

No Comment

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NO COMMENT is a report of incidents on the national scene, and does not necessarily reflect NAM policy or position.

Washington — Opponents of President Kennedy's grandiose program to provide health aid for the elderly—regardless of need—should not be lulled into quietude by statements that congressional action likely will be postponed until the 1964 election year.

Indications at the present time point to this outcome. However, should there be a relaxation of the campaign against the multi-billion-dollar program, the Administration could seize the opportunity to press for quick action.

Mr. Kennedy already is on record as asserting that "social security health insurance must be enacted this year." He was a vigorous advocate of such legislation even before he entered the White House.

While the legislation has been stopped in previous years, there is no assurance that it will be rejected again—especially if there should be a let-down by the opposition.

This same situation prevails with respect to other Kennedy legislative proposals—except for the tax reduction program.

Tax reduction has been given No. 1 priority—and hints have been passed out that Mr. Kennedy might be willing to postpone action on other proposals if necessary to obtain approval of his tax program.

Many on Capitol Hill remain convinced, however, that the Administration will agree to deferring action on major proposals only if convinced that it faces defeat.

These legislators maintain that the campaign against New Frontier legislation should be given the "full speed ahead" signal—and should be broadened and intensified.

Higher Taxes Proposed
 A new objection raised against Mr. Kennedy's costly compulsory program to furnish health aid to the elderly is the fact that he proposes to finance a major part of it by raising taxes on employees and employers—at the very time that he is pressuring Congress to approve his tax reduction program.

The tax increases imposed by the health aid program, it is pointed out, would counteract to a very considerable extent whatever benefit might be derived from Mr. Kennedy's proposal to cut taxes.

This, it is contended, makes his health aid program highly illogical—not to mention many basic objections raised against it.

Administration officials estimate that the 36 recommendations for aiding senior citizens, contained in Mr. Kennedy's special message to Congress, would cost \$10 billion over a five-year period.

The far-flung program includes hospital and nursing care, higher retirement benefits, improved employment and recreation opportunities, and housing construction.

Special interest centers around the proposals to provide hospital

Nation's Property Tax Rolls Rise Nearly One-third In Value During '55-'61 Period

Assessed values for State and local property taxation throughout the United States increased by nearly a third in just the five-year period between 1956 and 1961—a measure of the great wealth-producing capacity of our economy.

Figures compiled by the U. S. Bureau of the Census put the gross total of real and personal property assessments before legal exemptions at a record \$367 billion last year. This was \$87 billion above the comparable figure for 1956, the first year for which such a comprehensive study was made by the Census Bureau. Exemptions were \$11.6 billion last year versus \$3 billion in 1956, and consisted primarily of homestead exemptions in a handful of Southern States and veterans exemptions in 15 others.

Nearly Third in 3 States
 Just under a third of the U. S. assessment total is found in the States of New York, Illinois and California, ranking in that order. New York City alone with its adjacent tri-State commuting area made up practically an eighth of the national aggregate.

The major factor in the rise in tax valuations has been the steady growth of construction during the post-World War II period. The Census Bureau reports the addition of 6.4 million nonfarm residential properties and 300,000 new commercial and industrial properties to the assessment rolls in the 1956-61 period alone. As a result, nonfarm residential properties now represent close to three-fifths of local realty assessments. The property tax is the backbone of local revenues, figuring out to \$7 out of every \$8 of the \$19.8 billion of local tax receipts in 1961.

Assessment figures, of course, represent only a fraction of the total tangible wealth of the nation—our homes, factories, farms, commercial establishments, transportation and utility systems, and vacant land. Valuations set for property tax purposes commonly come to only a limited proportion of the current market worth of taxable property. Furthermore, assessment regulations and formulas vary widely between States and communities, and this variation is particularly evident in practices with respect to per-

sonal property.

Great Areas of Exclusion
 Beyond that, there are great areas of exclusion from property taxation in the form of governmental holdings (State and local as well as Federal), church properties, nonprofit hospitals, and educational institutions. The worth involved here can only be a guess, but it is significant to note that a special study of the real estate holdings of the U. S. Government alone came up with a cost figure of \$38 billion in the late Fifties. At that time, Federal land holdings represented more than a fifth of the entire land area of the continental United States.

And as far as the wealth of the nation is concerned, there are the vast amounts of what is technically called intangible personal property—the hundreds of billions of the people's savings in their life insurance and other thrift institutions, stocks and bonds, bank deposits, mortgages, and the like. Whereas all privately owned real property is subject everywhere in the United States to local general property taxes, intangible personal property is in most States legally exempt from such levies.

