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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1940

A Dis-United States?

We hear a lot these days about "state trade barriers." Most of us don't bother much about them, because we have the feeling that state tariffs and use taxes and the rest don't bear down upon us very directly or very heavily.

Take the following case as an example of what might happen if this new type of state tax were carried to a logical—or rather, illogical—extreme:

A resident of New York State buys two cartons of cigarettes in New Jersey. He starts to drive through New York City on his way to his home, which is well outside the city limits. He is stopped by an inspector and brought into court charged with possessing cigarettes on which the city tax has not been paid.

But, he explains, he isn't planning to smoke the cigarettes in the city. He only comes there once a week, anyway, and besides that, one carton out of the two was for his wife.

Doesn't matter, the inspector maintains: the defendant might end up by smoking some of the cigarettes in New York City. Even if he doesn't, there should be state tax stamps on them.

On that basis, the man is held for trial. Fanciful, you say: these taxes will never be carried to that extreme. Well, as a matter of fact, the above story is a description of an actual case recently brought to court in New York City. And it points a warning finger to what may happen to the average citizen if the tendency of states to erect tax barriers against each other continues unabated.

Incidents like the above seem trivial in themselves. They shouldn't be dismissed from the mind as lightly as that, however. For they are storm signals, warning us of the coming of a time in the not-so-distant future when the states of this country, through foolishly erecting high tax barriers against the free flow of commerce, may change the proper name of this country from "the U. S. A." to the "Dis-united States of America."

RALEIGH RUMBLINGS
by
A. Lawrence Aydlett

Charlotte merchants have been reported as well-pleased with the selection of the "Queen City" as the first in this section of the country for the trial of the food stamp plan of distributing surplus commodities.

The plan involves the issuance of two kinds of certificates. Orange stamps may be bought and for every dollar spent in their purchase blue stamps valued at fifty cents will be given the purchaser.

No stamps may be used in buying tobacco, soft drinks or other goods that may be consumed on the premises, but may be used only for the purchase of food. Blue stamps will buy only certain designated products in which there exist conditions of overproduction and which are distributed through the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation to county welfare departments to be given to relief clients.

Other North Carolina communities are watching with interest the operation of the plan in the Mecklenburg area, some perhaps with the idea of angling with the Federal agencies to be included in the experiment.

Nearly all of North Carolina's county jails are on the blacklist as far as taking care of Federal prisoners is concerned, but McDowell county won't be as soon as its new jail is completed.

With aid from the WPA about \$48,000 will be spent in providing modern quarters for 56 prisoners in the form of an annex to the court house. Sheriff Grady Nichols will have offices and living quarters in the new building and one section will be left unfinished inside to provide space for future care of 16 more prisoners. V. W. Brees, Shelby, was architect for the new jail.

Levels Criticism At Fee System Of Paying Officers

The worst problem in the administration of justice is the fee system of paying arresting officers and jailers, according to W. Curtis Ezell, director of the division of institutions and corrections of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. Ezell made the statement at an Institute on Crime and Delinquency sponsored recently by two Wake county organizations.

"Most of the persons connected with the fee system are sincere, honest and capable, but the system is so subject to abuse that it can easily discredit some honest and well-intentioned employee or official," Ezell said. He added that he believed the "baneful practice" had a tendency to swell the number of arrests.

The director pointed out that three persons are brought into some county jail in North Carolina every twenty minutes of the day and night, making a total of some 80,000 a year.

The average length of stay is about eight days for the 1700 average daily county jail population cared for at a cost of 65 cents a day or about \$900,000 a year spent from county treasuries.

Ezell scored the current disregard by county health authorities of the law requiring physical examination of each prisoner within 48 hours after commitment to jail as a danger of spreading tuberculosis and syphilitic infection.

The director said too many

children under 14 years of age are jailed with no good purpose served and in violation of the attorney general's ruling that such practice is illegal.

The people of North Carolina have made two mistakes, Ezell said, first in mistaking as delinquency acts resulting from a lack of adjustment to society because of inadequate intellectual comprehension of cause and effect. It is not wise, and second in not providing adequate institutions and public education facilities to meet the needs of the mentally retarded child.

The highest percent of farm profit comes from the vegetable garden and pasture kept free of weeds.

Liberties

Harry B. Caldwell, speaking here last week as Master of the North Carolina State Grange, said that political and religious liberties for which our ancestors struggled to obtain are endangered because we do not have economic freedom.

His statement of lack of economic freedom was based on the present economic status of ten million unemployed and about half the farmers being tenants.

His reasoning is food for serious thought.

In Europe Hitler took political freedom from the German people and in return gave them jobs or at least a semblance of economic security. In Italy about the same thing has happened and in Russia the people lost all freedom for the promise of economic security.

It all reminds us of the logic of not being able to talk freedom and liberty to a man with an empty stomach. He is too liable not to listen unless his necessary physical wants are filled.

It is true that great sacrifices in economic welfare were made in the struggle by early Americans for freedom. But this democracy worked so well that it provided great opportunities for private initiative until recent years of depression.

