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What Is the Activities Tax?

CAMPUS student activity may often look to the student body in general as one ticket selling or subscription campaign after another. Beginning with registration in the fall students are hounded to buy this or subscribe to that. Organizations expend half their energy distributing tickets or checking them in. The rest of their energy is likely to be consumed in worrying about the amount of support which their various projects are going to command.

All of these campaigns and all this uncertainty as to the support which the various activities will receive is unnecessary. A plan in use in numerous other schools throughout the country eliminates these handicaps and promotes a number of other advantages as well. This plan is the so called student activity tax.

The Nebraskan will from time to time during the semester publish information and editorial opinion about the student activity tax. The student council is studying the various methods of administering the tax at other schools in the country. If a satisfactory plan can be formulated for Nebraska, the council will submit the idea to a student vote. The Nebraskan is interested in seeing the plan adopted at Nebraska and desires to cooperate with the student council in informing the student body as to what the student activity tax is.

THE activity tax works on the principle that quantity production promotes decreasing costs. In other words the activity tax plan provides that every student can participate in a number of student projects and as a result will have to pay considerably less than if relatively few students participate in relatively few activities.

To be specific, one may cite the case of athletic season tickets. If these tickets were sold to every student it would be possible for the athletic department to receive the same or greater total revenue by selling the tickets at half what they now cost. Similar and even greater reduction in price could be made for such things as the Cornhusker, Daily Nebraskan, Awgwan and University Players.

By combining a number of these items, one lump sum can be charged students who receive the benefits of all activities, the proceeds being distributed to the various participating projects. Just what items should be included under the activity tax plan is a matter of policy to be determined by the student council and the student body.

As indicated, however, the successful working of the plan means that every student shall pay the tax in return for which he receives the benefits of all the activities in-

cluded. Various arrangements could be made with regard to the payment of the fee. In most schools it is paid each semester as part of the registration fee. In return, a ticket is issued to each student which entitles him to participate in or receive the benefit of such activities as are included in the plan.

WHILE the idea of a compulsory tax may at first thought seem repugnant, it should be noted that exemptions from the payment of the tax are possible. Furthermore the plan should not be considered from the angle of compulsion so much as from the viewpoint of economy. If it be true that student activities are worthwhile, then their benefits should not be restricted to relatively few because of prohibitive cost. And if it be true, as it most certainly is, that every student naturally and willingly spends as much as he can for certain student activities, why should he not be able to secure more for perhaps nearly the same amount of money by co-operating with all other students.

In essence the student activity tax is what has been described. There are numerous details which must be worked out to fit such a plan to Nebraska university. There are many advantages to the plan which have not been enumerated. There are some disadvantages if the plan is viewed from the extremely individualistic point of view.

The Nebraskan is convinced that the advantages plainly outweigh the disadvantages. By the time the spring election on this campus is held, it hopes that every student will understand what the student activity tax is and will be willing to endorse it.

A Possible Solution for Greeks.

HINTS of drastic changes in operation of Greek houses come from Iowa State where Zeta Tau Alpha is successfully carrying on under the "co-operative plan." Under this system, members of an organization do most of their own work to cut expenses.

Commenting on the reported success of the venture, in an editorial headed "The Co-operative Plan—A Way Out for Greeks," the Iowa State Student says, in part:

"Zeta Tau Alpha reports a 'better unified feeling' among its members since the adoption of the co-operative plan. There is nothing mystic about that. When a group of young individuals is working together, all with the same goal in mind—in this case reduction of expenses—there is bound to exist a stronger bond of fellowship than there exists otherwise.

"The co-operative plan has proved its worth among Iowa State's dormitories. There is no reason to believe it won't work in Greek societies. At least it will serve as a temporary measure to bridge the chasm of present economic difficulties."

That such a scheme of cutting house expenses by eliminating luxuries of maid service is practical would seem to be established by the success of the plan at Iowa State. Its advantages in lowering the budget are self-evident, and there is more than a little truth in the statement that such unified effort breeds a very desirable morale in any group.

