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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1978

Half a trillion!

For most Americans the thing that may stand out most about President Carter's new budget is the fact that it has reached a staggering \$500 billion. Remember the days of Harry Truman, say, when the total budget hovered around the \$50 billion mark? The man in the street knows that inflation accounts for a good share of that enormous leap into the financial stratosphere. But it ought not to be forgotten that it reflects, too, the nation's extraordinary economic growth -- the gross national product this year for the first time will top \$2 trillion.

Nonetheless, the first budget Mr. Carter can truly call his own carries his stamp as a fiscal conservative. It is in effect a flat, "current services" budget that allows little room for new spending programs. In real terms, it is up only 2 percent over the previous year, a restraint that is in general welcome given the sizable budget increases in prior years. Even so, the budget deficit could run as high as \$60 billion, confirming that the President will not be able to meet his goal of balancing the budget in 1981.

Instead he has reversed his priorities. He now looks to tax reductions as the prime vehicle for stimulating the economy, maintaining modest growth, and bringing down unemployment levels. He thus intends to rely primarily -- wisely, we believe -- on the private rather than the government sector to solve the serious economic problems which still beset the country.

This is bound to displease the liberal Democrats in Congress and, now that the lawmakers have their own effective budget-making machinery in place, there is little doubt they will minutely scrutinize nd do some reshuffling of Mr. Carter's priorities. At the heart of he discussions will be the President's proposal to see this sum used to create jobs and for other social purposes. To be sure, the tax cut will look good to voters at election time and it therefore has its political advantages. But at the same time we find it hard to fault Mr. Carter with trying to alleviate the economic burden on the broad middle class which is faced with severe hikes in social security taxes and is also being pushed into higher and higher tax brackets because of inflation. Inasmuch as consumer spending is the engine being relied on to keep the economy moving, a tax reduction would seem to he warranted for both economic and psychological reasons.

On specific budget items, the President has reasonably shifted some priorities. We welcome his enhanced attention to the defense needs of NATO in the light of the Soviet build-up of strategic and conventional forces in Europe. We also like the increases for basic scientific research, which has been falling behind in recent years, and for such social purposes as training of youths and minorities.

At first reading, however, we are disappointed not to see bigger savings in individual budget categories. When Mr. Carter came into office it was thought he would tackle zero-base budgeting and other reforms with a vengeance. He has made a little progress, certainly, but one does not sense any great effort to cut back in such areas as civil service, defense, and military pension schemes, for instance. Those who know their way around the Pentagon's complex defense budget believe \$10 billion could normally be shaved from it without damaging the nation's security. This is the kind of bold approach we had earlier expected of Mr. Carter.

In sum, the President appears to be charting a cautious budgetary route that will keep the economy on an even keel and cause the fewest waves politically. Like his leadership generally, there is little rocking of the boat. This may be a colorless approach but, given the complexity of today's problems, perhaps a safe one. -- Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files



HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

By now taxpayers have received their annual greeting from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and it is appropriate that it arrive. as always, in the middle of flu season.

The greeting hasn't changed much from last year. It's about as warm as the weather.

It'll be different next year. Since taxpayers have been reading be-tween the lines anyway, the com-missioner is going to let it all hang out. The message will read some-thing like this thing like this: FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Here is your Form 1040 for 1978. About one half of all taxpayers will be unable to understand Form 1040 this year. It appears to be the only

we tried to design a Form 1040 that you can easily complete your-self. Maybe next year. Please try this one, or we'll garnishee your

vages. This year's form contains fewer lines than in previous years -- gone are "a chicken in every pot." "happy days are here again," and

Puppy Creek Philosopher Dear editor:

As you know, research scientists who don't seem to have anything else to do are spending millions of dollars finding out that nearly

dollars finding out that nearly everything we eat is bad for us. The list is too long for me to remember, but over recent years scientists have announced at one time or another that some of the things that're bad for us are sugar, salt, eggs, bacon, milk, white bread, hot biscuits, thick steaks, mashed potatoes, chewing gum, tap water, city air, hair coloring, cough drops and toe nail polish. I could go on but that's far enough. Oh, I did leave out hot dogs and potato chips potato chips. In view of all these findings, I'm

proposing a new study needing only a few thousand dollars but requiring some pretty sharp sci-entists who are unafraid of the unknown and have the courage to throw back their ears and an-

"prosperity is just around the corner." These were replaced by: corner." These were replaced of, "The seed ye sow, another reaps;/ The wealth you find, another

keeps." We tried to make the instruc-tions easier to understand. Maybe

Please note the Presidential Election Fund check - off at the top of the form. Without increasing your tax or reducing your refund, you can have \$1 (\$1 each for husband and wife on a joint return) go to a fund to pay legal expenses for candidates indicted during or after the 1980 Presidential Election.

