

## IN WASHINGTON

WHAT IS TAKING PLACE BY

*Prof. R. R. Roper*

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Often some highly constructive piece of legislation is thrown into the Congressional hopper and lost in the grind because it lacks dramatic appeal. In other words, its great significance is not quickly grasped. Such a measure has been offered by my distinguished colleague, Senator King of Utah. It asks the President to call for Federal and state conferences on the subject of taxation with the objective of bringing order out of chaos in the taxing field.

There is no single issue of greater importance to our people today than the need for settling once and for all the proper sources of tax revenue for the Federal Government, the states and their political subdivisions. The present method of double taxation, whereby the Federal Government and the states, and often counties and cities, tap the same tax reservoirs is having a disastrous effect. The situation is steadily growing worse.

One example is gasoline. The Federal Government collects a gas tax, every state levies such a tax, and in many sections county and cities have superimposed gas taxes. The result is that in many areas the combined taxes exceed the price of the commodity. Another example is cigarette taxes.

In one state the users of cigarettes pay a Federal tax of six cents and state tax of five cents or a total of eleven cents on each package. At this rate the use of one package of cigarettes each day means an annual tax bill of \$40.15. Here are two flagrant instances of double taxation, others could be cited.

The existing duplicate taxation, made possible through hidden taxes—levies included in the purchase price of a commodity with the result that buyers lose sight of the heavy taxes they are paying—has been an important factor in waste in all forms of government. Citizens fail to realize just how much taxes they are paying. Finding it easy to grab these tax "Pennies from Heaven," legislators, national and state, often lose sight of equity and ability to pay, and bow to expediency. This is particularly true in times of emergency such as we have recently gone through. And repeal of emergency taxes when emergencies pass is the exception rather than the rule. War taxes levied by Congress were not eliminated until 1928, and many have been reenacted.

The primary reason for these conditions is, of course, the fact that our citizens are not tax conscious. I have said that they fail to realize how much they are paying. Only a comparative few people would be able to sit down and figure their total tax bill on the basis of direct and hidden taxes paid for all forms of government. If a great number did this, the wave of public resentment would bring quickly a new era of lower taxes, economy in government and the end of needless expenditures.

On the basis of estimates of Federal tax revenue for the fiscal year 1937, every man, woman and child will pay an average of \$45.00 in Federal taxes. In 1931, they paid an average of only about twenty dollars. Per capita figures on state, county and local taxes are incomplete, but it is indicated that with Federal taxes, the total is in the vicinity of \$100. For a family of five, this means a total tax bill of \$500.00. Obviously, this tax burden is too great and it is carried because our people do not realize its weight on the family budget.

Of course, there are times when taxes cannot be immediately reduced without the curtailment of widespread governmental activities. We are passing through such times at present. However, it is not too early to plan for normal conditions.

In 1931 our people paid a total tax bill in all forms, Federal, state and local, that amounted to more than \$9,500,000,000. The current conditions. Conferences of Federal and state tax experts with the view to drawing the lines for sources of taxation, to the end that one unit of government will not invade the tax field of another, are sorely needed.

The basis for such conferences is already at hand. Four years ago, a subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, headed by the able Representative Fred M. Vinson of Kentucky, made an exhaustive inquiry into the subject of double taxation. Its factual preliminary report offers a startling indictment of existing conditions.

In its review of the situation, the Vinson subcommittee offered the following questions which, in its opinion, should be discussed and solved:

"First, which taxes are most adaptable for the use of the Federal government and which taxes are most adaptable for the use of the state governments?"

"Second, what taxes may be properly imposed by both State and Federal governments without serious objection from the standpoint of equity?"

"Third, what means should be adopted to set forth a model tax system for the whole country."

"Fourth, what means can be adopted to bring into practical operation a model system of taxation?"

There is reason to believe that farmers and workers in many sections are bearing the brunt of the existing multiplicity of tax levies. Certainly important questions are presented. Have high taxes on certain commodities—tobacco is a case in point—had the effect of reducing the price the farmers receive for their products? Have these taxes been a factor in the widespread replacement of workers by machines due to the narrow margins of profit and intense business competition? Is the Federal government endeavoring to aid farmers, business men, workers and unemployed on the one hand and retarding the effort on the other by high taxes? These questions and others certainly deserve at least serious consideration on the part of our tax authorities and economists. Now is the proper time for such consideration, so that when economic recovery is complete, and conditions are normal, there can be a readjustment of the tax situation.

As to the control of syphilis Dr. Farran has said, "The causative agent is known; a diagnosis can be made as soon as the case is infectious; we have serological tests which will discover otherwise latent cases; we have remedies which will speedily sterilize the infectious case. Unlike such diseases as typhoid fever, syphilis is spread singly from person to person by intimate contact. The source of infection, and those exposed are usually known to the patient."

"Compare these facts with tuberculosis, disease which has declined by two-thirds, during the past 30 years. For tuberculosis, there is no specific method of cure or of rendering the patient noninfectious. Diagnosis of the early case is costly and difficult. The infectious agent is widely disseminated in the population. In spite of these greater difficulties, the practical control and even eradication of tuberculosis in this country is a goal clearly in sight. The great difference between these diseases, however, is that, in the case of tuberculosis, we

have promoted public knowledge of the disease; mobilized the profession; created public facilities; and organized community programs of control."

