

Is Fiscal Policy Dangerous?

(This is the third in a series of editorials on municipal fiscal policy as it pertains to repaying funds represented by bonds in the hands of lenders. By agreement with the bondholders, towns are to set aside so much each year, from the tax levy, to meet interest on the bonds and to accumulate funds to pay back the total amount. Some towns, such as Beaufort and Morehead City, have been unable to set aside, consistently, the money required, due to press of other expenses. This series of editorials explores the questions, is this dangerous; if so, is anyone to blame, and can the situation be corrected?)

Fiscal Control Act sets a limit on the amount of tax to be levied. According to law, the tax for "general purposes" cannot exceed \$1.50 per one hundred dollars of valuation. Morehead City's levy for general operating expenses is \$1, with 60 cents per hundred dollars of valuation going to the fund for paying off the debt. (Ten cents is also levied for recreation and 5 cents for the hospital).

Thus, Morehead City could raise its levy for general operating expenses by 50 cents, before exceeding the \$1.50 limit. How high the tax would have to be raised, within that limit, to keep the town from dipping into the fund for paying off the debt would have to be determined by the town commissioners.

The Municipal Government Study Commission, authorized by the 1957 general assembly made some recommendations regarding taxes, one of them being that pending certain changes, towns be authorized to levy taxes for "major capital improvements" without regard to the \$1.50 limit. The limit, however, is still in effect.

Will towns that have been consistently borrowing from funds earmarked for debt payment be able to pay off their bonds when they come due? If so, how? Is there need for a change in the present fiscal policy?

(To be Continued)

After hearing from the Local Government Commission, a letter was written the League of Municipalities, the organization comprised of towns and cities which voluntarily join the league.

The letter was addressed to Mrs. Davetta L. Steed, executive director. It briefly explained the debt situation and asked Mrs. Steed for her comments, specifically as to the wisdom of taking money from the debt service fund to meet general town expenses.

As did Mr. Easterling, Mrs. Steed chose to take no stand one way or the other, which was to be expected. In sticky situations few people care to be pinned down. Both pleaded lack of familiarity with the "local situations." And Mrs. Steed probably didn't care to pass judgment on two league members, Beaufort and Morehead City.

She cited the fact that the Municipal

\$30,000 Won't Guarantee Success

The county planning commission has held several meetings. At two of those meetings, planning experts from the Department of Conservation and Development were present. They outlined the ideal and professionally accepted methods of planning for growth and zoning, should zoning be decided upon.

The cost of mapping the county and zoning was estimated at \$30,000, of which the federal government may pay 20 per cent — but doubt was expressed that as much as 20 per cent would be available.

It's always nice to do things the ideal way, have the newest washer and dryer in your home, drive a car with the latest improvements, but lots of us can't afford to live that way, and we get by fairly well with less.

We believe that the county planning commission should do likewise. Thirty thousand dollars is not available to operate the ideal way. The experts say theirs is the only "right" way. Well, we have seen some ideal and expertly-right zoning plans that didn't get any farther than a plan that might have been dreamed up over a game of tidly-winks.

The experts will contend that such failure is the fault of those delegated to enforce the zoning regulations. Maybe so, but the end result is the same — money down the drain and nothing accomplished.

We agree with George Huntley, chairman of the planning commission, who is of the opinion that certain rules and regulations regarding building and growth can be put into effect without a large expenditure of money.

For example, along major highways in the county certain set-back lines could be required. This would eliminate the placing of buildings almost on the highway right-of-way. A. D. Fulford, county sanitarian, has recommendations that would make for better health and sanitation conditions. In areas that forebode congestion, as at crossroads or other business areas, buildings of fireproof construction could be required.

It is well to listen to the experts.

— Robins Reader

Their opinions should be respected. But as we have noted before, one must cut the pattern to fit the cloth.

