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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Exemption And Rates

According to county government statistics compiled by the University of North Carolina, the tax rate for Wilkes county would have to be increased about 32 cents on each hundred dollars valuation of property if \$1,000 was exempted from every homestead for taxation.

It is recalled that the amendment authorizing that exemptions be allowed up to \$1,000 passed in the election of 1936. However, the legislature has not passed any law allowing such exemptions.

The table as released in the "News Letter" shows that the tax rate would not have to be raised very much in counties which are wealthy—having a large total assessed valuation. The increases would be bigger in counties which have relatively small valuations, few property owners in the wealthiest class and few large corporations.

This is shown by the fact that the increase in tax rate of Forsyth county to offset the exemptions would be only three cents while in Avery it would be 94 cents, Ashe 73, and so on down the line. A \$500 exemption would mean an increase of about 18½ cents for Wilkes if county expenses remained as they are now.

Advertising Wilkes

If Wilkes county and North Wilkesboro put up \$500 each for two years to be used in telling the world of the good things about the county, it will be the first county in this section of the state to take that step.

If the program is carried out, it will bring results and the measure of its success will be determined mainly by how the people cooperate and how they receive those who come to the county to investigate its possibilities, advantages, resources and pleasures.

There are many ways to approach the problem of advertising Wilkes with a view toward attracting attention of tourists, investors and those who are seeking a good place to live. We need not exaggerate or misrepresent the facts. The truth, told and distributed in an attractive manner, will serve the purpose amply well.

Discussing the forward step of county advertising, an editorial in Friday's Winston-Salem Journal carried the following comment about Wilkes, under the heading "Wilkes Looks Ahead":

"Wilkes county is looking up and ahead. A bill has been introduced in the State Senate providing that the town of North Wilkesboro and the county commissioners may each put up \$500 a year for 1939 and 1930 for use in advertising Wilkes to the world.

"Well, why not? Wilkes has plenty of advantages to advertise. It has come far since the prototypes of the characters in "Rain on the Just" sowed, reaped and fermented their grain in mountain stills.

"Wilkes is one of the best farm and orchard counties of the State. Its wealth of apple blooms in spring reminds the world traveler of old Normandy. Its mountain scenery is picturesque, softly alluring. Its people are sturdy, for the most part pious, energetic, and many have poetry in their souls. Wilkes county has given to North Carolina one of its greatest poets of the present generation, in James Larkin Pearson.

"And there are many other things. Perhaps it would take Mr. Pearson, or some other literary native of Wilkes to describe all of its attractions—and Wilkes has enough sons and daughters in this field to do a good job of it.

"Perhaps if the advertising bill goes through it will put some of them to work doing this. Maybe they can translate that old dream of an apple blossom festival into a reality.

"In launching an advertising program of its own, even on a small scale, Wilkes

will be co-operating effectively with the State Advertising Campaign. That means, of course, that it will be in position to obtain the maximum results from the larger program. If Wilkes goes through with this enterprise, it will be setting a splendid example for other counties and cities in North Carolina."

Spring Time Is Clean-Up Time

April showers and May flowers aren't far away. That means spring cleaning time.

And spring cleaning shouldn't mean just shelling out the rugs, washing the curtains, and dusting that little-used spare bedroom. It should mean a definite, well planned program for putting property in apple-pie order, not only to improve its value and appearance, but to help prevent that dread destroyer that strikes when we least expect it—fire.

Trash-filled outbuildings are perfect incubators for fire from a carelessly dropped match or cigarette. Check over fireplaces and chimneys—from now on, such incidental heating units will be used more and central systems less. As warm, sunny days come, be especially careful that grass is kept cut and fields clear of debris. Never burn brush when there is a wind, and have water handy in case matters get beyond control.

Above all, go through the house from cellar to attic on an inclusive "junk-disposing" program. Those old newspapers and magazines you've put carefully away and will never look at again—that broken furniture that belongs to the worst period of design—those odds and ends of "gay nineties" clothing—that jumble of worthless inflammable knickknacks in the hall closets: Get rid of them all. Give them to a charitable organization or the junkman. And you'll materially reduce the chance of a fire hitting your home.

Voluntary destruction of such articles means only their "actual value" loss, if any; to keep them may mean the involuntary destruction of your entire household, which would include the junk which may have caused the fire.

Borrowed Comment

ECONOMY COMES BACK

(Washington, D. C., Star)

Campaign promises of economy and efficiency in Government are not always made to be kept. There is real news, therefore, in the economy wave which seems to be sweeping through many states in the wake of new gubernatorial regimes.