Generally, you can file Form 1040 if: your income is \$40,000 or less if you are married filing a joint return, and \$20,000 otherwise; if you hold Boardwalk, Park Place, the B&0 Railroad and roll three

sevens in a row. Because we figure your tax anyway, by the one - for - you -three - for us - method, there is no need for you to do it. If you want to figure your own tax, notice that this machane contains row they this package contains new tax tables taken from incomplete note-books of Albert Einstein as edited by Daffy Duck.

If your income is less than \$8,000, you may get a refund even if you paid no tax. You don't have to file a return if you: run rum, cultivate marijuana, or are a

member of Congress. If you need help, please call us at the number listed for your area on page 26. (It's the number for Dial -A - Prayer.)

Finally, you will note a new feature at the bottom of the 1040 Form this year. Rub a coin across the magic dot (a penny would be symbolic of what we let you keep). For most taxpayers, nothing will appear. But for those lucky few thousand, the rubbing will reveal the magic word: AUD11. Be sure to bring a dime for the phone call to your lawyer.

This Is The Law

President Carter has sent his long awaited tax proposals to the Congress and he recommends cutting taxes for individuals and business by almost \$25 billion.

With the largest budget in the nation's history proposed for the next fiscal year, which is sure to result in another huge deficit if it is approved, I just don't see how the country can afford to add another \$24 billion plus to the national debt

Under the Carter plan, the amount of income taxes paid by individuals would be cut by about ten percent and corporations would have their taxes reduced by eight percent.

Persons with lower incomes vould get the biggest break, with a family of four that has a \$10,000 annual income having its income tax reduced from the \$446 it paid last year to \$192 this year and down to \$134 next year. Next year's tax will be lower because the President proposed that his tax bill not be effective until Ocother 1, 1978. effective until Ocotber 1, 1978.

Those in the higher bracket would also get tax cuts. A family of would also get tax cuts. A family of four with an annual income of \$30,000 would pay \$322 less by next year, but the cut would be offset by the higher Social Security taxes which Congress approved at the last session. When Social Security taxes are figured in, only families whose income is less than \$25,000 would have a net decrease \$25,000 would have a net decrease by 1979.

Actually what the President proposed was \$33.9 billion in tax reductions, to be offset partly by \$9.4 billion which he advocated in tax "reforms." The latter would include ending \$5.8 billion now

by Senator Robert Morgan being deducted from state and local sales and gasoline taxes. He would also eliminate \$3.6 billion in current deductions that mostly benefit richer people.

Report

To The

People

There is a great deal to be said for the rest of the President's economic proposals. The budget he has presented to us is clearly one desired to held the line of the designed to hold the line on federal spending.

Taking the budget category by category, we see that no big new programs are proposed, and that with what inflation will require if present program levels are to be maintained.

There are two exceptions: large increases are scheduled in Social Security, which is unavoidable because of past benefit increases. and in the interest we must pay on the national debt.

That debt stands at three quarters of a trillion dollars. and the interest is expected to be \$50 billion.

The problem with a tax cut at this time is simply that it must be done with borrowed money, which will have to be repaid with interest. With interest already running at such a rate that it amounts to the fourth largest federal expenditure. it hardly seems wise to borrow more.

Perhaps it is because I come from a state which yearly balances its budget, but the idea of piling up another large deficit alarms me. It is bound to add to the inflation that is harming everyone, and the dollars that people are allowed to keep will buy less and less so that the whole thing is self - defeating.

CLIFF BLUE **People & Issues**

PRESS INSTITUTE -- Along with newspapermen and women from the coast to the mountains I attended the 53rd annual N.C. Press Institute held at Chapel Hill and Durham last week-end. Thursday evening was given over to the presentation of awards to the winning Tar Heel newspapers with Governor Jim Hunt participating in the program. The Friday morning general

session consisted of a forum with the topic: "The Press, the Human-ities, and Public Policy" which was moderated by Walter Spearman, Professor of Journalism at UNC, Chapel Hill. The subject left wide the field for comment and discussion.

Dr. George Bair, Director of Educational Television at UNC and the original chairman of the N.C. Humanities Committee, said there was still some money available for communities which wanted to delve into a humanities program. Note: some communities might like to apply for an appropriation.

Dr. John Semonche, Professor of History and Lecturer in Law at dedicated to representing her county and state in the House, a job she did exceptionally well. She has also been named the "South's Most Outstanding Woman of the Year" but the Progenic Ferrer by the Progressive Farmer magazine.

HOUSING NEEDS Roanoke Beacon, published in Plymouth says housing needs are still critical in Washington County. "The hardest hit is the medium income family who can't qualify for government assisted loans, but on the other hand can't afford a large down payment, monthly payments ranging from \$300 to \$500."The Beacon says that "the general concensus is that obtaining desirable housing is easier if you are poor or in a high income bracket. which is pretty general over the state, and probably the nation so far as financing a home is concerned

WILMINGTON 10 -- Ed Williams, editor of the editorial page of The Charlotte Observer says in regard to Governor Hunt's action on the "Wilmington 10","1 don't) see who benefits from keeping these nine young black men in prison another few months, or another two years or longer. Certainly, Governor Hunt nor any other good citizen of North Carolina or elsewhere rejoices in punishing a person. Punishment and confinement are for those who break our laws and that is the simple reason why the "Wilming-ton 10" and thousands of others across the state and nation are behind bars -- not because law -abiding citizens find joy in meting out justice to them when they break our criminal laws. We think Governor Hunt temp-ered justice with mercy in the reduction of the sentences.

