

Now Remember ... He's A Good American, Too.



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EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinions Of One Man, And He May Be Wrong.

The Tax Study Commission

A very large part of the taxpaying population of North Carolina knows little and cares less about the Tax Study Commission authorized by the 1955 General Assembly which is authorized to make a detailed study and make recommendations for more equitable tax patterns for the state to be considered by future sessions of the Assembly.

There is so much fuss and fury on other more emotional matters that this vitally important commission has been lost in the shuffle. But, one may rest assured that the so-called organized groups of the state are getting in their licks to this commission. This is their right, and duty, but it is also the right and duty of every other citizen to voice an opinion, if he has one, as to what changes, if any, he feels should be made in the tax structure of Fair Tar Heelia.

The rapid growth of state services has led to a patchwork tax system in North Carolina that is neither equitable or efficient. The Revenue Department is rather like a dog with fleas. By diligence it manages to scratch out enough of these fleas to meet the state's obligations, but the revenue animal would be far more efficient and equitable if his energy could be directed into several large operations, rather than as present to be frittered away in a thousand different directions.

This tax pattern is based on the theory of divide and tax. This session of the Assembly one group is picked on, and next time another group had the ax of the taxman fall on its neck.

We have expressed the view many times before that the simplest tax plan might also be the most equitable. It would make for cheaper and more efficient collection at the same time.

Ours is a three-part tax plan, including a utilities tax, an income tax and a highway tax. With no exceptions, with no loopholes think of what this might do. Each utility would add a fixed percentage to the bill of each consumer, each payroll would do the same, and the highway use tax is already collected in this simple, fool-proof, leakproof manner.

The user of utilities would pay a tax in direct proportion to how good, or how bad

his business was. Today with the weird tax pattern we have the fixed assets of a business are taxed, whether business is good or bad or indifferent.

Those who had a high income and used little electricity such as doctors and lawyers would be tapped by the income tax.

The personnel of the revenue department could be out to a fraction of its present force.

In addition to payrolls being taxed make the income tax deduction also extend to all types of market places. When a farmer sells a thousand dollars worth of hogs, corn, tobacco or timber let the tax deduction be made by the person making the purchase.

At the end of the year the farmer would then stand in the same position as the salaried individual who has his tax collected in advance and then has to establish a case before he can get any of it back. At present the farmer gets his "payroll", spends it and then reports no income or just doesn't take the trouble to report at all. It is immoral, and possibly illegal to take money out of one group's pay and not take it out of the other. This should also apply to dividends, rentals and sales of property. If Jones buys a farm from Smith for \$10,000 let him deduct the income tax from that transaction at the identical rate that it would be taken from Smith's salary if he were being paid a \$10,000 per year salary.

The highway use tax is already the most, and possibly the only equitable tax we have in North Carolina. If you ride a lot, you pay a lot. Every exemption from gasoline taxes, as well as diesel fuel taxes ought to be ended. Farmers ride their tractors; on the highways, many haul tobacco to market with trailers pulled by tractors; yet if they wish they can get back the tax on fuels used in tractors.

What a snap of a job the Revenue Commissioner would have with this kind of a tax program. Just open the checks from the utilities companies each month, add up the returns from the gasoline companies and spend the rest of the time policing the various and sundry income tax sources to see they play fairly.

The Farm Bill Veto

Congress and the White House have never more clearly uncovered for what they really are than in the recent, and continuing debate over a new farm bill. Both sides — the Republican White House and the Democratic Congress — are not trying to help the farmer, they're both trying to get the farmer to support their respective parties.

Personally, we don't blame the President for vetoing the patchwork conglomerate that was sent to the White House in the name of a farm bill. It was silly, it was a giveaway and a continuation of the same principles that have created the vastest surpluses since Joseph was in Egypt.

But, he had hardly turned his rosy political cheek for the slings and arrows of the "outraged" Democrats (who planned it thataway) when he reached into the bottomless pork barrel of federal fat and lifted out a dripping, morsel of a half BILLION bucks to toss to the hungry (?) farmers. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say, to the hungry politicians who are hungry for farmers' votes.

Any farmer who has permitted himself to slip, or to be pushed into or near the borders of bankruptcy in the past 10 years ought to be bankrupt. If there is one approaching this breaking point, and we personally don't know of one in Jones or Lenoir counties it is HIS fault, and not the fault of old Uncle Santa.