Political and religious freedom have a value beyond material valuation but to get the "forgotten man" to believe that when he is down and out is indeed difficult.

Paternalism by the government has hampered many until they care nothing about getting ahead of the game and are content to live in the belief that the government will insure their existence.

Hitler's war machine in Germany has provided jobs at subsistence wages and the people, at least a majority, seem to be well pleased with the system because they do not know of anything better. We in America were born and reared in freedom and surely we would not let it go for mere subsistence wages.

Borrowed Comment

SUNSPOTS?
(Statesville Daily)

Maybe all the neilishness that is going on in the world today is chargeable to sunspots. Certainly Hitler, Stalin & Company are not on the warpath by any analysis based on reason. And now comes word that dogs are hunting in packs down in South Carolina with about as much reason as is in evidence in Europe.

Says an item in the news columns: "A band of canine outlaws, led by two German police dogs, and a cur, are playing havoc with calves, pigs, turkeys and chickens in the country between York and Delphos. The marauding dogs are said to be homeless, ownerless and to subsist entirely on animals they kill."

If one has more than passing acquaintance with the German police dog, which for some reason or another, has found high favor here in late years, he can understand that a couple of these big fellows, bolstered by the loyalty of a pack of mongrels, could play the dickens in the barnlot when they set out with a lust for blood. That such marauding has been revived simultaneously with similar human depravity must be attributed to some out-of-the-ordinary cause like—sunspots.

The older among us remember when "sheepkilling dogs" were the scourge of the neighborhood and how smart and wary they were in their operation. Their destruction was enormous at times, and irate farmers had to take up arms against the canines. Always it was the other fellow's dog, and if a treasured hound happened to be at the receiving end of a shotgun, he was there in all innocence, out of curiosity or just coming home from a frolic and his untimely death brought resentment from his owner and neighborhood feuds arose that were a long time healing. But in late years this practice has gone out of style in dogdom, or at least it was so curtailed as not to attract much notice. And so when South Carolina dogs make front page with their antics, one must conclude that something unusual is in the air. Maybe it really is—sunspots.

In The Spring

Days of brilliant sunshine, moderate temperatures and sprigs of green grass cropping out here and there all serve as gentle reminders that the glorious season of spring is near.

Mother nature looks out and provides for almost everything. Spring is the season when new growth begins, sprouting from the reserves seasoned and laid away during the dark winter months. Summer is the season when new growth begins. Summer is the season of nature's growth and production and fall is the time of harvest.

In spite of attacks of spring fever and general laziness on the first warm days, spring is the season of added energy and initiative when human lives feel that if they ever did accomplish anything it is time to begin.

A great part of the world today faces spring with gloom because it means the beginning of gigantic hostilities in killing men in the most terrible of all unnecessary catastrophes—war.

But in America today the thoughts of its best citizenship are of peace, prosperity and progress. Americans today as never before represent the backbone of civilization and their responsibility is greater because they will have to shoulder the burden of finding ways and means to help peoples of nations committing suicide in war.

During the past two decades men have studied and worked to find ways and means of making life easier and happier. In warring nations this talent which has been in constructive channels to find methods of increasing and making easier the span of life has been conscripted to find ways of ending life.

Unless America keeps the torchlight of progress burning, civilization is due for a terrible upset as a result of war.

Men and women of rich attainments and ability are usually modest and unassuming, while the empty-headed people all too often feverishly lift themselves above the crowd as if afraid they may not receive the attention they think they deserve. One of the surest evidences of true greatness is a humble spirit—"The Uplift"

"CONFUCIUS SAY"
(Morganton News-Herald)

If you are feeling rather disgusted with these "Confucius Say" absurdities that seem to have taken hold of the country, perhaps you may be interested in some of the things the sixth century Confucius, a great leader and teacher, really did say. Here are a few:

"The cautious seldom err."
"It is better to be mean than insubordinate."
"In style all that is required is that it convey the meaning."
"A poor man does not flatter."
"What the superior man seeks is in himself."
"What the small man thinks is in others."
"Learning, undigested by thought, is labor lost."
"Thought, unassisted by learning, is dangerous."
"The superior man is dignified, but does not wrangle."
"While you do not know life what can you know about death?"
"The wise men must wither away like the plant."

Congressman Kerr Files As Candidate For Renomination

Washington. — Representative John H. Kerr Monday announced he had filed his notice of candidacy for renomination as representative of the second North Carolina district.

In entering the congressional race for the tenth time in his political career, Kerr declined to make an official statement regarding his candidacy. Pointing to his long record of service in the house, which began on November 6, 1923, Kerr indicated that he preferred to let that record constitute his statement.

Let the advertising columns of this paper be your shopping guide

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
Having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Mrs. Laura Hester, deceased, late of Wilkes County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Moravian Falls, North Carolina on or before the 14th day of February, 1941, or this Notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 14th day of February, 1940.

MRS. OCTIE B. GRIER,
Administrator of Mrs. Laura Hester, Deceased.

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