The county planning commission can feel its way. It doesn't have to come up with a grandiose plan that would apply to Miami Beach, Fla., and its environs. Planning for the future can be projected only so far, and revisions must be made along the line.

We believe the county would be missing a golden opportunity to sit and fold its hands on planning simply because somebody isn't going to dump \$30,000 in the planning commission's lap. We know the commission — if it does anything — is going to make mistakes, but we're making the biggest mistake of all by not doing what we can now to prevent some of the chaos that will come if this county grows like Topsy.

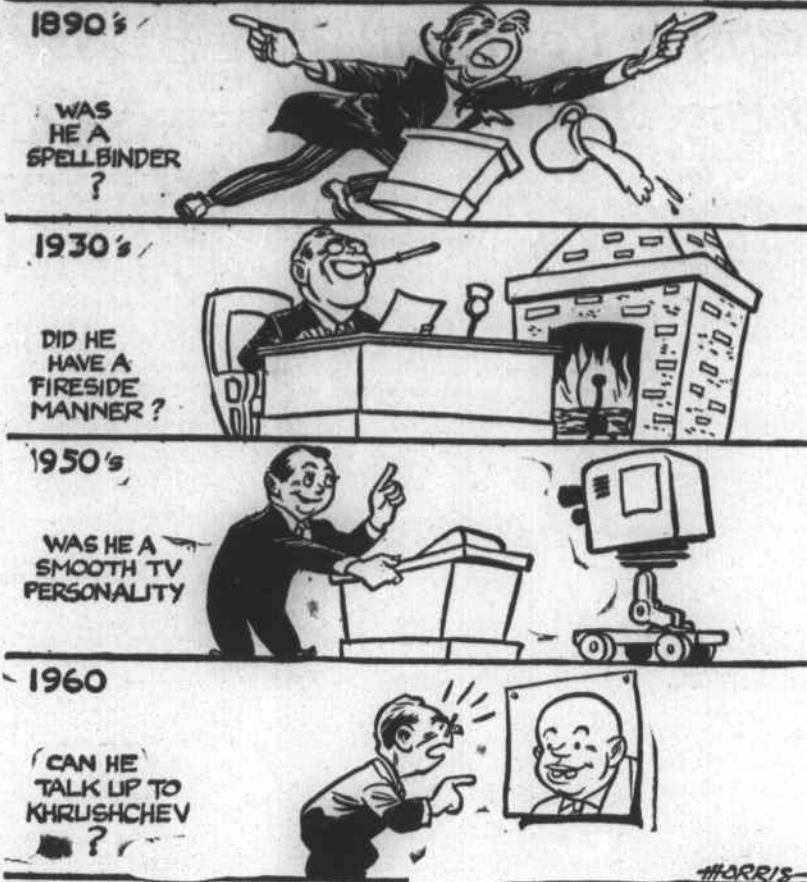
Lesson from Rembrandt

In 1956 the art world observed the 350th anniversary of the birth of Rembrandt, the Dutch painter and etcher who became a master of light and shadow — not only in his art but also in his life. Before he was thirty he was Holland's most famous and most wealthy artist. At fifty, he was bankrupt and deserted by his fashionable friends. Misfortune, which shrivels most people, served only to increase his remarkable ability to probe human nature and translate what he found on canvas.

Ugly and untidy himself, he never lost his compassionate understanding of his fellow man. Rembrandt developed a technical skill still unmatched. He left to the beginners who came after him a tested formula for acquiring skill which is as sound in other professions as in art:

"Try to put well into practice what you already know, and in so doing you will — in good time — discover the hidden things you now inquire about. Practice what you know, and it will help to make clear what you now do not know."

QUALIFICATIONS OF A CANDIDATE



F. C. Salisbury

Here and There

The following information is taken from the files of the Morehead City Coaster:

FRIDAY, JAN. 20, 1922

Dr. John W. Sanders died at his home near Ocean last Saturday. Dr. Sanders was a practicing physician for a half century. He served in the State Senate in 1888. As a soldier during the Civil War, he took part in the battle of Fort Macon.

