

THE FRONTIER

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Taxes Can Kill!

(Guest Editorial from The Wayne Herald)

The gravest and most far-reaching internal issue this country faces is the cost of its government. And of all issues, it is probably the least understood.

At a time when the Federal government's income is at a near-record peak, and when the burden of taxation borne by the people is without precedent in days of peace, the nation is unable to make both ends meet. It is running a heavy deficit which will be added to the towering national debt—a debt which is a direct obligation upon every man with an income, a piece of property, or material resources of any kind.

There is, of course, a glib answer to all of this. It is: "Tax the rich man and the rich business—let them carry the load for the rest of us." But the fact is that we could tax the rich into financial extinction and the proceeds wouldn't even come close to paying the bill. It is the tens of millions with moderate means—not the few with large means—who are hurt by extravagant government.

But that is not the end of the story. Something infinitely ominous is quietly happening in this country. Taxes are killing our economic growth.

A recent article in Newsweek describes this. Sales of common stock in industry largely determine whether we shall have good times or bad, an expanding economy or a static economy, more employment or less in the future. Yet, Newsweek says, last year trading in stocks accounted for only four per cent of the national income where, in the 55 years prior to 1930, it averaged more than 40 per cent. This means, the magazine goes on, that "if most of our corporations were not already in existence, it would be impossible today to create them." The money that once went into the enterprises upon which our living standards and our world leadership are built is being taxed out of existence.

This is but one illustration out of many that could be cited. Every individual whose income is above the subsistence level knows how onerous taxes are. Practically everyone talks at one time or another about the cost of government and how something must be done. But talk is generally the beginning and the end of it.

This brings us to a fundamental fact. Wasteful, excessively costly government is simply a symptom of a condition of overwhelming significance. That condition cannot be described in cold figures. It exists in the minds and hearts of the people.

In the last 20 years, there has been an insidious change in our concept of government. We have turned to it to perform tasks which always before were the duty of the individual and the local community. More and more of us look to government to protect us in every way. We are losing our independence. We ask government to protect our health, build our homes, care for us if we are unemployed, and see us through all the way from the cradle to the grave. We ask it to provide more and more goods and services. The polite term for this "gimme" habit is "the welfare state," a softer name for socialism.

The welfare state always leads to one of two conclusions. It impoverishes and enslaves the people and subjects them to ruthless dictatorship, as in Eastern Europe. Or, finally, the people rid themselves of its worst manifestations, as the voters of New Zealand and Australia recently did. But, even in the latter case, the wealth of nations has been dissipated, and the tentacles of government have been woven so tight that it may take generations to recover.

Therefore, taxation directly affects all our liberties. Excessively expensive government is always super-government. It is paternalistic government. It is, in its more advanced stages, government by fiat and decree. It is, in its final stages, government by terror. The Russian revolution was fought in the name of the common man. And now, in that huge "people's state," tens of millions of common men and women live miserably in medieval darkness, and real liberty is unknown.

The basic troubles of the world, from war to human want, can in one way or another be charged to too much government. All-powerful government is simply a reflection of the loss of individual self-reliance, initiative, pride, independence of spirit, the will to work—the qualities which made possible the founding and the growth of this republic. We, as a people, are fortunate that we have not yet gone so far on the "welfare state" road that we cannot turn back. We can still save ourselves from the final disaster that has overcome so much of the world. But we, as a people, must do it ourselves. Big government will not do it for us. We must ask ourselves this question: "Are we willing, in return for a mirage of material security, for which we pay through exorbitant taxation, to sacrifice those liberties for which men have fought and struggled for two thousand years?"

Fairieland Talk —

Philip Sullivan Always Spoke Well Of Fellow Pilgrims or Kept Still

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — Fifty years ago, in the snow for once you envy the dog. . . . A newcomer is on the job at the state house. Ben Sallows, an able newspaper man from Alliance, has been added to the force in the highway department to pep up road construction in the state. Emoluments going with the job sums up to \$6,000 per annum. Most any out-state editor would have said "yes" if given the nod. Mr. Sallows failed in his crusade to change the name of that big chunk of Nebraska known as the sandhills to cowhills. Perhaps he will have more success in converting mudholes into gold-paved highways. . . .

