government has become.