Lee-Jackson Day was observed by the Daughters of the Confederacy at the home of Mrs. Alex Webb Jr. A feature of the program were reminiscences of war days by J. E. Korngay and W. H. Sloan.

Capt. Willain P. Widhaar, commander of the Coast Guard Aviation Station at Camp Glenn, has been transferred to Charleston, S. C. The transfer of Captain Widhaar and his crew means the abandonment of the Camp Glenn station.

The death of Mrs. Melissa Willis, wife of Plymouth Willis, occurred on Sunday following an illness of several months.

Captain Henry

Sou'easter

Seems to me as though there's one way to settle this business about bombs being carried aboard planes. People will just have to have their luggage searched.

They say there are dog catchers in Morehead City. Maybe so, but every time I go to ride over there I see more dogs than people.

It's about time for a new craze to hit the country. We've lived through Chinese checkers, jigsaw puzzles, and hula hoops. I'm not even going to mention rock 'n roll, because that didn't hit everybody, just the young'uns. Isn't it nice to hear music again like Sweet Sue, Singin' in the Rain, the Shadow Waltz and These Foolish Things?

Did you list your taxes? I finally got around to listing mine. Took a look at the calendar the other day and saw that January has just about give out. Still have to get my tag for the jalopy and a number for the boat. I bet this summer you're going to hear the greatest squawkin' and fuss about boat numbers that's ever been.

They tell me that the sheriff is

S. A. DuPlanty has established a floating meat market. He ties up at the city dock every Friday with fresh meats and other farm produce from the Hoffman farm along the Sound.

The sad death of Mary Canfield Arendell occurred Friday evening, following an illness of but a few days. She was 17 months old.

John Memakis left Monday for Rocky Mount to spend a few days with relatives.

Sylvester Gibbs, who is employed in New Bern, spent the weekend here with his family.

John Klein of Atlantic spent the weekend here visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Mason Fulcher returned to her home in Portsmouth Monday, after a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Stephen Styron.

City clerk M. F. Nelson last week resigned his position with the town and left Sunday for Chapel Hill where he has accepted a position as bookkeeper at the University of North Carolina. He is succeeded by H. E. Vanhorn.

supposed to help the State Wildlife Commission enforce the boat number law. Pretty soon the sheriff will be asking the county commissioners to buy him a boat so he can catch the backsliders.

The courthouse grounds look fine. I think. They painted the old jail the other day. They've set out bulbs and shrubs and have paved a lot of new parking spaces.

I have a bird story and a coon story to tell and can't decide which it will be. Well, I'll tell you the bird story this week and save the coon story 'til next.

To find out where birds go, the federal wildlife boys used to put metal strips on the birds' legs. They used to read "Washington Biological Survey," abbreviated to "Wash. Biol. Surv."

This was changed after a farmer shot a crow and disgustedly wrote Washington as follows: "Dear Sirs: I shot one of your crows the other day and followed instructions attached to it. I washed it and boiled it and served it. It was terrible! You should stop trying to fool the people with things like that."

Washington Report

By SEN. B. EVERETT JORDAN

Washington — One of the main issues to be resolved by this session of Congress is the question of increasing the federal minimum wage.

I have had a great deal of correspondence concerning a bill introduced by Senator Kennedy which would increase the minimum wage from \$1 to \$1.25 an hour. There is a great deal of controversy over the proposal, especially provisions that would extend the present coverage.

Last year when legislation was introduced to increase the minimum wage from \$1 to \$1.25 an hour, I made a number of public statements endorsing an increase for workers covered under the present law, and my position has not changed.

The Kennedy bill as now written would take in about 7 million additional workers who are not engaged in interstate commerce as defined in the present law. For instance, it would affect some types of farm laborers, part-time and seasonal workers, and many strictly local

establishments. The effect very conceivably could cause a lot of people to lose their jobs instead of helping them.

