

# Widows And Aged Pick Flaws In Mellon Plan

Woman of Eighty Who Lives on Her Investments Asks Why She Should Pay More Tax Than Young Teacher of Equal Income and Assured Pension

By DAVID LAWRENCE  
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Washington, Jan. 12.—Congress is beginning to hear from the country on the subject of earned incomes as contrasted with unearned incomes.

Widows, orphans, invalids, pensioners and others whose main source of income is derived from investments are asking that they be given the same 25 per cent reduction as would be granted under the Mellon plan to the wage-earner and salaried individual.

Senator Smoot, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, feels sure that before the tax bill is finally adopted some amendment to take care of those who would be affected by the unearned income question will have to be inserted.

The viewpoint of the unearned income class is expressed to some extent by letters like the following which came from a woman eighty years old:

"I am eighty years old. I can do several kinds of work quite well but nobody will hire me—and I don't blame them. I interited some money the income from which enables me to live in a modest way. I began to earn my own living at the age of 15 and continued until I was past fifty. Since that time my income has been an uncertain amount, sometimes so small that I have been obliged to use my principal for current expenses which, of course, permanently reduced my income. Right now I am wondering if I shall have any income this month, the money due January first, not having materialized.

"At dinner tonight I shall meet a vigorous young woman who earns her living as principal of a grammar school and whose income is more than mine ever was and who can retire on a pension (which is a sure thing) when she is sixty. Just why should she be excused by twenty five per cent on the payment of her income tax?

"The Government seems to give so much attention to various classes of people—farmers, merchants, children, labor unions, etc. Does it ever consider the welfare of the very aged? They are singularly helpless and may be wholly useless and therefore not worth considering."

The complaints from others who are in the unearned income class range from the widows who have families to support out of the income of life insurance bequests to invalids and other dependents who live on funds either accumulated by them when they were able to earn their own living or invested for them by others.

The situation can be cured in large part by the adoption of an amendment which would place all persons of the unearned income group who receive amounts up to five or seven thousand dollars a year in the same category as the earned income group, namely making the twenty-five per cent reduction apply to both. This, of course, might have to be limited only to those whose income tax returns show that this income is their only means of support because otherwise it might operate as a twenty-five per cent reduction on the first five or seven thousand dollars received from investments by those who are well able to pay a higher tax because they have some other source of income.

Some talk is being heard about limiting the twenty-five per cent reduction on earned incomes only up to and including twenty-five thousand dollar incomes. Such a proposal is not, of course, predicted on the idea that it is just for the one class of earned income to be distinguished from another but simply on the theory that persons above twenty-five thousand dollars even though they use physical or mental energy instead of money capital can afford to pay the higher tax. The objections to this will be numerous no doubt as it will be called a tax on brains and a destroyer of incentive.

The treasury has given no indication as yet that it will approve any of the amendments suggested either for the earned or the unearned income groups but some modification will surely be made in either the Senate or House.

## VANSCIVER ONCE SAILED THE SEAS

Captain Simmons Tells Interesting Story of Run From Norfolk to Philadelphia Some Years Ago.

Few Elizabeth City folks know that the good ship Annie L. Vansciver sailed the bounding main on at least one occasion. This interesting fact came to light during a conversation between a reporter for The Advance and Captain Riley M. Simmons. Captain Simmons is now master of this well-known and popular "flagship" of the North River Line, Inc. That is a new thing, so far as Elizabeth City people are concerned, but as a matter of fact, the "Annie L. Vansciver" is by no means a strange vessel to Captain Simmons. He comes to the North River Line, Inc., highly recommended by the "Norfolk Lighterage Company," where he served under Captain John T. Crank, vice-president and manager, and well known as a former "Curritucker." Captain Simmons also is highly recommended by the Chesapeake Ferry Company, having served 10 years with that company when he was master of the steamer "Oceanview" going from Willoughby Spit to Old Point.

It was while with the Chesapeake Ferry Company that Captain Simmons went the outside route on the Annie L. Vansciver from Norfolk to Philadelphia. The "Annie L." belonged to the Chesapeake Ferry Company at that time. He says a southwestern was "running down behind her" and although a successful trip was made, he wouldn't care to make a steady practice of using this good boat for ocean-going as she was never built for it. She was sent to Philadelphia for some repairs on that occasion and of course carried an "outside pilot," but Captain Simmons had been master of the boat before his present connection. That was when she was on the Willoughby Spit and Old Point run. It is a coincidence, but Captain Simmons delivered the Annie L. Vansciver to her present owners at the time she was purchased back in 1912.

Captain Simmons was born at Churches Island, Currituck County, in 1885. That makes him only 38 years of age, but in spite of his comparatively youth he has been steamboating "all his life," having started as a boy of 14. He is an experienced passenger man. At the time he was on the Vansciver she was equipped to carry about 650 passengers.

Captain Simmons has a wife and two daughters and they make their home in Norfolk.

Captain Simmons has an able assistant as his mate, Garfield F. Johnson, a native of Pasquotank, who has been with the North River Line Inc., for several years.

The Vansciver is a popular boat, her length is 127 feet; beam 27 feet, and her gross tonnage is 194.

C. H. Brock, the popular Treasurer, Superintendent and Purchasing Agent of the North River Line, Inc., says he considers his friends the greatest of his assets and wants them to meet Captain Simmons.

## TEN TO ONE FAVOR THE WORLD COURT

Leaders of Public Opinion in State Unanimous in This Sentiment and in Country Nearly So.

The United States Senate has been asked to give its consent, on the terms proposed by President Harding on February 24th, to adhesion by the United States to the protocol of the Permanent Court of International Justice by 91 per cent of the members of the National Council of the National Economic League who voted on a referendum mailed to them on November 21.

This vote is an accurate reflection of public opinion. The National Economic League believes, for the reason that the National Council is composed of men from every state, who are elected by preferential ballot solely with the view to their standing or qualification as leaders of public opinion.

The referendum was worded as follows:

"Should the United States Senate at this session of Congress promptly give its advice and consent to adhesion by the United States to the protocol of the Permanent Court of International Justice on the terms proposed by President Harding on February 24, 1923?"

The vote was: Yes, 1691; no, 155. The returns from each state, which the league also publishes, indicate that public opinion on the subject is practically the same in all parts of

the country. In Michigan, Idaho, North Carolina, Rhode Island and Oregon the affirmative vote was unanimous. The largest percentage of affirmative votes came from New Mexico, the vote in that state being 15 "yes" and 0 "no."

The following members took the State voted "yes": J. T. J. Batten, Joseph G. Brown, W. Vance Brown, Joan F. Burton, J. L. S. Carr, J. R. Wood Cox, Dr. L. S. Blades, T. S. Franklin, A. W. McAlister, J. R. O'Flaherty, Robert L. Steele, S. M. D. Stockton and Frank Wood.

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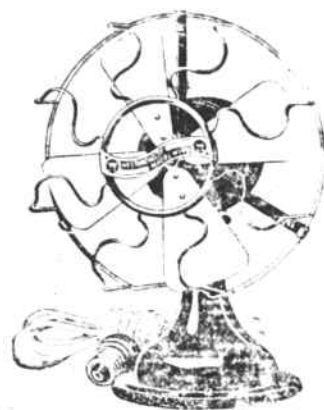
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Third, the product which—in lucid moments—its owner will admit is no better than others of its kind. For such a product advertising can create a personality that will make it stand out from competing products like the one lighted house in a row of dark ones.

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