

Bonus Would Stop Tax Cut; Says Coolidge

Declares, in Budget Message, Cost Would Far Outweigh Benefits to Country and Veterans.

Washington, Dec. 10.—President Coolidge specifically recommended to congress today a reduction of more than \$300,000,000 in the national tax bill and at the same time presented views in opposition to a soldiers' bonus.

The executive, in a message transmitting the annual budget, said frankly that "any program of new expenditure on a large scale would make tax reduction impossible for years to come." He added that tax reduction "would certainly tend to align the whole people in support of economical administration of government," which he declared is becoming "every day more and more necessary."

"I recommend a revision of tax laws," Mr. Coolidge said, "along lines which will effect a reduction of income taxes by taxing earned income more lightly than income from business or from investments by reducing the percentages of the normal tax, and by reducing the surtax rates, with commencement of their application at \$10,000 instead of \$6,000. I also recommend repeal of the tax on telegrams, telephones and leased wires, and of the tax on admissions, and revision of the miscellaneous taxes which are a source of inconvenience to taxpayers, and difficult to collect. On the other hand, amendments which would cause some increase of revenue should also be made to existing income tax laws relative to deductions of capital losses; deduction from gross income for interest paid and nonbusiness losses sustained, wherein income from tax exempt securities is involved; and the matter of taxing community incomes. These changes would reduce taxes by more than \$300,000,000, which is safely within the probable surplus.

Committed to Economy.

"I know of nothing which will give the people of this nation greater assurance that we are unalterably committed to a campaign of economy in public expenditure than a reduction of our present taxation. I will take from the realm of debate plans which contemplate extravagant expenditures, or expansions of the business of government beyond those necessary to keep pace with a growing nation and fixes the measure of our requirements an amount which will represent what is actually necessary to carry on efficiently the proper business and functions of government and meet our fixed debt charges payable out of current revenue. It would certainly tend to align the whole people in support of economical administration of government, and I frankly state that such an alignment is becoming every day more and more necessary, because of the influence which it will have upon the states and the other lesser subdivisions of our body politic."

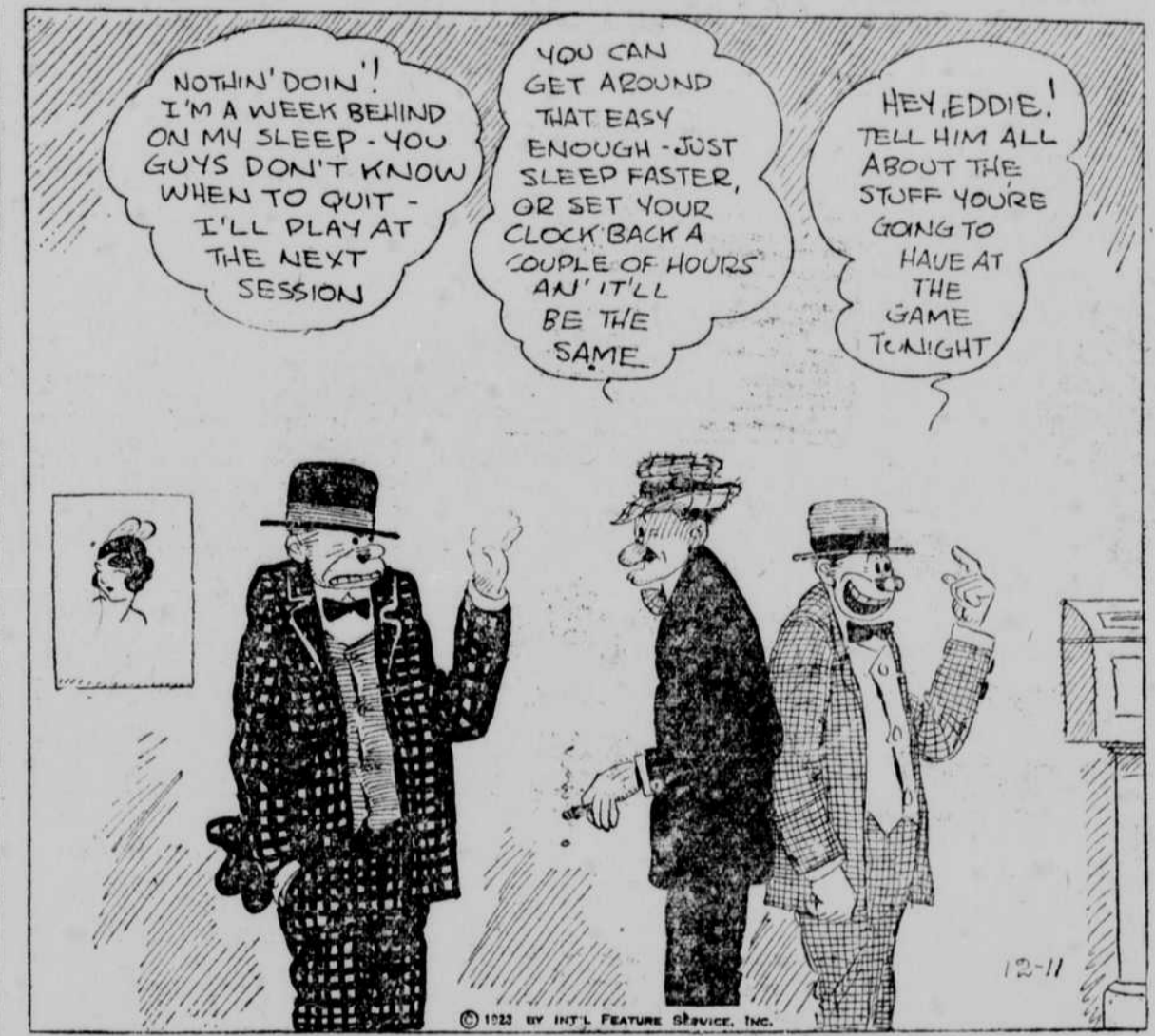
"Insisting that a reduction in taxation does not mark upon an extraordinary expenditure program, I am not unduly concerned of the demand for adjusted compensation for soldiers of the world war, which would include among its beneficiaries the able-bodied of our veterans as well as the disabled. I question if there is any sound reason for such a measure. The country is prosperous and remunerative employment is available for the able-bodied veterans as well as for other citizens.