Dignity and pride of certain aristocratic members, of whom there is a sprinkling in any group, would naturally stand in the way of the plan's adoption in many cases, but sacrifice of a little pseudo dignity is a small price to pay for lower operating expenses of a fraternity in this precarious year 1933.

Nebraska Greeks would do well to consider the feasibility of trying the co-operative system of management. "At least," as the Iowa State Student points out, "it will serve as a temporary measure to bridge the chasm of present economic difficulties."

The Menace Of Words.

WHAT image does the word "technocracy" evoke in your mind? Or do you have unpleasant sensations when someone mentions the word "communist" or "red"?

Professor Einstein, recently arrived in this country, criticizes our tendency to become excited over words and phrases while we pay little attention to ideas. Words and catch phrases are the effective weapons of alarmists and demagogues who understand the habit which unthinking individuals have of endorsing or damning words.

The furor created by the advancement of the plan called technocracy is but an illustration of the tendency to become excited over words. Without having an intelligent understanding of what the word denoted, nearly everyone was willing to welcome or criticize technocracy on the basis of some emotional concept which the word induced.

One indication, perhaps, of an educated person is his habit of refusing to be bamboozled by words, and of refusing to form an opinion of anything until he understands what the terminology involved means. The ignorant, however, will continue to be guided in their decisions by momentary reactions to catch phrases and words.

Contemporary Comment

A Political Career For College Graduates?

LOUIS McHenry Howe, political adviser to Franklin Roosevelt, has just stated that a man ought to have an outside income or a lack of scruples if he expects to make a living from politics. Mr. Howe, credited with some of the smartest moves of Roosevelt's campaign, ought to know. The beginner in politics must have an independent income from law practice, business, inherited wealth or some other source.

What becomes of the time honored plea for students to enter politics as a profession? For most students it is an invitation to do the impossible or the unethical. There are very few students who, upon graduation, have the resources to take up an occupation which will not furnish them a living. The only way they can get around this financial barrier is by extracting dishonest gold from politics. To their credit, few college students have taken this road to political prominence.

Most men receive election to a position carrying a comfortable salary only after long years of routine work in the party organization. During those years they have relied on their earnings from some other profession, and in a few cases their wealth. It is quite possible that we may see an increase of student interest in politics on the part of the college graduate, but, until there is a change in the situation described by Mr. Howe, few students will be able to take up a political career immediately following graduation. —Minnesota Daily.

The story in the Nebraskan the other day about the interfraternity ball got mixed typographically with a story about "Porgy," the current production of the University Players. A description of Porgy as a dope and liquor peddler was inserted after the name of one of the members of the interfraternity ball committee. Perhaps the financial straits of the Nebraskan will save it from a libel suit.

10c Club Breakfasts at the Temple Cafeteria
Choice of 5 Menus
Also Special Noon Luncheon

Young 'Captain' Sperry Contests University Drum Major, Plamondon

(From Sunday Journal and Star.)

Jack Plamondon of Lincoln, drum major of the University of Nebraska's 135 piece band, had best look to his laurels for the oncoming generation is already threatening his position with formidable competition.

Five year old Phillip Sperry, son of Capt. and Mrs. G. W. Sperry, 2020 Pepper ave., is Plamondon's chief competitor, and yet young Phil holds absolutely no animosity for the elder baton-wielder. As a matter of fact, Plamondon is Phil's ideal.

Percy Crosby, internationally famous cartoonist, must have had such a lad as Phil Sperry in mind when he created "Skipper." As Skipper is "the squarest little shooter on Vesley street," so Phil might be termed the same type of a regular fellow on Pepper avenue.

Daily Parades Staged.