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, January 29, 1953 J.L. McNeill, chairman of the Hoke County Committee opposing the taking of the county's land for a corridor from Fort Bragg to Camp Mackall, announced this week that a meeting had been scheduled in Washington next week with representatives of the Army Department to further discuss the matter.

. . .

The Raeford Kiwanis Club held its annual Ladies Night in the high school cafeteria Thursday night at 7:00 o'clock, and during the pro-gram it was announced that Robert H. Gatlin had been chosen by the club's secret committee as Hoke County's "Man of the Year" of 1052 1952.

Raeford doctors, when inter-viewed on the subject this week, seemed to be in agreement that the county was experiencing at least a mild epidemic of influenza.

. . .

Thomas Martin Molden. 102, died at 3:15 o'clock last Saturday morning at the home of his daughter, Mrs. K.D. Lowe, in Raeford.

15 years ago

Thursday, January 31, 1963 Farm Agent W.C. Williford departs today for his new position at Robeson County, but he leaves a fine memorial to his efforts and those of his co-workers.

. . .

Welfare Superintendent Mrs. C.H. Giles this week issued "an urgent appeal" for donations of quilts and blankets.

A special meeting of Town Board on Monday passed an ordinance authorizing \$30,000 worth of water bonds to be submitted to Raeford voters at a special election in

The license bureau in the Chamber of Commerce office will be open this Friday night until 7 p.m. for the convenience of those wishing to get their 1963 tags.

. . . John Manuel is the first Raeford newcomer ever to win the Raeford Kiwanis Club coveted Man-of-the-Year award.

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nounce their findings regardless of where they lead.

The purpose of this study will be to discover and prove beyond argument the existence of taste buds in the human animal. Probably use teen-agers as guinea

pigs. It is a very well known fact that taste buds exist in other species. For example, cows, all of whom are illiterate and graze uninstructed by any studies on the nutritional superiority of one grass over another, will, if turned loose in a good pasture, pick the right plants to keep them fat and healthy, strictly by the dictates of their taste buds. Oh, occasionally one will sample some bitter weed or loco weed, but there are odd - balls in every species and there's no point in putting the whole herd on a diet just because a few miss-fits have unreliable taste buds.

If we can just get this scientific study to prove that nature has given not only cows, donkeys, birds, elephants, giraffes and even kangaroos taste buds, but has endowed man also with a set located somewhere on the tongue and palate, I'm not sure where and don't care, then we can all go back to eating happily whenever we get hungry. Personally I like potato chips but never cared for catsup on my eggs.

Yours faithfully, J.A.

Most modern extradition treaties between countries expressly provide that they do not apply to charges of political crimes.

To establish a political offense it is usually necessary to show that the accused was connected with an uprising of a revolutionary character and that the acts charged were incidential to his participation in the movement.

Determination of a political crime is rarely free from contro-versy, and the decision in any particular case must be resolved by the authorities in the country involved.

Strict rules of evidence are not followed in an extradition proceeding, and matters of defense on the merits of the charge are not considered. Probable cause of guilt is all that need be established

A proceeding in the United tates to extradite an accused States criminal from a foreign country must be initiated before a United States judge, a federal commis-sioner, or a judge of a court of record of general jurisdiction of a state.

A sworn complaint must be filed charging the accused fugitive with the commission of a crime specified in the treaty between the two nations involved. If evidence is deemed sufficient to sustain the charge, this fact is certified to the Secretary of State and a warrant is issued.

NC Chapel Hill discussed. "Freedom of the Press and the Public's Right to Know: An Historian's View.

Dr. William Bennett, Executive Officer, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, dis-cussed "The Press, The Humani-ties and The Community." When asked to comment on Califano's crusade against smoking, he gave an "off the cuff" comment, but added that he had not studied the matter in depth. Someone in the audience reminded him that they had seen him smoking in the Inn shortly before he entered the "Old Well Room."

Roy Parker, Jr., Editor of The Fayetteville Times, discussed "The Press, The Humanities and The Community" and told of the in-terest which a humanist had created in the Fayetteville area, and the work which had taken place in Laurinburg and Lumberton through a humanities program, with quips and asides added which enlightened the discussion.

Commenting on his participating in the humanities program, Parker said, "The less you know the more you can tell." NANCY CHASE -- We note that

State Rep. Nancy Chase of Wayne County has decided not to seek re-election this year after 16 years of dedicated service in the State House of Representatives. It was my privilege to serve with Rep. Chase during her freshman year in the House. She was a quiet lady, Smokey Says:



Everybody has proble