"For the disabled veterans of the war and the dependents of those who fall, the country can not do too much. It has already spent nearly \$2,000,000,000 and is now spending nearly \$500,000,000 yearly in their behalf. That obligation it must and will continue to fulfill in fullest measure. And it is one of the most important of the duties and privileges of the chief executive to minister to the wants and needs of these war veterans and creditors of the nation.

"Cost Would Outweigh Benefits." "But the fit and able bodied are offered the opportunity open to every other citizen. The government has no money to distribute to any class of its citizens that it does not take

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The Fellow Who Needs Sleep



from the pockets of the people and the payment of a bonus to millions of former soldiers could only be accomplished at a cost to the whole community, including the veterans themselves, far outweighing the benefits intended to be conferred. If I felt that a soldiers' bonus represented a great need and a proper obligation which should be fulfilled by this nation, I certainly would not make a recommendation which would be adverse thereto.

"We have now reached a point in our financial program where we can lighten the tax burden of the people, which is an added reason for taking a firm stand against any and all programs of spending that would tend to absorb the expected margin between receipts and expenditures."

Washington, Dec. 10.—A reduction of \$275,000,000 in the operating expenses of the federal government during the next fiscal year is proposed in the annual budget transmitted to congress today by President Coolidge. Total expenditures are estimated at \$2,298,930,444 and receipts at \$3,493,742,978, leaving a surplus of \$395,812,538.

These estimates are on the basis of existing revenue laws, however, and should congress reduce taxes by the more than \$300,000,000 recommended by the administration, much of the projected balance would be wiped out.

Appropriations requested for the year beginning next July 1, aggregate \$3,018,069,946, or \$280,365,022 less than those for the current fiscal year. President Coolidge said this reduction was in response to executive instructions in the preparation of estimates by the various departments and federal agencies.

"This was essential to a continuation of the policy of strict and drastic economy," he said. "That is the administration's undebatable policy. It has been adhered to unwaveringly in the past and we shall hew to the line in the future."

The cost of national defense next year is placed at \$548,531,258, a reduction of \$55,000,000, as compared with this year. Military pensions, retirement pay, world war allowances and the like will take \$656,300,606 out of the treasury as against \$703,111,578 this year.

Interest Payment Reduced. Fixed charges on account of the public debt are placed at \$1,372,277,975, which includes \$390,000,000 of interest and \$482,277,975 for retirement of securities. The interest payment shows a reduction of \$50,000,000 as compared with that for the current year.

Of the total of \$311,000,000 of expenditures by the Navy department,

\$35,000,000 is proposed for ship construction, \$15,000,000 for air service and \$1,000,000 for the scrapping of naval vessels. The largest single item is the pay of the navy, \$116,900,000. Out of the air department total of \$214,000,000, \$12,735,000 is proposed for the air service; \$28,000,000 for the national guard and \$3,800,000 for fortifications.

