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HOW TO LESSEN THE
TAX BURDEN

At various times, proposals have been made for placing reasonable limits on the amount of taxes that can be levied on the American people by the Federal Government. The best of these was introduced last September by Congressman Chauncey W. Reed of Illinois, ranking minority member of the House Judiciary Committee. It takes the form of a "Joint Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States Relative to Taxes on Incomes, Inheritances, Gifts." To become law, it must be approved by a two-thirds vote of both Houses, and then ratified by three-fourths of the states.

The heart of Mr. Reed's proposal is to fix the maximum total rate of all taxes, duties and excises on income at 25 per cent. There are but two exceptions, both of which are obviously necessary in these discordant times. First, by a three-fourths majority, Congress may raise the maximum rate to 40 per cent for periods, either successive or otherwise, not exceeding one year each. Second, in the event of a war which creates a national emergency so grave as to necessitate such action to avoid a national disaster, Congress could entirely suspend the limitation on taxation, also by a three-fourths vote. All of this would apply to businesses as well as individuals.

Mr. Reed's amendment would also deprive Congress of the power to impose death and gift taxes, leaving this means of taxation exclusively to the states where competition would tend to keep the rates within reasonable bounds.

The only way to cut the cost of government is to take some of the money away from the bureaucrats and department heads and all the rest of the power-hungry politicians. And that can be effectively done only when the basic law of the land makes taxation beyond a certain level impossible. Mr. Reed's carefully conceived proposal would achieve this, and at the same time take care of a real emergency. It is difficult to see how anyone who honestly favors efficient, economical government could logically oppose it.

Excessive taxation can destroy a nation from within. We are at the danger point now. The Reed Amendment is an excellent solution to our gravest domestic problem.

James Kirkwood flew his plane to Washington, D. C., this week on business.

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THE CRANE

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THEY ARE "INDEPENDENT!"

Last week's editorial in The Journal on Kosciusko county "politics" drew considerable attention, here and all over the county. There may be some Republicans in the county who do not agree, but if so we have not heard of them.

The only adverse comment we had was from several Democrats who said (concerning the Times-Union): "You can have 'em—we don't want 'em."

THE STATE OF RETAILING

Recent factual reports on the state of retail business contain some interesting bits of information. One is that retail volume has been good — but still not so great as many had anticipated. Another is that many items are selling below the legal ceilings—for the simple reason that competition has driven them down. A third is that retail profits, especially in the general merchandise field, have tended to decline on a percentage basis, and are at an extremely low level.

What this adds up to is that we still have a free economy in this nation, where competition benefits the consumer and the law of supply and demand dominates the conduct of business. And, of great importance, the price control laws and related measures are nowhere near as big a factor in holding down prices as many people think.

Most merchants would be tickled to death if they could get the full OPS price for everything they sell. But even if every OPS order and policy and ceiling price were promulgated by people with the wisdom of a roomful of Sodomites, that couldn't prevent other producers and distributors from selling at a price she was willing to pay.

It may be that a good case for controls can be made on paper. But, in practice, it is always found that "tough" controls discourage production and eventually result in scarcity. We can all remember what happened under the old OPA, when goods vanished from store shelves and when the black market flourished on an all-the-traffic-would-bear basis. A free economy is the only kind which can properly serve the consumer.

PTA NEWS

Did you know that it takes from two hundred to eight hundred years to build an inch of top soil? "When the soil is gone, man must go; and the process does not take long," said Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. To prevent this inch of topsoil from washing or blowing away, definite steps have been taken by the Department of Agriculture and our State Conservation Department. Mr. Johnston Craig, District Conservationist, will speak at the next PTA meeting, the third Tuesday night of the month, February 19th. His topic will be "Can Soil Conservation Change a Community?" Mr. Craig is an excellent speaker and is ready to answer all your questions about soil conservation. Watch this column for more PTA news next week.

CAPITOL
REPORT

(By Charles A. Halleck, Congressman, 2nd District.)

The need for a housecleaning in government bureaus and departments is obvious. Wrongdoing by trusted public servants in high administrative offices has undermined confidence in the moral climate of government.

Unquestionably the President's proposal to reorganize the Bureau of Internal Revenue is a step in the right direction, but the most careful legislation the Congress might approve will not achieve its purpose unless there is a basic honesty in its administration.

Moreover, the White House is a bit late in making this proposal—about three and a half years, as a matter of fact.

Much has been said and written about the Hoover Commission's recommendations for reorganizing the tax collecting agency. That was two years ago.

Actually the Republican 80th Congress took the lead in suggesting constructive changes in the Bureau back in 1948.

In House Report 1532, published March 9, 1948, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury and Post Office recommended the following recommendation was made:

"The most serious defect in the organization and operations of the Bureau (of Internal Revenue) is the fact that the men who are charged with the actual collection of the revenue, the Collectors, are political appointees . . . Whether Collectors of Internal Revenue actively attend to the affairs of their offices or merely bask in their patronage appears to be largely a matter of their own volition.

