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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1934

Government And Taxation

This matter of government and taxation is not new. Distaste for taxation is as old as government. It is not a new story that taxation is burdensome. Just read the histories of the different nations and an idea of the rebellious attitude of the people toward their governmental obligations may be obtained.

We have repeatedly called the attention of this audience to the true situation—the relation of taxation to government.

Either the public should quit bellyaching about paying taxes or demand less from their governments. It is easy for stump-politicians to charge extravagance to their opponents in power. It sounds terrible when we hear that there are too many bureaus, too many soft jobs and too many this and that at Raleigh. May we repeat what we have said time and time again, that if we should do away with every bureau, every executive office, every court position, the General Assembly, and in fact, the whole shebang, except our bonded-indebtedness, schools and highway system, and we couldn't reduce the tax rate more than six or seven cents.

Are we going to quit educating youth? Really, we can't cut our school appropriations further. It is a pitiful sum we pay our teachers. Shall we go backwards in our educational program. Surely we've gone far enough in that direction.

Have we quit wanting roads? Not on your life. Shall we quit maintaining our highways and let the whole system wear itself out and then return to the mud of 20 years ago?

We can't cut taxes except in one of these fields. The answer is we're not going to cut in either.

Then the question arises why in the heck people don't make up their minds to pay for the services they demand and start running mugwump politicians who orate about extravagance off the platform?

One Sensible Course

One of the first things the General Assembly should do when it meets in Raleigh next January is to repeal the absentee voters' law.

Even Democratic newspapers, presumably expressing the sentiment of the majority party, are disgusted with the law. Republicans have repeatedly given it a black eye. At first Democrats charged Republicans with using it as an alibi, but with widespread allegations of fraud resulting from it in Democratic primaries, there has been a reversal of opinion.

Speaking of the situation in Polk county, the Winston-Salem Journal comments as follows on the absentee ballot, declaring "a progressive state cannot tolerate the evils caused by the absentee ballot law":

"The most serious defect now existing in our election set-up is the absentee ballot law. This has been amply demonstrated in the recent investigations by the State Board of Elections. In Polk county it was discovered that in one precinct the absentee ballot vote was double the ordinary vote. It was also revealed, according to news dispatches, that dead persons and individuals who were bona fide residents of other states, cast ballots by the absentee route.

"Such methods of conducting primary or election contests are obviously beyond contempt. But expressing our indignation over such conditions will amount to little unless we translate it into determined action. The people of this state have a right to demand in no uncertain tones that the absentee ballot law be repealed before the 1936 elections are held. The principle of honesty in government requires that this loophole in the election machinery, created by the desire to give the soldiers in the World War a chance to vote, be stricken from the statutes at the earliest possible opportunity.

"The people can make themselves heard on this question by carrying it directly to the members of the next General Assembly. They should sound out the attitude of candidates to the assembly on the issue. A progressive state cannot tolerate the evils caused by the absentee ballot law."

Second Primaries
The Journal-Patriot has never agreed with those who would blame any candidate who sees fit to call for a second primary.

Democratic government—by which we mean, government of, by and for the people—is based upon majority rule. A majority should always be privileged to have the final say, whatever their decision may be.

There is no stigma attached to such a request. This opinion has no local application. It is a fact of which the public generally should be reminded occasionally lest they forget that popular government is founded upon an expression of the will of the masses, rather than upon the few.

Sunday School Lesson
By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

AHIJAH AND THE DIVIDED KINGDOM
Lesson for July 1st. 1 Kings 11:29-39. Golden Text: Proverbs 16:18.

In the Third Quarter we plunge into the Old Testament, and acquaint ourselves with troublesome episodes in the checkered career of God's people. We find the kingdom of David and Solomon rent in twain, with good and bad kings alternating in both the north and the south. There is plenty of idolatry, oppression and war. Against these we witness the protest of Elijah, and the flaming eighth century prophets of whom Isaiah was the greatest. At the close of the Quarter we study the mysterious and appalling judgement that befell the Assyrians at the time of their siege of Jerusalem.

Our first lesson introduces us to the disastrous civil war that rent asunder the strongly established monarchy of Solomon. Successful in consolidating the twelve tribes, in completing the overthrow of the Canaanites, and in the promotion of foreign alliances, Solomon enjoyed a reign of peace marred by few mishaps. But the unity and good-will of his long reign of forty years were soon disrupted after his death. Rehoboam, his son, was indiscreet and arrogant in his answer to the chiefs who demanded that he should lighten the yoke of forced labour pressed so heavily upon their shoulders by Solomon. In consequence of his insulting reply ten of the tribes staged a successful revolt, making Jeroboam, a warlike prince of Ephraim, their king.

The lesson text narrates the story of the interview between Jeroboam and the prophet Ahijah who belonged to the sacred sanctuary at Shiloh where the youth of Samuel was spent. It is Ahijah who informs Jeroboam that he is to be promoted into the leadership of the ten stalwart tribes of the north. Best of all, continues the prophet, he is to reign as king. Jeroboam had been hoping for this very consummation, and now it was to be realized. If only he had been faithful to the trust reposed in him!