Expenditures for rivers and harbors are estimated at \$45,786,000 as against \$42,793,225 this year. An additional \$1,600,000 for prohibition enforcement is asked of congress.

President Coolidge stated that a considerably enlarged field force should be provided. He added that he would present to congress soon a supplemental estimate of \$20,000,000 mainly for additional vessels for coast guard, because of the need for a material increase in the personnel and equipment of that service "for the purpose of combating more thoroughly run-running and unlawful importations." If this appropriation is granted, the president said he would ask for an additional \$6,000,000 later for a similar purpose.

The total appropriation proposed for prohibition and narcotic enforcement is \$10,531,324 as against \$8,824,602 for the present year. The largest single item in the \$228,000,000 of expenditures by the Treasury department is \$91,400,000 for the refunding of taxes erroneously collected. The cost of tax collection is estimated at \$35,576,000 while the cost of collecting customs revenues is placed at \$12,821,845. Operations of the coast guard will account for another \$16,000,000.

For good roads an expenditure of \$90,000,000 is proposed, an increase of \$5,000,000 over the outlay estimated for this year. This accounts for more than two-thirds of the \$144,000,000 estimate for the Department of Agriculture.

A reduction of more than \$22,000,000 in the estimated deficit of \$24,479,473 as postal revenues is forecast for next year. Postal service expenditures payable from postal revenues are calculated at \$611,210,000 as compared with \$589,630,000 this year.

Costs of the more important civil functions of the government for next year are summarized in the budget as follows:

General law enforcement, \$21,325,000; foreign relations and protection of American interests abroad, \$14,720,619; administration of Indian affairs, \$12,946,898; promotion and regulation of commerce and industry, \$14,470,582; promotion and operation of marine transportation, \$48,885,318; promotion and regulation of agriculture, \$25,934,842; promotion of public health, \$15,827,432; promotion of public education, \$10,432,527; science and research, \$13,255,247; promotion of labor interests, \$4,773,992; immigration and

public safety, \$10,961,956. Legislative est., \$15,595,443. Executive est., \$415,567. War Dept. inc., \$314,190,650. Navy Dept. inc., \$311,029,850. Dept. of Agr., \$144,984,200. Dept. of Com., \$22,110,000. Interior Dept., \$110,507,439. Dept. Justice, \$1,431,940. State Dept., \$1,167,076. Treasury Dept., \$228,411,989. F. O. D. (def.), \$2,080,184. War Bureau, \$402,249,450. Emp. Invest Corp., \$2,852,817. Other independent est., \$18,825,238.

RECEIPTS. 1924. Public revenue, \$2,727,383,000. Customs, \$292,000,000. Miscellaneous, \$12,177,978. Total, \$2,821,560,978. EXPENDITURES. Legislative est., \$15,595,443. Executive est., \$415,567. War Dept. inc., \$314,190,650. Navy Dept. inc., \$311,029,850. Dept. of Agr., \$144,984,200. Dept. of Com., \$22,110,000. Interior Dept., \$110,507,439. Dept. Justice, \$1,431,940. State Dept., \$1,167,076. Treasury Dept., \$228,411,989. F. O. D. (def.), \$2,080,184. War Bureau, \$402,249,450. Emp. Invest Corp., \$2,852,817. Other independent est., \$18,825,238. Total, \$2,821,560,978.

Reduction of Prin. Ind. Pub. Debt. Grand total expenditures, \$2,298,930,444. Balance at year end, \$70,939,145. Total balance, \$666,620,779. Balance in treasury at end of fiscal year, \$270,939,145.

Arrested for Kidnaping. Kearney, Neb., Dec. 10.—Lawrence Krebs, 18, is being held for kidnaping, following his arrest at Smith Center, Kan., in company with a 15-year-old Kearney girl. A charge of delinquency has been filed against the latter. Krebs and the girl left Kearney about two weeks ago and since that time have been wandering around in Kansas, according to the story they told the sheriff.

Wind Kills Man. Los Angeles, Dec. 10.—One man is dead and several persons are recovering from injuries today as the result of accidents attributed to high winds.

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neaturalization, \$3,748,977; administration of public domain, \$16,515,949.

Nebraska Death Rate Is Lowest. Figures Compiled by Commerce Department Place Figure at 9.1.

Nebraska has the lowest adjusted death rate, 9.1 per 1,000 population, of any state in the union, according to a compilation of figures by the Department of Commerce, just made public.

The adjusted death rate is actual by consideration of the actual death rate in conjunction with racial stocks, occupation of inhabitants, sex, age and distribution of the population, and the relative number of deaths of non-residents.

Omaha's death rate in 1922, the report shows, was 14, a reduction of 1.2 from the 1920 figures.

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