"The committee recommends the enactment of legislation whereby the appointment of collectors of internal revenue would be removed from the patronage system and placed under civil service laws and regulations . . . even though the administration of the civil service system is badly in need of widespread improvements."

It was this same sub-committee which first called attention to the unsavory situation in the office of the Boston collector — a situation which has since resulted in the dismissal of Dennis W. DeLaney and his subsequent conviction in a court of law for fraudulent conduct in office.

It was in 1947 that the subcommittee turned over to the Department of Justice and other Federal agencies an investigator's report that "a condition which may embrace criminality" exists in the Boston office of the Internal Revenue Bureau.

What has happened since those earlier years is now well known to everyone who reads a newspaper. A succession of "resignations," suspensions and dismissals involving revenue collectors in some of our largest cities. And the unfortunate aftermath of these disclosures is that the evidence of scandals has cast a pall of suspicion on an entire department, a department, above all others, in which public trust is so important.

The nation could have been spared this tragic spectacle of misplaced confidence. Had the President chosen to heed the recommendations of a congressional sub-committee back in 1947 and 1948, it is plausible to believe that those unworthy of high and responsible office could have been weeded out.

Perhaps, now, with overwhelming evidence of corruption, the feet-dragging and obstructionist tactics are at an end.

A "drastic" housecleaning has been promised. Let us hope it is the kind that would do credit to a good Hoosier housewife and not just an election year attempt to hide dirt under the rug.

Ed Stehenson was in Boston, Mass., this week on business.

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COME IN FOR COMPLETE PLANS AND FREE COST ESTIMATES

JOIN POLIO — FIGHT —

LEAP YEAR WINDOW SHOPPING

FROM THE
SYRACUSE TOWN BOARD

JULY 17, 1906.

Ordinance No. 208.

Be it ordained, by the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Town of Syracuse, Indiana, that it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, to spit or expectorate, on any sidewalk, or sidewalks, or any street crossing, within the corporate limits of said Town, and such act, or acts, is hereby declared to be and constitute a public nuisance.

Anyone found guilty of violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not less than One Dollar, nor more than Ten Dollars.

This ordinance shall be in force from and after its passage and due publication in the Syracuse Register. Passed by the Board this 17th day of July, 1906.

John U. Wingard, President.
Attest: Geo. W. Bundy,
Town Clerk.

MARCH 1, 1910.

The matter of repealing the ordinance regulating the keeping of hogs within the corporate limits heretofore presented by petitions filed, was taken up and discussed, and upon motion by L. A. Neff, seconded by Sheldon Harkless, it was decided to amend the present ordinance as follows:

To prohibit the keeping of hogs within the corporate limits with 200 feet of any building and limiting any one persons to three hogs.

The vote for said amendment being as follows:

L. A. Neff, Yeas.
Sheldon Harkless, Yea.
O. L. Cory, No.

The Clerk was instructed to draft proper notice and present at next meeting.

Pagan Practices Were Origins
Of St. Valentine Observances

VALENTINES by the millions flood Uncle Sam's post-offices during one season, the Chicago postoffice alone accepted 1,250,000, and 750,000 were handled by the Philadelphia office.

Who started all this Valentine sending which has been going on for hundreds of years, and who was St. Valentine, anyway?

It's generally agreed that our Valentine's Day is traceable to an ancient Roman festival called the "Lupercalia," celebrated on February 15. At the time the young people drew lots for partners for the coming year.

With the introduction of Christianity, an attempt was made to abolish all pagan rites, and celebration of Lupercalia was banned. But the rituals had been too closely inter-

woven in the lives of the people, and kept showing up during the years.

Since early histories mention three St. Valentines associated with February 14, it cannot be proved which of the three is the patron saint of sweethearts. One St. Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who was beheaded about A.D. 269. The second was a Roman bishop believed to have been beheaded in Rome about A.D. 273. About the third, who was a martyr in Africa, very little is known.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, it was believed that birds began to mate on February 14. This may make the beginning of the celebration of St. Valentine's Day as a day dedicated to lovers.

Miss Christine Garriotte, who is a member of a ladies traveling orchestra, spent a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Parsons.

Mrs. E. E. Holloway was called to Casey, Ill., on Tuesday by the death of her sister, Mrs. John Rodibaugh.

W. E. Master, age 85, died Jan. 31 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Della Coy.

Miss Phyllis Druckmiller and Albert Trout were united in marriage Jan. 29, 1927.

Robert Riddle is the new clerk in the post office. He is filling the vacancy made by Mrs. Snepp, who resigned.

Miss Mamie Stevens of Warsaw, was a guest of the Misses Nellie and Alice Mann during the basketball tournament.

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