The snorting, wheezing, puffing coal-fired locomotive is on the way out. Over 9,000 diesels are now in use and a thousand more on order and no steamers being added to rail-road equipment. The long, welcome blast of an incoming train you have been waiting for has been superseded by the grunt of a diesel resembling the hoot of a Mississippi river steam boat of Mark Twain's day. . . .

Nebraska's 1949 take of liquor tax totaled something over \$2,700,000. Two of the 48 states are dry, Oklahoma and Mississippi, and seem to be making out without such revenue. . . .

Kansas state fair managers are planning a landing spot for the incoming planes of cloud-hoppers who are riding the clouds now when going to town. . . .

Congress is at it once more and any minute the "state of the Union" will be announced from the White House. It is hoped that the learned statesmen have come together to promote the interests of the nation rather than to advance personal or group partisan interests. Probably Nebraskans will agree with Senator Butler that this session of the congress should mark a drastic reduction in the handouts to declining nations beyond the seas. . . .

Atkinson starts the senatorial

A lone holdup gent thought to make a haul at a bank in a small Nebraska town. His take amounted to \$12.50 and nobody killed. . . .

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Heavenly Father, may our ears be in tune to hear the stately stepping of angels. Brush from our vision the mists of uncertainty. For our stained garments of ecclesiastical pride and self-sufficiency enfold us in the white robes of the saints. For our fear and shame give us the holy boldness to speak out against wrong. For our lukewarmness rekindle the spiritual fires. For our indifference inspire us with heavenly zeal. For our love of ease help us to recapture some of the venturesome spirit of the pioneers. Take from our frightened hands the deadly bomb and give the healing balm. And this year open our senses to new visions of what can be done to heal the heartache of a distracted world. . . .

Montana Jack Sullivan sent me a copy of the Montana Standard published at Butte consisting of the account of the death of his brother Philip. One sentence impressed me in the story of Philip's life: . . .

"He was deeply religious, had exemplary habits, was generous to a fault, was charitable, honest, frank and always tolerant of others' faults; if he could not speak well of a person he kept still." . . .

I wonder if that isn't life's great philosophy — speak well of a fellow pilgrim or keep still. . . .

Out of memory's treasure store I see Philip in the long ago as he sat with his class graduation night in the upper room of the old courthouse in O'Neill and received his diploma as a graduate with three others of the high school, John Bland the guiding star. . . .

There was Etta McAllister, Etta Sanders (who was mystifier), and Oscar Wilcox in that class with Philip. Two of these that I know of have now gone to the happy hunting ground. . . .

In early life Philip went to Montana where he made friends, wrought out life's worthy career and at the time of his death was cashier in the general office of the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. . . .

When the virus of a lurking foe of your good health habits hits you broadside with a near knock out and the baleful monster leans at you with malignant grin, if you look out the window and see a dog romping

primary with a candidate, a gentleman who made good showing at the polls but was defeated by Sen. Frank Nelson. This department has not heard from Mr. Nelson as to whether he cares to sit through another legislative session. No one can do their best in one session as there is the newness about it, but when taking over at later sessions the repeater comes in as a veteran to do things for his district. . . .

Does '1950 end the first half or begin the second half of the 20th century? Suit yourself about it. . . .

Probably not many displaced persons have come to Nebraska and few if any have taken the place of our home folks in industry. We are a sympathetic helpful class of people, and if some of our citizens have been able to help to restore to normal life any of those from abroad who have known only despair in their native land they have done a commendable thing. . . .

Kentuckian Spends Yule with Children

AMELIA—Frank Taylor, of Mt. Olivet, Ky., arrived before the holidays to visit his children, Robert, Judy and John, who are making their home with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rees. . . .