These are hard words, but they are sincere; and we know our farm friends well enough to know that they do not want to be classified as toters of tin cups. The farmer owes no apologies to any group — labor, capital, the professions — each and all of whom have had their snouts just as deep and just as long in the federal trough. The little that has been spent on the farmer is fractional compared with what the other segments of our economy have received.

It just happens that at this moment the Democrats and Republicans are working on what they consider to be the two most pliable and stupid minority groups — the farmers and the negroes. The negroes have exhibited no tendency to relent and get their head out of the swill bucket, but we hope that the farmers are not greedy or stupid enough to swallow the same kind of slops.

Debunking Stalin

Much space has been given in the printed media of the world on recent debunking of Josef Stalin by his heirs and assigns in the Soviet Union. Many, and widely differing reasons are being issued for this decision to un-saint one so lately sainted in the Kremlin.

We don't know much about Russia, never having gotten closer than western Belgium during World War II. But we probably know as much about what's going on in the Kremlin as some of the self-assigned experts who are spouting forth.

Our guess on Stalin's dethronement is a simple one, that would fit one people as well as another. It is the simple process of formal education.

Russia has set into motion a vast and superb educational system. True, Americans have been led to believe, that the Soviet education was merely a tool in the hands of the "vicious men in the Kremlin".

But education is not such a pliable tool, and we were fools if we ever accepted such an illiterate proposition. A country — no matter what its morals or international plans may be — cannot create nuclear physicists, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, doctors, scientists without opening the entire horizon of education.

Once that happens it's no longer possible to feed the people the kind of childish drivel Stalin handed them, glorifying their history, proclaiming every invention as a Russian toy and attempting to identify every person of every country in the world as a deep-eyed villain and moron.

The pity is, that our own country is nearly as guilty in that direction as Stalin.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

I'm sick and disgusted with television. Lack of credit and a native stubbornness cause me to resist this monstrosity until a year and a half ago when a desire to keep my children at home forced me to Oscar Green's credit department. As is automatic, on sudden exposure to this fantastic monopolizer, I was even more enthralled than my children. They had already developed decided tastes. But me, for two weeks, I was an around-the-clock TV viewer. I even saw a couple of those awful, awful late shows.

Then as my vision blurred my tastes came into focus and I, like my children, found there were places where I could go shave, bathe or read the paper or even occasionally listen to radio. With that improvement in taste there was left only ONE must show. It was the Jack Paar morning show. I'd eat my breakfast, shave (and wish for a more silent electric razor), tie my shoes and enjoy every minute of what was the only really adult humor offered by the great Columbia Broadcasting Company.

But alas, and lackaday, CBS dropped my one and only favorite, said Jackson Paar, from its morning show and substituted a long line of un-distinguished and to me decidedly unamusing substitutes for the clever Paar; the unexcelled Jose Mellie and the incomparable Edith Adams. I cursed, and fussed privately about such an arbitrary action by CBS without even consulting ME.

Then, Happy Day, I read that Paar and Company were coming back to the TV lanes on a noontime schedule — actually 1 p. m. I had to re-arrange my eating time but soon installed myself as a continuing Paar fan, particularly on Tuesday when Elsa Maxwell rocked and rolled onto the Paar Show. But now, and again without consultation with me, CBS is paring Paar. They'll probably get in his place another of those slobbering soap operas that would turn a buzzard's stomach, and what's more they'll probably get a sponsor for such sewage.

I'm like most Americans — selfish, the only difference is that I admit mine. I like Paar, and whether CBS is losing money prestige or its nerve because of Paar's program, I'm not in the least interested. All I know is that out of all my TV viewing his has been the only program I have consistently liked and have made a positive effort to see. The rest of them I can take or leave. Take some other CBS items for example, "I Love Lucy". This is purely designed for morons. Mack Sennet never indulged in such slapstick. And how about Jackie Gleason. His mother was frightened by a cliché and his father was addicted to strong situation comedy. Their son is a chip off the only pie throwing, seltzer bottle block, and I do mean head.

Not to mention the giveaway shows. Nothing irritates me quite so completely as this type. What kind of kicks does the great moronic American public get out of watching some nitwit win \$84,000? Personally, it burns me up. Here I am twice as smart, and three times as broke and some (Continued on Page 5)

JONES JOURNAL

JACK RIDER, Publisher
Published Every Thursday by The Lenoir County News Company, Inc., 403 West Vernon, Ave., Kinston, N. C., Phone 5415. Entered as Second Class Matter May 5, 1949, at the Post Office at Trenton, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879.
By Mail in First Zone—\$3.00 Per Year. Subscription Rates Payable in Advance

