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Tuesday, August 30, 1949

Place the People's Rights First

North Carolina's road contractors seem to be greatly upset about the four or five million dollar purchase of machinery and equipment by the State for road building. We are in sympathy with the contractors when it comes to the protection of their just rights. But if the road contractors have any idea that the people voted to tax themselves 200 million dollars to pave the way to luxurious retirement for the few road contractors, it would seem they'll have another idea to ponder.

If the road contractors are willing to get into the program with the expectation of receiving a fair return for their work, then let the contractors build the roads. It would be a sorry mess if the State stood idly by and turned 200 million dollars over to the contractors, lock, stock and barrel with the admonition to go ahead and be good boys.

If the road contractors would gain the public trust and support for their cause, the token bid will be eliminated. The contractors must bet in there and fight for contracts, not without reason but with the claim that they are entitled to a fair profit on their work.

No one really knows, possibly, but rumors have it that projects have been divided, so to speak, with quite a few contractors entering token bids.

And if it is socialism as some claim it is for the State to buy machinery and act to protect the people and that \$200 million, then let's have more of it. It'll be a sad day

in North Carolina if at the end of the \$200 million, rope there'll be a lot of but a crop of millionaire road contractors.

A Change Must Come

Despite organized opposition, the Brannan plan or some similar system must come into the agriculture picture in this land. While the present parity plan suits us and most of the farmers, it can't go on indefinitely.

Under the present plan, the government takes the surplus, pays the farmers and then dumps the surplus at a tremendous loss in foreign countries. Not so long ago millions of pounds of peanuts, bought by the government, were moved out of this county and literally "dumped" in foreign countries.

Remember all the howl raised about dumping Irish potatoes about a year ago? As far as the cost to the taxpayer is concerned it cost just as much and more to buy the peanuts, shell and clean and deliver them to Europe as it did to burn the surplus Irish potatoes.

There must be some way to work the American taxpayer into the program. At the present time, the man in the foreign country whatever his need, is in the favored position. Under the present plan the farmer supposedly gets a fair price for his produce, the taxpayer pays for that support and the man in foreign lands reaps the benefit.

A Little Inconsistent

Labor.

A Geneva, Switzerland, representatives of the United States, Britain, Russia and other countries, both democratic and communist, adopt new "rules of war," prepared by an International Red Cross conference.

These rules forbid "taking of hostages, reprisals, torture, mass deportations" and other practices used against civilians by some invading countries during the Second World War.

Thus mankind laudably tries to limit some war cruelties to civilians, while atomic bombs, deadly germs and other new weapons assure that helpless civilian men, women and children will be slaughtered on an unprecedented scale in any future war.

Seems a little inconsistent, doesn't it?

To Build Up and Not To Exploit

The International Bank recently lent \$15,000,000 to the Netherlands to build up its economy. As long as the Dutch use the money to build up, there can be no serious objection to the loan. But if the Dutch propose to use the money to exploit Indonesia, they should be called to task.

Too many American dollars have been sent abroad to finance dictators who worked to make their positions secure at the expense of the people.

The American Tax Bill Exceeded 54 Billion Last Year

Federal Government Collected About Three-Fourths of Total

The American tax bill for the year ending June 30, 1949, reached a new record of \$54,500,000,000— an average of \$372 per person— according to figures just issued by the Census Bureau. The compilation included all taxes, federal, state, and local. The previous high, according to the bureau, was \$53,000,000,000 for the year ended in mid-1945. Two years later, tax collections dropped to \$49,600,000,000, \$344 per capita.

Nearly three-fourths (\$40,100,000,000) of the 1948 tax total, or \$274 a person, was collected by the federal government. State governments took \$53 per capita, local governments the remaining \$45.

The principal tax items were as follows:

- (1) Taxes on individual incomes, which took in \$19,800,000,000 or more than one-third of all governmental revenue in fiscal 1948.
- (2) Sales and gross-receipts taxes and customs. They provided \$12,100,000,000 in 1948, a gain of seven percent over 1947 and 113 percent over 1942.
- (3) Corporation income taxes, which yielded \$10,300,000,000— bettering their 1947 mark but falling one-third below their record in 1945, when the excess-profits tax still was in force.

The biggest single source of local government revenue was, as usual, property taxes. These took in \$6,100,000,000, with local governments getting nearly \$5,900,000,000 of it and states the rest. Property-tax revenue was up 11 percent from 1947 and 35 percent from 1942.

Recently the department of Commerce reported that personal incomes increased in June to bring the first six months of 1949 to a level 2.6 percent higher than in the first half of 1948. For the

period, January through June, personal income was at the annual rate of \$213,460,000,000. An increase in farm income was cited by the department as the main cause of the June increase in personal income as compared to May, for which the annual rate was \$212,900,000,000. Farm income went up, the department said, because of an increased volume of crops sold or placed under government loan. Perhaps more significantly, however, factory payrolls were credited with a slight increase in June after having declined steadily since last September. Wages rose in the non-durable-goods industries and steadied in the durable-goods lines, the department said.

The man who says he runs things around the house is referring to the lawn mower, washing machine, vacuum cleaner and errands.

The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.

Joe: "That's a pretty dress you have on."
Jane: "Yes. I only wear it to teas."
Joe: "Whom?"

Laid end to end, the 28 billion containers produced in the United States last year would circle the earth 70 times, and they used as much steel as the framework for 51 Empire State buildings.

What this country needs at this time of year is a road map that will lead us as easy as a walk.

NOTICE
North Carolina, Martin County. Having this day qualified as executor of the estate of Willie Bailey, late of Martin County, this is to notify all persons having any claims against this estate to present them to the undersigned, or his attorney on or before twelve months from the expiration of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded as a bar to any recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This the 27th day of August, 1949.
Spencer Wynne, Executor.
au 30 se 6-13 20-27 cc 4

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
Having this day qualified as administrator of the estate of the late C. B. Roebuck, deceased, of Martin County, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to present them for payment on or before the 18th day of August 1950, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This the 2nd day of August, 1949.

Russell T. Roebuck,
Administrator.
au 9-16-23-30 se 6-13

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having this day qualified as administrator of the estate of Donald Biggs Harrison, deceased, late of Martin County, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to present them for payment on or before the 18th day of August 1950, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This the 18th day of August 1949. Don B. Harrison, Jr., Administrator.
au 23-30 se 6-13 20-27

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