Other Amelia News

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rees entertained several friends at a card party New Year's eve. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Kizer, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hansen, Darold Knoll, all of Ord; Gayle Messenger, of Burwell; and Mr. and Mrs. Dunk Peterson. . . .

Mrs. Alec Cleary and family, Mrs. Joe Milner and sons, Bob and Marion, of Atkinson, visited Mrs. John Smith Friday, December 30. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Ed White entertained the White relatives at dinner Friday. Those present were: Mrs. Julia White, Harry White, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn White, Glenice, Myrtle and Venita, Merlin and Myra Adamson. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Smith and family, of Osborne, Ia., recently visited at the home of his uncle, John Smith. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Fancher, Virgil and Eunice, of Ainsworth; Mr. and Mrs. Bower Sageser and Sandra, of Manhattan, Kans.; Floyd Sageser, of Kear-

ney; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Widman and Marcia and Mr. and Mrs. Vern Sageser were guests at the M. L. Sageser home on Christmas day. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Bus Gilman, Dean and Sandra, visited at Hay Springs recently with Mrs. Gilman's sister, Evelyn, and family. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Blake Ott entertained the following relatives at New Year's dinner: Mrs. Mamie Sammons, Mr. and Mrs. Asa Watson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Sammons, Bill and Margie Ann. . . .

Miss RaeDee Wickham spent the holidays in Valentine with her mother. After arriving there, she became a victim of chicken-pox. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Greer and family, of Rawlins, Wyo., visited over New Year's at the C. F. Small home. Mrs. Greer is Mr. Small's sister. . . .

Mrs. P. L. Strenger and sons, Keith and Marlan; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schade were New Year's guests of Mrs. Lindsey and Florence. . . .

Dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed White on Tuesday, January 3, were Harry Coolidge, of Greeley, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Coolidge and Calvin; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Coolidge and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ragland and family. . . .

Harry Coolidge returned to Greeley, Colo., Friday, December 30, after spending the holidays with relatives. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, Jack and Carolyn, drove to Butte New Year's day to visit her sister, Mrs. Charles Lewis, and family. . . .

Floyd Sageser, reporter on the Kearney Hub, a daily newspaper, returned to his duties Monday after spending his vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Sageser. . . .

New Year's day guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tams were Mr. and Mrs. Leo Marcellus and family, of O'Neill, and Kenneth Robertson, of Springview. . . .

Clayton Burge recently purchased the E. O. Skudler ranch near Swan Lake. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Barnett drove to Brunswick Friday, December 30, to visit Mr. Barnett's sisters. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Doolittle, Jimmie and Dennie, spent New Year's eve at Vernon Spark's. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Brown stopped a short time Monday to visit Charles Sigman, Mrs. Brown's father. They were on

their way to their home in Grand Island from spending New Year's in O'Neill. . . .

Jack, Zoeylen and Connie Gilman entertained several friends at a party Friday evening, December 30. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Forbes entertained several friends at a card party Friday evening, December 30. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fullerton and Beth visited at the Herman Medlin home in Burwell Friday, December 30. . . .

O'NEILL NEWS

Rev. and Mrs. V. R. Bell spent Monday, January 2, with Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Bell and family at Redbird. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. George Zlomke and Janet, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rodl and two children, Edward Tausen and Mrs. Adnelle Hoover drove from St. Paul Sunday afternoon, January 1, to visit with Rev. and Mrs. V. R. Bell. . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Cone arrived in Alhambra, Calif., Saturday, December 31, at 4:30 p. m. They left O'Neill Thursday, December 29, at 9 p. m. Their address is 415 W. San Marino ave., Alhambra, Calif. . . .

The Misses Barbara Birmingham, Nancy Froelich and Helen Kubitschek left Saturday to resume their studies at Barat college, Lake Forest, Ill. . . .

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