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Designed For Those At The Top

There's still talk about limiting income taxes to 25 percent of income. It is indeed apparent that the plan is being advanced mostly in behalf of those at the top of our economic ladder.

All kinds of arguments have been and are still being advanced for the limited income tax take, but not one word has been spoken in the name of masses. Possibly, the big boys would get more sympathy if they proposed to lower sales taxes, excise taxes and the thousands of other taxes that are paid in greater proportion by the little folks. But the cause of the little guy means nothing to those who would feather their own nests with a 25 percent income tax limit.

Yes, taxes are high, but it is a lot easier to understand how one with a large income can live after paying 50 or 75 percent income taxes than it is to understand how one with an inadequate income can live, taxes or no taxes.

Supports Are Vital

News & Observer

After nearly two decades farmers have come to take government price supports for granted and recently have devoted their energies to denouncing price ceilings without stopping to think that price supports might be endangered by that opposition.

The opening of the tobacco season in the Eastern Carolina Belt this week has shown that price supports are vital to tobacco farmers. Opening day prices were below expectations and lower than could be justified for tobacco of average quality. There are, indeed, indications that higher prices may be expected from later and better tobacco on the warehouse floors.

A few weeks ago farm leaders were worrying about ceilings on tobacco and were using their fears as an excuse for opposing ceilings which would have limited beef producers to 125 per cent of parity, a figure that Representative Harold D. Cooley this week told the North Carolina Food Dealers the beef producers "could not stand."

Those fears have now evaporated and farmers would be thankful to be getting "parity", which now stands at 56.3 cents a pound. So far the average has been nearer the support price of 50.7 cents and if there had been no support the price would have been considerably lower. As it is, the government-financed Stabilization Corporation is now taking 18 percent of the crop at the support price, which in some instances was as much as twice the highest bid by any other buyer.

Beef producers may not be able to stand prices as low as 125 per cent of parity. But tobacco growers are "standing" prices well below parity and if support prices were taken away from them they would have to "stand" prices a great deal lower. Growers attribute the drop in prices from last year (when the opening day average for higher quality offerings was 58 cents as compared with 52 cents this year) as being largely due to a 14 per cent increase in acreage, which the buyers themselves requested. That increase has resulted in a crop estimated at 476 million pounds as compared with 423 million last year. This small increase is only a fraction of the increase that would be inevitable if the controls, upon which supports are based, should be abandoned.

Yet, it is impossible for any fairminded person to contend that farmers should be protected against unjustly low prices and that there should not be any protection, even in wartime, for consumers against unjustly high prices.

The next time price controls are before Congress farmers should think upon these things instead of following blindly leaders who are intent upon eating their cake and having it, too.

**All Right For Some
All Wrong For Others**

There is a movement being advanced by some of the ordinarily conservative group to increase merchant marine subsidies. Possibly the subsidies are in order, but when a senator in Washington can't understand it is just as important to raise food as it is to haul food, he has no business in or even near Washington.

Some of those who are now crying for merchant marine subsidies have branded as socialistic every phase of the farm program. And anyone who says the farm program is socialistic and then turns and favors subsidies for just about everybody else is just a tool in the hands of the big boys.

Before more subsidies are voted the maritime commission, let the big boys explain away the Doliar Steam Line deal.

What Is Cooperation?

By Ruth Taylor

In every time of national crisis or emergency, we are urged to "cooperate". The word is used almost as though it were magic, as if, when by some happy chance we should achieve a state of cooperation, all our troubles would disappear. It really doesn't need a national emergency to tell us that. We know perfectly well that if all groups in this country, or in the world, would work together, nine-tenths of our difficulties would disappear.

But with the repetition of the word cooperation has come confusion. Each group wants its opponents to cooperate with it - only when they say cooperate they generally mean give in. And each group unfortunately uses as an excuse for its own shortcomings, the statement that the other side won't cooperate, forgetting that there must be a real "give and take" attitude, not merely the will to take.

Let's not try to determine where the blame lies, but get back to the fact of just what cooperation is. According to the dictionary it is "joint action - working together".

The Communists don't think we can do it. They fear freedom. They believe that a nation of free men will not cooperate, that they will pull in a thousand different and selfish directions at once - and get nowhere. But they are ignorant of the basic meaning of cooperation.

Cooperation is a joint action. It means that all will have to freely and intelligently move together, like a machine where each part has its particular function to fulfill, but also like a machine that is built correctly, so that each part is capable of taking up its share of the stress and strain.

Organized Labor knows the value of cooperation. The gains it has made for all workmen are evidence of the power of cooperation. The same principles that have made labor organizations effective need now to be applied to national affairs. Organized Labor proved its point by making the organized workmen more valuable to Capital than the unorganized, and it did this by making its individual members better equipped for their work. The emphasis in cooperation should be not on what the other person has not done, but upon constructive working together.

By all means let us cooperate - but cooperate by each doing the full measure of his share in the work for the common good. Cooperate not in comparison with an other's cooperation with you - but to the fullest extent of your own powers. The command is, as it always has been, "Give and it shall be given unto you. For with the same measure ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Robbery

It has been claimed that large-scale buying makes for lower prices. But when the military stepped into the market to buy more than eleven million pairs of combat boots the price jumped from \$7.82 to \$16. Some blame the military for the robbery, declaring that the military has an absurd system of buying. On the other hand, it looks as if the military was maneuvered into a vulnerable position and given a terrific price sock.

Maybe, the whole deal was based on supply and demand, but the demand for profit seems to have held the commanding position, making the sale look like armed robbery.

Changes

Electric Light and Power Magazine says "Electric power has changed farming from a livelihood into an industry."

Well, the change there is not yet complete in this section, but it has been great, to be sure. An even greater change and one the magazine says nothing about, was that one which "invited" electric power from the urban areas to the rural areas. For a long time, power and light for the farmer were something to be desired but not practical.

Society is no comfort to one not sociable. —Shakespeare.

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