

TAX PAYERS AND RELIEF

In the FRANKLIN TIMES of February 23, there appeared an article pertaining to honest citizens burdened with paying useless taxes to feed and clothe healthy, indolent people. Although this article did not mention any actual relief agencies or the name of the rustic WPA, but I presume it had a precarious and round-about-way of bombarding these two enterprises. After reading the article and pondering over it for a few minutes I realize that my ideas coincide about ninety-nine per cent; therefore I wish to take the opportunity of fabricating an article and give some first hand, authentic information as I have been in more employment offices than one; and I have also worked on a division of the WPA. I have stood in long waiting lines on a cold blustery November morning listening to my cohorts gritting their teeth and shifting around aimlessly. I have seen them from different walks of life — some worthless, some old, some young, some erect and healthy, and some stooped and bent with years of bitter toil and hard manual labor who really needed assistance.

But to give a graphic demonstration I will cite some actual cases and incidents I have encountered. The first dates back to a few years ago when my buddy—he's a radioman on one of Uncle Sam's tubs now; otherwise called battleships—and I were bumping our way to a certain town—I won't divulge the name of the town and actual people involved for obvious reasons — when we pounced upon the idea that we would get on the relief for the fun of it, as we had decided not to farm that year.

We arrived in town and in due time we went immediately to the relief office stating that we would willingly accept any type of work or any available position at that time, and we proceeded with the WPA-job-finding-talk—you know, boy broke, almost clothless and—yes—we are so hungry.

But the little lady behind the high desk had other ideas and plans when we stated we would accept a job shoveling dirt on a highway. She thought that we were physically unfit to do the work or something and she told us, as she tucked a blonde curl behind her ear, that she would see to it that we got a better position. Anyway I got a job in a furniture store.

Incident number two occurred on the blustery November morning depicted above. I stood almost four hours waiting to see the head official of the WPA as I was desperately in need of a position, and the crop control had utterly destroyed all hopes of farming that year. Beside me stood a hatless, dowdy, thin man. He often paced around rubbing his slim hands across his gaunt cheeks muttering in some guttural jargon that I couldn't comprehend. Finally he stopped pacing and swung around facing me.

"Sonny," he said, "I gotter get some work. I gotter get somethin' for my wife and six kids. They haven't eaten anything in two days."

Well, to make a long story short he received a job; but not until he had argued and coaxed the official for sometime. But it seemed incredible to see how the WPA official gave other people who looked fully clothed and healthy jobs on the spur of the moment.

I remember another incident when I stood in a WPA office some time ago. An old lady came in with her daughter and tried to get work for her daughter or herself, but the WPA official bluntly refused and told the lady sardonically that there was nothing he could do, yet he gave other people jobs all the time I was in the office.

We realize that some type of relief is inevitable. Even in the Biblical days there were the unfortunate, the crippled and the blind to care for, and it is apparent we must maintain some means of assisting them now; but it should be the duty of each county to provide for its unfortunate and the helpless and they should not fall on the arms of the government and become a national disgrace.

I know people personally who will laugh in your face if you try to hire them at a decent price. They will assert that they are on the relief and they can live without working. Why did the farmers lose a lot of their tobacco

crop last year? Simply because there were too many people on the relief receiving clothing, etc., who would not work at a decent salary; yet those same farmers and burghers who tried to hire them must pay a heavy tax to support those dunderheads who ramble around scoffing at work.

A few intimate glimpses at the status of our government will disclose some startling and amazing facts. First, we have reached an all time debt record. The so-called New Dealers compiled a program that consisted of spending money fruitlessly, which they have often stated would restore prosperity; but it is a doleful fact that our country is in a chaotic mess today and we see taxes upon taxes being heaped on our shoulders. We see some of our astute leaders spending foolishly while the tax problem has come to be almost unbearable; and yet the unemployment situation remains unsolved. If you believe it has been solved look around you at the unemployed people. And—yes—Mr. Tax Payer it is you who is laden down with the useless taxes. It is you who must shoulder the burden and feed loafers and build useless things.

In the complete history of the U. S. of America this is the first time we have been confronted with the problem of building highways with shovel and wheelbarrows that are hardly ever used. And then some of our consorts have the nerve to stand up and yell that prosperity is here. Drink gang. Drink to prosperity and riches! Mr., Mrs. and Miss, we aren't envisaging prosperity and riches. We are facing subversion, bankruptcy, and regimentation if some things aren't altered soon.

In all my associating with people I have seen very few who needed assistance from sources other than their own. And some honest citizens do not want the help of the so-called relief.

Concluding this I wish to say that America is a beautiful, unique country. It is a good land to live in. It is doubtless the richest and most prosperous country in the world and it has a form of government that is peerless and envied by our exotic friends. But if we are to maintain our present form of government we must turn our ship around and steer in the right direction.

How long we continue to drift into muddy waters depends upon you Mr. Citizen.

HENRY AYSOUE.

C. M. T. C. CAMP

Major Edward F. Griffin informed the TIMES this week that the campaign was opened on March 1st to procure the County quota of C. M. T. C. trainees. The Camp this year will be held at Fort Bragg for the period from June 12th through July 11th. This is a fine opportunity for young men between the ages of seventeen and twenty-four years to receive without cost fine military training and lessons in Americanism. Those boys desiring to make application should see Major Griffin at once.

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