

OTHER EDITORS SAY

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

President Conceals Federal Spending

President Johnson has hit upon one of the most usual devices yet for conveying an "economy" image to the public, while simultaneously raising expenditures to record heights.

The method is, in essence, similar to that of the man who buys everything on credit and tells himself he doesn't have a thing to worry about because the bills won't be due for a month. The difference is that Johnson isn't kidding himself; he's kidding us.

Consider, for example, the device seized upon by Johnson when he was only a few months in office. In his first budget, he asked Congress to give him something called "new obligatory authority," \$5.9 billion charged to fiscal year 1965, and another \$4 billion spread out over the years ahead of that. By this technique, Johnson asked for almost \$10 billion in new spending power, not reflected in the budget figures for election year 1964.

Then came the "tax cut," whereby withholding rates were reduced by a healthy four per cent, giving people the impression of a vast decrease in their tax burden. When tax time rolled around this year, after the election, many taxpayers found they owed the government money. The great windfall was in large part taken back — after the election was over, of course.

Now we find the same technique in the so-called "medicare" bill recently passed by the U. S. House of Representatives. As it emerged from the chamber, "medicare" will alter the payroll tax for Social Security only slightly over the first three years. By pushing the wage base slightly upward, and the tax rate slightly downward, it will result in a payroll tax of only about \$50 more, for employer and employee, than that presently being paid.

Thus, during its first three years of operation, "medicare" will be dispensing benefits at an apparent cost of only "a few cents a month," as its sponsors are fond of saying — a situation which should serve to consolidate it in public esteem. But

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NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

The American Indian

The Association on American Indian Affairs, at its annual meeting (recently), made an interesting suggestion: that President Johnson, having toured needy regions as Appalachia and the natural disaster areas, ought to make a personal inspection tour of impoverished Indian areas.

There are, of course, limits to the number of "inspections" a President can usefully make. But some are more useful than others. And a first-hand tour of areas not already tagged for major Administration attention could be among the more useful. Not as rewarding politically, perhaps; the plight of the American Indian has come, over the years, to occasion more bad jokes than good works, and with only some 540,000 Indians of all ages the vote potential is limited.

But as long as the original Americans remain, in terms of national attention to their needs, the forgotten Americans, the consciences of the rest of us — prospering on the land from which the Indians were driven — shouldn't rest easily.

once this shake-down period is over, the tax rates will suddenly zoom upward.

In 1969 (after the next presidential election, naturally) the payroll tax will jump to \$492.80 for the employer and employee combined. In 1971, it will go to \$580.80. In 1973, it will skyrocket

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RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Muzzle the Muzzlers!

American newsmen in Viet Nam have been protesting that their news sources there are virtually muzzled. Information on the war often is limited to mere lists of selected facts and figures about the latest air raids. They say it is nearly impossible for a correspondent to talk freely with many of the soldiers, airmen, and sailors on the scene because of restrictions. Curiously these restrictions were not set up by a security branch of our military mission. They were established by a civilian bureau, the United States Information Agency (USIA), which is supposed to have the relatively limited job of promoting a "good

image" for the United States abroad.

But instead of remaining within its assigned province the USIA apparently has muscled in on other areas in order to muzzle domestic American news. The correspondents in Viet Nam are our only on-the-scene source of information about the war there. Yet that information is filtered through a political propaganda bureau. If our leaders goof, if they commit us to needless courses that jeopardize our future, the American people cannot expect to learn of it through the USIA. A propaganda bureau which is responsible to the White House isn't in the

et to \$633.60. In that year, the cost difference of the payroll tax-with-medicare over what it would have been without medicare will be almost \$200.

In short, all the heavy expenses incurred by the program will be conveniently put off until after the 1968 election. Then the taxpayers, as with last year's "tax cut," will get hit, and hit hard. A lot of people fell for it last time around. Will they do so again?

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FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE COUNCIL FOR BASIC EDUCATION

Cliche Quiz for Teachers

The scene is the Dean's office at Grassroots State Teachers College. Dean Percy Pedagogue is interviewing a prospective student.

