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 INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Causes of Death

Very few people want to die. Hence, it is interesting and may prove profitable to the great majority who want to remain alive to study the causes of death.

No better territory can be considered than North Wilkesboro and fortunately we are able to tell you how many people passed out in this city last year and why they are not now alive.

At the head of the list of deaths is automobile accidents, something that we are hearing more about each day. We all fear pneumonia and its deadly nature yet only six died here of pneumonia last year as compared to nine killed by automobiles. We all stand in awe of heart diseases and yet automobiles killed more people than did diseases of the heart. We try to keep away from disease in order to keep alive and yet nearly one fourth of the deaths in this city last year were attributable to accidents and not disease. You do not have to get sick to die in this fast age. From dying of natural cause you have only about three chances to the one of suddenly quitting this world by accidental means.

To lessen the danger of getting killed we must be more careful, not only to look out for ourselves but everybody else we can. Carelessness is taking too great a toll.

As far as disease is concerned we have a number of very competent physicians who can help and advise almost any of us. The toll from chronic diseases tend to show that people are disregarding their physical constitutions and the supreme court of nature would declare many of our acts as anti-constitutional if not unconstitutional. Heart disease heads the list in cause of deaths here. Your physician can help you greatly to ward off serious heart trouble and the care you take of yourself may determine your longevity.

The next leading cause of demise is premature birth. Prenatal care and following advice of family physicians should lower this death rate. The next is pneumonia and people know what pneumonia is, how it works, how it is caused and its results. Great care should be exercised not to bring this disease on. Cerebral hemorrhage and chronic neuritis are the next leading causes.

Uncle Sam's Income

Estimates submitted to Congress by the executive departments show an expectation, in the next fiscal year, of \$1,900,000,000 income from sales taxes of various kinds, and only \$1,200,000,000 from income taxes, which have heretofore been the chief source of national revenue.

Under the head of sales taxes we must, of course, include the processing taxes on agriculture commodities, out of which benefit payments are made to farmers. These taxes, like all other taxes, are naturally passed on to the ultimate consumers. They are estimated for the next fiscal year at \$570,000,000. The tobacco tax comes next, with an estimated \$466,000,000; then the liquor taxes of \$430,000,000, more than half for beer; the gasoline tax of \$170,000,000, and all of the sales taxes on automobiles, tires, radio sets and a hundred other items of commerce.

From all other sources the Government expects to collect less than \$900,000,000, a third of that from customs duties, \$215,000,000 from estate and gift taxes, \$100,000,000 from capital stock and excess profits and about \$250,000,000 from miscellaneous sources.

The total tax expectations for the fiscal year are about 4 billions of dollars; the total proposed to be spent in the same period is about 8 1-2 billions. The difference must be borrowed, unless new taxes are imposed to provide for the excess. It is hard to imagine any additional taxes that would raise enough to cover the total proposed expenditures, without starting a riot of large proportions.

It is that sort of an impasse that gives strength to the various projects for currency inflation. We look for some wild schemes to be offered and perhaps discussed before this session of Congress ends.

Who Foots The Bill?

Statements filed in the house of representatives show that the Democratic party owes a small balance of around a half million dollars while the Republican party closed the campaign with about \$85 in cash balance.

It is interesting to note the names of some of those who contribute to campaign funds of the two parties. While both like to take the stump as the "friend of the common peepul" a perusal of the list of those who pay for the political thunder shows that the rich men pay for both parties. On the subject the Morganton News-Herald says:

"Thanks to recent contributions of \$20,000 from members of the Mellon family and \$5,000 from John D. Rockefeller, the G. O. P. starts 1935 from financial scratch, while the Democrats must look forward to a heavy deficit as they approach the 1936 campaign. They owe more than \$60,000 to John Raskob alone.

"These figures are interesting because they show clearly what everybody knew anyway that when it comes to supporting the actual machinery of parties both lean heavily on rich men who can make large contributions to party funds.

"Figures like these will set many to wondering whether the base of support of both parties might not well be broadened."

No doubt the morale of both parties would be uplifted if the leaders would get more of the necessary campaign funds from the common people. Everybody knows that there is great expense attached to carrying on political campaigns and it would be a good thing for both the Democratic and Republican parties if they could get down to the average man and get his help, perhaps a dollar each from the party members who cared to give it and could do so without carrying a burden. Such a scheme would make it possible for the parties to actually support the average earner and not pay so much attention to capitalists. Nobody is in a hurry to cut off the hands that does the feeding. If the wealthy support the parties it is nothing but natural that the parties will look with favor on their benefactors.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

PETER'S DENIAL

Lesson for January 27th. Mark 14: 12-72. Golden Text: 1 Corinthians 10:12.

The denial of Jesus by Peter is one of the most dramatic episodes in the gospel narrative. It is described by all four of the evangelists. All agree that Peter was identified as a disciple three times, and each time denied it until finally the cock crew. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us that the cock's crowing reminded Peter of Jesus' prophecy of his base treachery, and of how he wept with remorse. Luke adds that "the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter." Here Peter appears as anything but a rock. Timid, shrinking, nervous, he is a pitiful figure. How can we account for such a lapse? Dr. Matheson calls him constitutionally apprehensive because of his career as a fisherman. The Jews were afraid of the sea, and so the fishermen, thinks Dr. Matheson, were the most timid group in the community, as the shepherds were the bravest.

But a more impressive explanation is that the situation in which Peter found himself was very trying. Jesus was under arrest. Soon He would be condemned for blasphemy and executed. To be associated with Him at such a dreadful crisis was dangerous. No wonder Peter felt panicky!