These developments in the states are straws that show which way the wind is beginning to blow. The American people are tired of waiting for prosperity to come around the corner under the whirlash of improvident spend-and-tax policies.

There may be food for some thought in all this for the administration's fiscal policy formulators.

PEACE—AND WHAT?

(Shelby Daily Star)

Peace has about arrived in Spain, but after that peace, what?

Recognition has been given the victorious Generalissimo Franco by France and England and thus another step is taken in the march of the totalitarianism in the world.

Franco could not have won the Spanish civil war without the aid of Germany and Italy. Germany and Italy are under the domination of dictators who do not act except to their own profit and gain.

Despite all of this, Prime Minister Chamberlain facing his accusers of betrayal in recognizing Franco, assures the English house of commons that he has every assurance that Spain will remain a free and independent state.

Under the involved situation in Europe, Spain cannot remain a free and independent state. Germany and Italy will have much to say about the policies of the new government. They have forged a bit further into central Europe through power and influence and that is but a step ahead of physically advancing their holdings. The position of France is far more dangerous under the peace which is to come than it was during the actual conflict in Spain. It puts two powerful and aggressive opponents along another border.

Since the Democratic doctrine is menaced it involves a period of anxiety for America for it is in this country that the doctrine of democracy flourishes to its full flower and it is to this country that the remaining democracies of Europe will look during these troublesome times.



WASHINGTON

Whenever I have an opportunity to roam around Washington, the place where I lived and went to school from the time I was ten until I was 21, I get new impressions of the Nation's Capital, and the people who live in it.

More and more I am impressed with the feeling that Washington is becoming the nation's center not only politically but in the fields of science and arts, as well as of information on every imaginable subject.

In the Library of Congress for example, there are more books and documents than in any other one place in the world, all indexed and available for reference. A new eight-million-dollar annex has just been added to the Library to accommodate the growing store of knowledge on every subject under the sun.

The new National Art Gallery, the gift of the late Andrew Mellon, is nearing completion. It will house the finest collection of paintings in the world, in addition to two great art collections already in Washington. Nearly all the important scientific societies have headquarters in Washington, and more and more national business organizations are establishing themselves in the Capital also.

PEOPLES

Every race and nation of the world is represented in Washington, either by an ambassador and his staff, or by larger groups.

Of the racial strains which make up the American people there is a higher percentage of Negroes than the average for the whole nation. The largest Negro institution of learning, Howard University, is located in Washington, turning out doctors, lawyers and teachers who go forth to serve the people of their own race.

There is a large number of Negroes of both sexes employed in the Government offices. Nearly all official elevators are run by colored girls, and the messenger, doorkeeper and janitor staffs of the departments are practically all Negroes. They get good pay, life jobs and pensions at retirement age. A few Negroes hold really important Government positions, but they are the exceptions.

The majority of Washington Negroes live in alley slums, which furnish about the worst living conditions to be found in any large city. Many public officials have tried to do something about the Washington slums, but little has been done effectively.

VOTES

For years there has been a strong movement to give the citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote. So many of those holding Government offices, however, find it important to retain their voting residences in their home states, that the movement to give the District residents the franchise has been blocked by the fear of Negro control of the local government as much as by any other one cause. Nearly a third of Washington's permanent residents are Negroes.

While separate schools are provided for the colored folk, they cannot legally be segregated in street cars or excluded from seats in theatres. Once across the Potomac, in Virginia Negroes have to ride in "Jim Crow" cars.

PREJUDICE

I seem to have got into a discussion of racial prejudices. That subject is up toward the top of world discussions right now. It is almost unescapable.

I know few, if any, persons who do not have a feeling that some or all people of other races than their own are inferior in one way or another. I believe that is an inherent and ineradicable trait of human nature. But such prejudices are no excuse for depriving those we dislike of their common human rights.

We can admire the achievements of persons of a different race without giving a blanket endorsement of the whole race. The wise thing, it seems to me, is to tolerate all races and welcome whatever contributions they can make to the general good, without either banishing them, as Hitler is doing with the Jews, or opening the doors of our private lives to them.

Equality under the law is one thing, which every good American should insist upon, especially if the legal rights of one of another race are infringed. But social equality is something else. The right to choose one's associates and friends is as sacred as the right to worship according to one's individual conscience.

MUSIC

There are two races which stand out among all others for their achievements in the field of

music. The Negroes. Probably a majority of the outstanding musicians of the past two centuries have been Negroes. Certainly musical ability is more common among Negroes than among the white races generally.

Many eminent critics of today say, The European-trained craftsman has a head start on them. He is a master of his trade when the American boys are just beginning to learn it.