Borrowed Comment

THE EMERGENCY IS PASSING
(Winston-Salem Journal)

A local speaker on the radio Monday night cited figures supplied by the National Recovery Administration which are deeply significant.

These figures show that 210 corporations earned profits of \$98,000,000 during the first quarter of 1934. This profit of \$98,000,000 is set up against a loss of \$23,000,000 which these same corporations reported during the corresponding period of 1933.

The speaker also said: "I have on hand the reports of 64 miscellaneous companies, engaging in a wide range of activities. And once again we see the story of losses turned into profits. These companies reported in the first quarter of 1934 that a deficit of \$29,500,000 had become a profit of \$27,151,396."

If such figures as these prove anything, they prove that the emergency which caused the enactment of sales tax laws in this country is rapidly passing.

When losses of \$23,000,000 are changed into a profit of \$98,000,000, and when a deficit of \$29,500,000 is changed into a profit of \$27,151,396, it is not at all difficult to figure that the time is not far distant when revenue from a just income tax will make sales taxes unnecessary.

A Florida man was arrested for making a device to run an electric meter backwards. That's no way to treat genius.—Greensboro (Ga.) Herald-Journal.

Uncle Sam's international lending advertisement now reads, "Money to loan, only Finland may apply."—Omaha World-Herald.

Russians have seized two Japanese crab boats—Jap crabbing making Russians crabby.—Chicago Daily News.

Disarmament is having its difficulties abroad. It is impossible even to disarm suspicion.—Washington Star.

It was a week to be remembered. Hitler met Mussolini and Max Baer knocked out Primo Carnera.—Boston Evening Transcript.

A committee on uses for the new leisure has listed 700 ways to loaf in the sitting position alone.—Des Moines Register.

More Is Being Spent On Armaments Now Than Before World Conflict

(By John Evans, Associated Press Foreign Staff)

Twenty years after the "great war" the world talks of another one. It was just 20 years ago on June 28 that a shot, cracking across a square in Sarajevo, killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand and led to the greatest war in history.

Fifteen years ago the Versailles peace treaty was signed, but the situation in Europe today is alarming to those who believe disarmament the key to international peace.

Europe's war preparations now are estimated to be twice as costly as during the year before the war. More men are under arms now than then, except in the "disarmed" countries of the vanquished.

Armies Potentially Stronger
Twenty years after the war, in which 65,000,000 men were mobilized and more than half were casualties, the armed forces available are much more destructive potentially than those which ravaged a good part of Europe for four years at a cost many times as much as all the gold in the world.

Peace treaties and agreements on reparations and debts have been modified almost to extinction. War "scare" speeches no longer attract much attention. There were 3,000,000 men in the 18 principal European armies (excluding Russia's) before the war. In the same countries (and those carved out of them by peace treaties) there are now 2,865,000 armed men, although Germany, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria have more than a million fewer than they had in 1914.

When Hitler reaches his goal of 300,000 men, today's armed force will be greater than that which saw the start of war.

Total Costs Mount
The world is calculated to have spent about \$2,500,000,000 annually on arms and soldiers in 1913 and is estimated to be spending about \$4,500,000,000 today.

All these figures are given as cold facts by the league of nations, army general staffs and war experts.

Man for man and gun for gun, military experts agree, the total armed effectiveness of today far surpasses the 1914 equipment. Navies have reduced their tonnage through the Washington and London naval conferences, but the increased efficiency of ships and guns makes actual naval disarmament another question.

The war cost the United States government \$40,000,000,000 and as debts are not being paid and pensions and bond interest continue the total amounts yearly. Other nations spent less lavishly, but the total money cost to 1916 is estimated at \$186,000,000,000. Bond interest since then probably is as much, and most of the bonds still are unpaid.

Europe's armies are not much larger than in 1914. But overhead there flies in every country a fleet of planes whose great potential destructiveness can only be guessed at. Rifles and machine guns, too, have been improved markedly since the war.

Twenty-Seven Nations In War
For more than four years the war shook the world as no other conflict in modern history has done.

When the end came, 65,000,000 men had been mobilized in a huge combat that swept within its mad whirl 27 nations, including the four central powers, headed by Germany. The war itself was divided into three great periods: First, a desperate six weeks struggle on the part of the French and British to keep the German military machine from smashing through to Paris; second, a dreary but bloody period of three and a half years of practical siege warfare

along the battlefield from Switzerland to the North sea, and third, a sudden collapse of Germany and the turning of a flood of allied soldiers in a rush on Germany.

President Speaks Tonight
Washington, June 26.—The people of North Carolina will have an opportunity Thursday night to hear President Roosevelt give an accounting of the progress thus far made under the new deal program, a speech which will probably be of 20 minutes duration. The President is to leave Washington Saturday

for his vacation, which will include a visit to Hawaii, returning via the northwest in five or six weeks.

In the talk Thursday night, which is to be one of the famous fireside chats, the President is expected to present a digest of the work of the administration since the beginning of the year, and the hope is entertained that the President's utterances will afford an intimation of what his fellow countrymen may expect during the remainder of the year, and from the next session of Congress.

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