Neighbors will testify that they are well entertained almost every day by the "big parade" staged by Phil and his gang. A squad of eight or ten youngsters bearing broom sticks, kettle lids, and other articles that, by a stretch of the imagination might be musical instruments, may be seen regularly after school marching down the avenue with "Drum Major" Sperry heading the column, strutting with all the dignity and pride of a high-school horse, tasseled baton in the air, and barking "right and left face" in a tone of voice nearly as big as he is.

And age is not considered in the Sperry platoon. Phil recruits his followers from kindergarten tots to junior high school lads. There is no age limit in this army. But the amazing fact is that the youngsters, large and small, concede the authority to Phil, who is the smallest boy in the neighborhood.

The embryo drum major was regular attendant of football

games last fall. But the game itself was a secondary attraction. His presence in the stadium was largely brought about by appearances of the university band, and particularly by its field director and commanding officer, Plamondon. Phil's eyes were constantly on him and only once was he disappointed in his ideal, Phil reluctantly admitted after the Thanksgiving game that Jack had dropped his stick, but he promptly excused this accident because either the sun was in his eyes or his hands must have been cold.

Has Regular Uniform.

The uniform of which Master Sperry is so proud, was ordered specially from Santa Claus, and it consists of fur-covered shako, military cape lined with red satin, and miniature baton. A broad belt with a saber hook and saber have been added.

Children of Phil's age in school were mobilized into an "outfit" the first week of school following the holidays, and Phil wore his uniform to school every day.

He takes time from his military duties each day, however, to follow his avocation—that of managing his "estate." The estate consists of several yards of track on which travel electric passenger and freight trains through fertile fields, mountainous regions, cities, villages and army posts. This, too, is direct from Santa Claus, who with the aid of Captain Sperry, assembled it on an elevated platform in the basement of the Sperry home.

So between looking after his military interest, conducting his estate, and attending the first grade (in which he was enrolled just last week) Phil is a very busy "man." But most mothers will agree with Mrs. Sperry that the busier these youngsters are, the less time they have for "other things."

Miss Clark to Publish Book Dealing With Labor Conditions in Mexico

Miss Margery R. Clark of the home economics department will publish a book soon dealing with labor conditions in Mexico. She was sent to Mexico last year by the social science research council of New York to gather material for that purpose, and made an intensive study of labor conditions in Mexico.

At this time, the power of labor organizations in Mexico is at a very low ebb. In the past however, under President Calles, labor organizations were very strong. They had the ear of the president. But their demands were too great, and President Calles decided they were becoming too powerful and so their authority was lessened.

"It was a political mixup," declared Miss Clark, "and many considerations entered in. It ended with labor out of power."

"Labor was one of the controlling element in the Obregon and Calles governments between 1920 and 1928. But since 1928 the labor organizations have had very little official recognition. So far all attempts to regain power have been ineffectual, and in my opinion they will continue to be."

Under the last president of Mexico, Pascual Ortiz Rubio, president from 1929 to September 1932, when he resigned, the labor chamber was organized with Alfredo Perea Medina as secretary of labor.

Chamber Organized Lossely.

"It is too soon to know whether the labor chamber will do any good," declares Miss Clark. "I think it will have power in time, but labor will never be as powerful as it was before. The chamber is an extremely loose central organization of all labor, and that is perhaps its chief fault, loose organization."

The former labor organizations

have not done a great deal for the people in general. For some groups wages have been raised and conditions improved, but not as a whole.

"The living standards in Mexico are still very low as compared to the United States," says Miss Clark, "and of course there is a great deal of unemployment."

Succeeding Dr. Howard Monroe Raymond, Dr. Willard E. Hotchkiss of New York university will become president of the Armour Institute of Technology on Feb. 1.

ALAS! POOR YORICK

He too, was
disillusioned . . .
but fair ones,
not you
NAY, NAY, NAY
(and a couple more
nays).

Were's going strictly
CO-ED

In
DRESSES . . .
SPORTSWEAR . . .
COATS, MILLINERY
and
EVERYTHING

Howard's

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