Normally in wartime the press gets its combat news directly from the military. The armed forces usually do all they can to help newsmen get to the front and cover the war as it really is, and the people back home get an accurate and colorful picture. The newsmen stay within the bounds of security, and usually all goes well. A civilian agency does not come between the fourth estate and the fighting man, as the USIA has in Viet Nam.

Someone in power has made the USIA a Vietnamese news czar which decides what the American people can and cannot know about one of the most crucial and far-reaching crises of the decade. Beyond the requirements of security there is no excuse for this news muzzling. There is no excuse under any circumstances for this control of the American press by a government propaganda bureau.

Dean: Miss Jones, after looking over your transcript I am sure you will fit in nicely at Grassroots, but I always like to have a little chat with candidates to test their professional vocabulary. I might begin by asking you what the curriculum of the modern school is designed to meet?

Miss Jones: The child's interests, needs, and abilities.

Dean: Fine. Now can you tell me how such a curriculum is determined?

Miss Jones: By what research tells us about the developmental needs of the child.

Dean: Here at Grassroots we like to think we are pioneering in presenting new knowledge. What is this called?

Miss Jones: It is called working on the frontiers of knowledge.

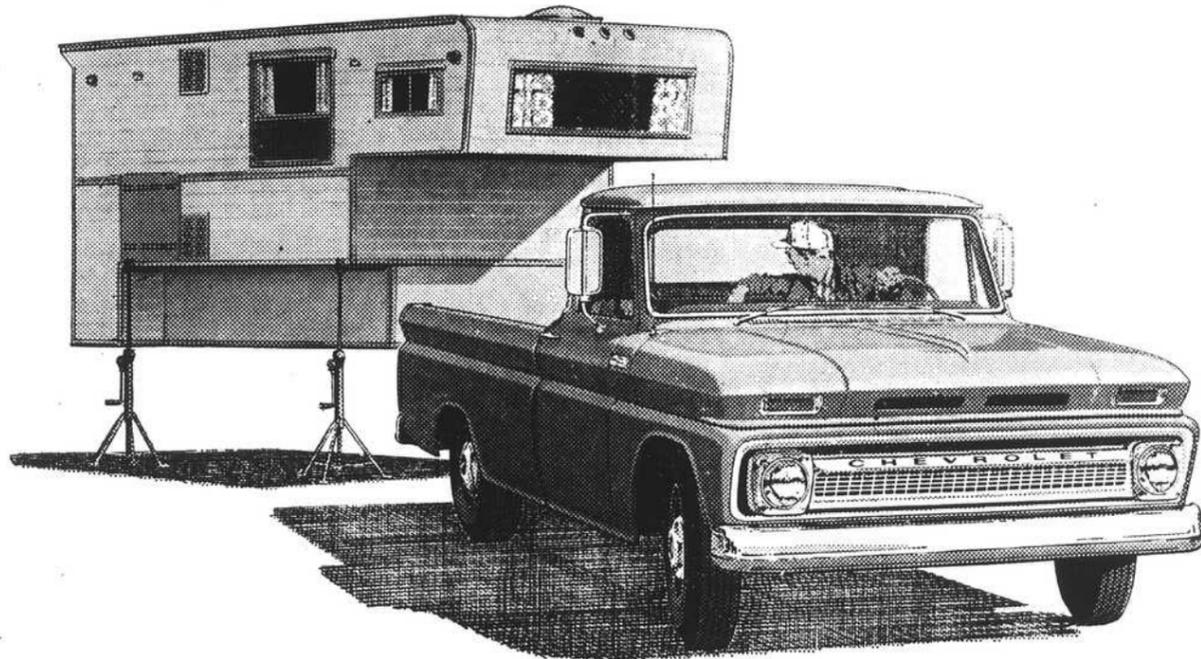
Dean: And what is this knowledge aimed to meet?

Miss Jones: The new demands of our times.

Dean: The trust of the program here is dirtced toward what?

Miss Jones: A major break-Continued on page 4

New Chevy custom camper

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