For these reasons I think extreme care should be taken in writing a new minimum wage bill which could have opposite effects of its intention.

In drafting such legislation, it is always difficult to determine where to draw the line. Everyone desires to bring about conditions whereby all citizens can earn a better living, but in putting wage and hour laws on the books utmost care must be taken to avoid making it impossible for small business operations to stay in business.

In many cases, a minimum wage of \$1.25 per hour would force businesses to close or lay off considerable numbers of employees. When this happens many people are out of work.

I am opposed to the extended coverage provisions as they are now written in Senator Kennedy's bill. At the same time, I feel the time has come to increase the minimum wage for those business operations engaged in interstate com-

Just Yearnin'

By JOHN M. McLEAN, San Bernardino, Calif.

(Dedicated to my brother Philip W. McLean, 308 South 17th St., Morehead City, N. C.) Fish can be bought in the market place

So it isn't the fish I'm after; I want to get free from the care-drawn face And back to an honest laughter. I want to get back where the skies are clean, And rest on a mossy brink. I want to get out where the Seas are Green And I want a few hours to think.

Oh, it isn't the fish I am greedy for, It's the chatter of Ocean Birds, And the sound of breakers I've known before, I am weary of selfish words.

I want to stretch out, just my soul and I In a place from the strife afar, And let a few care-filled hours pass by As I think of the things that are.

Oh, it isn't the fish that I go to get Though there's joy in a swishing line And a splendid thrill when my grip I set And a Bogue Sound Hog Fish is mine. But my soul seems cramped in the stifling air That is heavy with talk of gain, And I want to get out where the world is fair And there isn't so much pain.

Fish can be bought in the market place, But I long for the smell of the Gulf Stream And I want to stretch out, just my soul and I On a sun kissed river shore, And be, as a few mad hours rush by, The man that I am, once more.

School and Your Child

By JOHN COREY, Appalachian State Teachers College

More than 700,000 elementary school children in better than 2,000 US schools now study a foreign language, some beginning in the 5th grade, others in the 3rd, a few in kindergarten.

This is a trend that should become more widespread, according to Mrs. N. L. Gilbert, French professor at Appalachian State Teachers College.

The professor admits that learning a foreign tongue is a complex skill but credits young children with remarkable abilities to learn and retain sound patterns. In fact, she believes picking up foreign words comes naturally to children.

Learning to write them, however, is another thing and comes at a child's later stage in life, possibly the 6th or 7th grade.

Why learn another language? English itself appears formidable enough to many youngsters. Only by learning other countries' languages can we penetrate deeply into their cultures, opines Mrs. Gilbert. If Americans stand genuinely for peace, they must encourage their children to understand and appreciate foreign cultures.

In today's shrinking world, Americans cannot afford to remain an insular people, Mrs. Gilbert advises. Contact must be maintained with other nations.

The best way to learn another language is to keep at it. Once a child has begun the study of, say

merce, and I am hopeful that the present bill will be amended to reduce the proposed extended coverage in such a way that small business as we know it is not choked to death.

Louise Spivey

Words of Inspiration

THE EMERGING THOUGHTFULNESS OF YOUTH

I used to wonder about my grandfather's warning concerning spring flower-planting in our big back yard. "Don't over-sow the petunia seeds; they'll grow roughshod over the other flowers!"

But my grandmother was petunia-minded and so, as a result when mid-summer came the whole family was charged with the task of pulling out the wild growth of petunias to save the more fragile begonias, flocks, and geraniums.

There is a real danger in over-sowing anything! Especially when it pertains to people! The result may transcend the initial motive!

Of late, stirring statements concerning adult emphasis on recreational activities for young people have been voiced. The young people, themselves, are the critics!

"Are we to be accused of boredom and defiance because we are not at play?" one serious-minded young man questioned.