Now that we know all this information about syphilis we can control it if we will abolish the National "Hush" policy concerning this disease. This "Hush" policy not only has kept the fact of syphilis from the public but it has also concealed the fact that syphilis ranks with cancer, pneumonia and tuberculosis as one of the four great killing diseases. In some foreign countries the hush policy has been abolished for years and with national organized effort syphilis is becoming rare.



**Tiniest Baby, Today**

CHICAGO... Little Jean Benson has just celebrated her first birthday. She now weighs 16 pounds, 12 ounces. Little Jean was the world's tiniest baby, 12 ounces, at birth. And that's Jean's mother, Mrs. Lester Benson, with her.

rent annual bill is well in excess of \$12,000,000,000.

Certainly it is proper to raise the question as to whether our people are getting a full return in the form of benefits and protection, from the billions they pay in taxes? Legislators, national and state, owe it to their constituents to help find the answer.

## HEALTH NOTES

SURRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RALPH J. SYKES, M. D.  
Health Officer

### SYPHILIS—PART TWO

As to how syphilis is contracted, Dr. Farran says that "Probably over half of the victims of syphilis acquired the disease innocently." As to the mode of transmission of syphilis innocently the ways are very numerous. Of course marital syphilis is rather common if either party has the disease. Kissing is the most important single method of spread by accident. In an eastern state 17 cases of syphilis were traced to a kissing game. The spiral organism that causes syphilis lives but a short time on dry articles. It survives longer on moist surfaces. The list of articles that have been known to transmit syphilis is impressive and include towels, clothing, razors, handkerchiefs, surgical and dental instruments, pipes and the like, especially when moist or improperly dried. From the above statement one can very easily see the danger of having a nursemaid, cook or butler around the house caring for children or cooking that has syphilis. Many of these cases are not infectious but if they should have an open sore in their mouth or on their body they can spread the disease.

Syphilis is one of the easiest diseases we have to diagnose in the majority of cases. All that is necessary is to obtain a small amount of blood from the person to be tested and send it to the State Laboratory. They will do what is called the Wasserman test on it which will tell whether the person has the disease or not.

Syphilis is one of the most destructive diseases we have at the present time. It causes about five times as much disability as automobile accidents. It causes 10% of the insanity. It causes 18% of all diseases of the heart and blood vessels. It causes a large percent of the still births and the death of babies in the first week of life.

This disease can and does affect any part of the body. It has been said by Dr. Osler "A person that knows syphilis knows medicine." A disease that causes as much human suffering as this; why should we discuss it in a whisper?

As to the control of syphilis Dr. Farran has said, "The causative agent is known; a diagnosis can be made as soon as the case is infectious; we have serological tests which will discover otherwise latent cases; we have remedies which will speedily sterilize the infectious case. Unlike such diseases as typhoid fever, syphilis is spread singly from person to person by intimate contact. The source of infection, and those exposed are usually known to the patient."

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**NOTICE**

NORTH CAROLINA, SURRY COUNTY.

In The Superior Court FOREBELLE ANTHONY

—VS—

MASKET ANTHONY.

The defendant, Masket Anthony, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Surry County, State of North Carolina, to secure from the defendant and to the plaintiff an absolute divorce; and the said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the Courthouse in Dobson, State of North Carolina, on the 23 day of February, 1937, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 25th day of Jan., 1937.

F. T. LLEWELLYN,  
Clerk Superior Court.

**NOTICE OF SALE UNDER DEED OF TRUST**

Under and by virtue of authority contained in a certain deed of trust executed by James T. Greenwood and wife to The North Carolina Bank and Trust Company, Trustee, on the 10th day of August, 1931, recorded in Book 108, Page 136, Registry of Surry County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured thereby, the undersigned Commissioner of Banks, having succeeded to the rights and duties of the said Trustee, will offer for sale, at public auction, for cash, in front of the Surry County court house door on Tuesday, February 23rd, 1937 at twelve o'clock noon, certain pieces of land lying and being in Elkin Township, Surry County, State of North Carolina, and described and defined as follows:

Beginning at the mouth of a creek, corner of lot No. 5, on the North side of the Yadkin River, and runs down said River No. 65 degs. East 36 chains to a sycamore at the mouth of a branch; thence No. 3 degs. East 35 chains to a white oak; thence North 86 degs. West 8.50 chains to a white oak sapling; thence North 15 degs. West 2.26 chains to a rock; thence North 26 degs. East 5.25 chains to the branch; thence up the branch South 81 degs. West 2.50 chains; North 44 degs. West 2.90 chains to a rock at the branch; thence

## SORE THROAT with a Cold



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West 7 chains to a small pine corner of lot No. 5; thence South 17 1/2 degs. West 32.50 chains to a small persimmon, corner of lot No. 5; thence South 123-4 degs. East 21 chains to the Southern R. R.; thence with the Southern R. R. South 89 degs. West 13 chains to the creek; thence down said creek South 123-4 degs. East 9 chains to the beginning, containing 129.9 acres, more or less, and being the same lands allotted to James Greenwood by Commissioners in the Division of the lands of J. H. Greenwood, dec'd., and designated as lot No. 6 in said Division (See report of Commissioner as filed in Special Proceedings entitled "J. A. Greenwood et als vs. Philip Greenwood," in the office of the clerk of the Superior Court of Surry County, N. C.)

Dated this 19th day of January, 1937.

GURNEY P. HOOD,  
2-18 Commissioner of Banks.

## Raddy Remarks

Thirty days hath September, April, June and November, etc.—and I work every day every month. No holidays or vacations for me.

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