Now our present world is in a similar state of panic. Consider what is happening in Germany. Chancellor Hitler is anxious to establish a Church that shall abandon the Old Testament in favor of German myths. The German race is to be preminent, and cherished Christian ideals of the love of God and the brotherhood of man are to be withdrawn because of their Jewish and universal coloring. Due to their refusal to sanction this repudiation of their faith, distinguished professors and pastors now suffer dire persecution. Russia and Turkey are denying Christ in similar fashion. Will these sinning nations repent as did Peter? Time will tell.

Borrowed Comment

CONVERSATION TOPICS
 (Reldsville Review)

Investigators classified 500 conversations overheard in public places to find out just what men and women talk about, in Cleveland and New York. They found that the subjects varied little in the two cities.

Men's conversations were 48 per cent about business, 15 per cent about sports and amusements, 12 per cent about other men, these being the most frequent topics.

Conversations of women were most frequently about men, this topic showing great variation in the two cities, 22 per cent in Cleveland and 44 per cent in New York. Clothes were the subject of 20 per cent, and other women 15 per cent.

In mixed company, men talked most to women about amusements, next to business and money. Women conversed with men about themselves and other women.

The above results were published in a business men's magazine, but we can not say whether they fairly represent the facts or not. At any rate they are interesting.

What do you talk about?

This Week In Washington

SUPREME COURT ACTION

Washington, Jan. 22. (Auto-caster)—Congress must do its own job of making laws. It cannot delegate that task to the President or to anyone else. That is the net substance of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the "hot oil" case.

Eight of the nine justices agreed that there was no legal authority for Executive control of "hot oil." The ninth, Justice Cardozo, agreed with his colleagues on the principle that the Executive could not make rules having the effect of law unless Congress prescribed the nature of those rules and set limits upon Executive power. Justice Cardozo, however, held that Congress had granted sufficient authority to the President in the matter of forbidding transportation across state lines of oil produced in excess of quotas set by the respective states.

This first set-back to the authority of the President under the New Deal was followed by the argument over the repudiation of the gold contract in the case of Liberty bonds and bonds of private corporations. The Administration is anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court's decision, in view of questions from the bench by Chief Justice Hughes and several Associate Justices, pointedly inquiring where Congress found authority for repudiating a contract.

The Gold Contracts

If the Supreme Court holds that Congress may not, under the Constitution, abrogate a contract written into a Government bond, in which payment in gold dollars "of the present weight and fineness" is specified, then every holder of a \$1,000 Liberty bond is entitled to collect \$1,690 in the present value of dollars. The right of Congress to fix the value of money is not questioned; but having depreciated the gold dollar, can Government then compel holders of gold obligations to accept less gold than their contracts call for?

The Supreme Court's decision is not expected for two or three weeks. In the meantime, all sorts of schemes to circumvent it, should it uphold the sanctity of the Government's bond contracts, are being discussed at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Back In Place

Whatever the decision in the gold case, the court's positive stand on the question of the right of Congress to delegate its law-making powers has stirred official Washington as nothing else has since the inauguration of President Roosevelt. It has put the more radical members of the Administration on warning that they must pay more attention to the Constitution and not try to grab off too much power for the Executive; and it has served notice on Congress that it must do its own work and not merely pass the buck to the President.

As one poker-playing Senator put it: "It's still the New Deal, but it's no longer Dealer's Choice. If we're going to play with deuces wild, we've got to say so in the house rules."

The 4 billions which the President asks for public works will doubtless be granted by Congress, but with many more restrictions upon how and for what it may be spent than in the case of previous blanket appropriations. It probably won't be appropriated before March, and in any event won't be available until July 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, so its effects are not likely to be noticeable much before next Fall.

Present indications are that the bill authorizing this expenditure will be a sort of modified CWA plan, the chief differences being that real work of permanent value will be required, and that wages will be down close to the bare subsistence level, instead of high enough to deter men from seeking private employment. Power probably also will be given to move workers at will from one part of the country to the other.

Hopkins and Ickes

Harry Hopkins, Relief Administrator, is regarded as the most appropriate man to run the new subsistence work scheme, but Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and Administrator of PWA, doesn't like to let go of any authority. The latest gossip is that Hopkins may be appointed Under-Secretary of the Interior, at the same salary, \$10,000 a year, he is now drawing, and administer the new project under Ickes' superior control.

That the new public works plan will have any appreciable effect upon private business enterprise is beginning to be seriously doubted even by good Democrats. But if Government:

stops spending, there will be a time-lag before private enterprise can get its capital working at full speed, and the Administration cannot afford to have a general howl raised by spokesmen for the unemployed, before the 1935 election.

Bonus; Pensions, Banking

A compromise scheme on the veterans bonus is being worked out, to cost Uncle Sam only \$200,000,000 instead of 2 billions. Maybe it will be accepted by Congress; maybe not.

Old age pension legislation is likely to get early action; unemployment insurance will have to wait a while.

Senator Carter Glass has lined up a powerful Senate bloc to prevent new radical banking legislation.

It is an open secret that the Administration is showing concern over income tax statements of Senator Huey Long's principal supporters in Louisiana. A real fear that Huey will line up enough radical support for himself for President in 1936 to split the party and elect a Republican President is gaining ground here.

Raps Absentee Law

Asheboro, Jan. 22. — "The flaws in the absentee voter's law greatly outnumbered its virtues," E. H. Cranford, of Asheboro, who is chairman of the board of elections of Randolph county, says in a letter addressed to members of the state legislature.



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