"Is there no privacy for youth in which we can think and talk about our own problems . . . our military stint, marriage, our career, God's place in our lives? Do we have to be a part of this supervised play-time in our schools, homes, and churches?"

"Who is there to challenge our intellect . . . our reasoning?" Let us not over-sow this growing leisure-activity program for youth to the neglect of the much more important moral and spiritual issues of life.

— Mrs. Tom Carter

QUOTES

"I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice — Jeremi h 22:21

A little neglect may breed mischief; for want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for the want of a horse the rider was lost. — Franklin

No one has been able to stand up indefinitely under the weight of carrying a grudge. — Copied

There are two things the Christian should not worry about: the thing he can help and the thing he can't help. — Selected

Life would be more simple if more people were willing to be themselves.

If arguments were postponed until all participants got the facts, life would be simpler and intelligence would replace emotion.

Farmers who work by the sun are not bothered by clock watching fever.

Work is a word misunderstood by many of the younger generation.

Tolerance is sometimes confused with the idea that the majority should not exert its rights.

O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord. — Jeremias 22:29

Security for You...

By RAY HENRY

From F. L. Mitchell, S. D.: "I became seriously ill three months ago and was forced to give up my job. My boss held the job open for nearly six weeks and then hired someone else. I'm 64 and can't seem to find another job. Naturally, I need money very badly. Is there any chance that I might be eligible for Social Security now?"

Unless you're so severely disabled that you can't do much work and the disability appears to be long-term, you're not eligible for Social Security until you reach 65. But, it's very possible that you're eligible for unemployment compensation. Get in touch with the nearest employment security office and find out your rights.

From D. T. M. of Newark, N. J.: "I started to draw Social Security retirement payments in January when I retired from my fulltime job. I've already been offered a part-time job and plan to take it. At what point should I tell my Social Security office if my earnings from the part-time job start going over the allowable earnings limits?" If your earnings are more than

\$100 a month and you expect your total earnings for 1960 to be more than \$1,200, you should report to your local Social Security office as soon as your earnings go above \$1,200.

From F. P. of Hemet, Calif.: "I'm a World War I veteran and I'm wondering how big the pensions are which veterans can collect for disabilities having no connection with military service."

For veterans now eligible or who become eligible before next July 1, the pension payments are: For war veterans under 65, \$66.15 a month. For war veterans who've been getting a pension for at least 10 years or who've reached age 65, \$78.75 a month. For veterans who need the constant aid and attendance or who are blind, \$135.45 a month.

After July 1, the pension rates change and the amounts are based on the other income a veteran is receiving.

From B. M. M. of Phoenix, Ariz.: "I will retire from federal government work in about two months. How will my monthly annuity be paid?"

The Civil Service Commission authorizes the payment of all annuities. The checks are issued by the Treasury Department. The checks are dated the first business day of the month after the month the benefits were earned and usually are delivered to recipients on that date.

From Mrs. L. S. of Allentown, Pa.: "During three months every summer, I board a number of children on my farm. I get \$25 a month for each child. Would this arrangement be covered by Social Security?"

Yes. This is considered self-employment and you can receive credit toward Social Security benefits for it, if your net earnings are \$400 a year or more. You should get in touch with the nearest Social Security or Internal Revenue Office and make arrangements for Social Security coverage.

(Editor's Note: You may contact the social security representative at the courthouse annex, Beaufort, from 9:30 a.m. to noon Mondays. He will help you with your own particular problem).

Stamp News

By SYD KRONISH

To honor the heroes of the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Postal Department of Australia has issued four new stamps with appropriate illustrations.

The 5-pence brown depicts Edgeworth David, Douglas Mawson and A. F. McKay, who claim to be the first men to reach the South Magnetic Pole. The 8-pence blue shows a weasel and an exploration team plus a map of the Antarctic Continent.

The 1-shilling blue green illustrates a sled and dog team with an iceberg in the background. The 2 shilling 3 pence green pictures emperor penguins and a map of the Antarctic Continent.

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