For the genius and the intellectual who do better in the white-collar occupations or the professions, there is much to be said for the American system. But I cannot help feeling that it handicaps a great many youngsters whose capacity is for the sort of work which does not call so much for schooling as for skill in the use of hands and tools. They are the ones who really create wealth.

LIBERTY

One thing the Kirschenblatts found in America, and which little David will grow up to consider the natural state of everybody, is liberty. In the dark and troubled countries of Central Europe, where he came from, few of the people have anything which we of America would call liberty, and none of his race has it at all.

In America David Kirschenblatt will find that the fact that he is a Jew does not put him under any more restraint than his Christian schoolmates are under. He will not be denied civil and social rights because of his racial strain, he will be free to think as he pleases, speak as he pleases, do as he pleases so long as he doesn't do anything to infringe on the equal right of anybody else to do the same. If he doesn't like the government, he can say so as loudly as he pleases and nobody will put him in jail.

We take our liberty so much for granted that we cannot realize what it means to people who come from a country where they have lived in constant fear of the secret police, of being robbed of their possessions by the government, of being denied the right to live and travel where and how they please. Perhaps we need some new blood in America, to help bring back the old ideals of liberty as the most precious thing in the world, the one thing worth dying for.

WAX POTATOES

Two Cornell University scientists found that treating seed Irish potatoes with a 30 per cent 231-B wax emulsion while still in a dormant condition resulted in a stimulation of sprout growth, an earlier emergence of plants, and a corresponding increase in yield.

QUICKER

Through the use of advanced methods, the U. S. Weather Bureau will soon start a quicker forecast service for 25 to 50 principal cities.

WILLIAMS MOTOR CO.
TELEPHONE 334-J
T. H. Williams, Owner
Oldsmobile Sales-Service
Bear Frame Service and Wheel Alignment
General Auto Repairing
Wrecker Service—Electric and Acetylene Welding
USED PARTS—For all makes and models of cars and trucks

Need Additional Sums For Relief

Washington, March 9.—Col. F. Harrington, WPA administrator, advised President Roosevelt today that unless Congress provided the \$150,000,000 it slashed from the relief bill earlier this session there would be "serious" reductions in employment rolls next month.

The WPA chief told a press conference today that when he talked to Mr. Roosevelt Wednesday he informed him that even though the \$150,000,000 was appropriated by Congress it still would be necessary to trim WPA rolls about 150,000. He added, however, that this reduction had been intended by the President under original plans when the chief executive asked Congress for an \$875,000,000 fund.

Congress, in approving an appropriation of \$725,000,000, said the administration could come back for more money if an emergency arose. Mr. Roosevelt has

announced to carry, with the beginning of the next fiscal year on July 1.

Harrington went to the capitol earlier today to plead with senators to preserve work relief projects for "white collar" unemployed.

He told the senate committee on unemployment that the pending Byrnes bill to create a new department of public works and alter the social security system made an apparent provision for continuing such projects.

"This is a serious omission which would deny to a large number of needy unemployed persons an opportunity to secure WPA assistance on useful public work of a type for which they are qualified in terms of their experience in private employment", he said.

First indoor rodeo in California will be staged in the Livestock Coliseum at the World's Fair of the West, May 12 to 22.

See our field and garden seeds before you buy. PEASE SON BROS. 2-13-4t

WHEN IT COMES TO SMOKING PLEASURE AT ITS BEST... I'LL TAKE CAMELS EVERY TIME

Camel—the cigarette of Costlier Tobaccos

NOTICE!

AS A SPECIAL INDUCEMENT TO ACQUAINT THE PUBLIC WITH OUR SUPERIOR RADIO REPAIR SERVICE, A—

20% Cash Discount

will be allowed on all Parts, Tubes and Repair Work brought to our store—

— THIS WEEK ONLY —

Regular prices will be in effect after this week

Radios Repaired Free!

First Radio brought to our store on any day this week will be Repaired Free. (Parts not included).

Be sure to take advantage of this exceptional offer!

Complete Stock Tubes and Parts at All Times

W. H. COOPER
Radio Sales & Service Co.
"B" Street, Next Door to Liberty Theatre
Telephone 134 North Wilkesboro, N. C.

"WE WANT YOU TO BE OUR GUEST AT KELVINATOR'S 25TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!"

Duke Power Co.
— OFFICE —
Friday, March 17th
2 TO 5 P. M.

Refreshments Will Be Served To All Visitors.

DUKE POWER COMPANY

We want you to see the sensational Silver Jubilee Kelvinators... and you can be our guest and enjoy the refreshments served by our hostess if you will visit our showrooms during this Birthday party. Come! Bring your friends and make it a Silver Jubilee Birthday Party. We're looking for you... so be here as our guest.