State and City Comparisons
 The detailed Census Bureau figures reveal that \$113 billion of the country's assessment total are in the three states of New York, Illinois and California. This combined total exceeded the aggregate assessment rolls in the other seven States in the top ten of the valuation roster—Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin and New Jersey. Two other States—Massachusetts and Connecticut—crossed the \$10 billion assessment mark last year.

As for our big cities and metropolitan areas, New York City with an assessment roll for its five boroughs of \$28 billion was far in the lead. Another \$16 billion were in the nine counties which comprise the New York commuting area—Fairfield in Connecticut; Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk in New York State; and Essex, Bergen, Hudson, Passaic and Union in New Jersey. Fairfield led this group with an assessment total of \$3.4 billion last year, followed by

Red Cross Called In Stricken Areas

The Red Cross has moved disaster staff into flood and tornado-stricken sections of eight eastern and southern states to help local chapters provide recovery aid to the victims.

Murray D. Ashley, chairman of the Chowan County Chapter, said mass shelter and feeding have been necessary in many sections of the flood-swollen Ohio River Valley in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, and at tornado-stricken Bessemer, Alabama.

The National Red Cross has moved 50 of its disaster staff into the Ohio Valley floods area. Five caseworkers and advisors in building reconstruction are at Bessemer and Lipscomb, Alabama, to assist in recovery of more than 100 families whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

Local chapters have been active in emergency aid also at Centre, Alabama, and Cave Spring, Georgia, hit by tornadoes on March 5 and in flash-flooded sections of Anderson County, South Carolina, and Sevier County, Tennessee.

Many stricken families, particularly in the Ohio River flood areas, and at Bessemer, Alabama, are expected to require substantial financial aid from the Red Cross in the restoration of their homes and furnishings and for temporary maintenance, Ashley was advised.

MASONS MEET TONIGHT
 A stated communication of Unanimity Lodge No. 7, A. F. & A. M., will be held tonight (Thursday) at 8 o'clock. T. B. Williford, master of the lodge, is very anxious to have a large attendance.

LIONS MEET MONDAY
 Edenton Lions will hold their weekly meeting Monday night, March 25, at 7 o'clock at the Edenton Restaurant. President Herbert Hollowell, Jr., urges every Lion to be present.

RED MEN MEETING
 Chowan Tribe No. 12, Improved Order of Red Men, will meet Monday night, March 25, at 7:30 o'clock. Robert Brooks, sachem, urges a large attendance.

Edenton Rotarians Planning To Attend Wilson Conference

A number of Edenton Rotarians, headed by President W. B. Rosevear, plan to attend the annual conference of the 771st district of Rotary International on March 24 and 25 in Wilson.

Representatives from 38 other Rotary Clubs from the north central and north eastern part of the state, comprising the district, will also attend the conference. This meeting is held each year, President Rosevear said, to review Rotary service activities and to make plans for increasing their effectiveness during the coming year.

Representing the president of Rotary International, Nitish C. Laharry of Calcutta, India, at the conference will be Gervis S. Brady of Canton, Ohio, owner of a public relations company. Also giving one of the principal addresses will be Edmund H. Harding of Washington, N. C., the Tarheel humorist, and a past Rotary District Governor.

Striking Blonde
 "It has recently been found that the human body contains sulphur," said a lecturer on physiology to his class. "Sulphur?" exclaimed a blonde student. "And how much sulphur is there in a girl's body?" "The amount varies," replied the speaker.

"Oh," said the girl, "I suppose that's why some of us make better matches than others."

Competition
 "I suppose the little wife will win all the arguments in your house?"
 "No. She'll win half of them."
 "Oh, you expect to win the other half?"
 "No, but my mother-in-law will."

INTERESTING PROGRAM FOR HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Chowan Hospital Auxiliary held a very interesting meeting Friday afternoon in the nurses' home.

Dr. Ed Bond and Dr. Polk Williams demonstrated various hospital equipment during the meeting and the kindergarten class taught by Mrs. J. J. Ross sang several numbers.

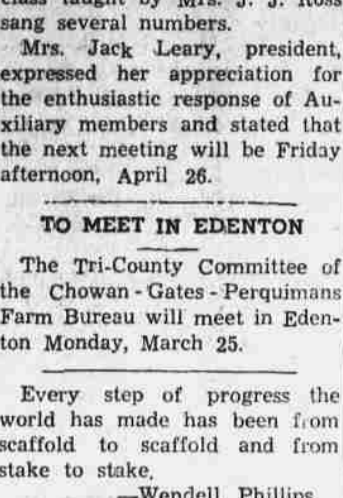
Mrs. Jack Leary, president, expressed her appreciation for the enthusiastic response of Auxiliary members and stated that the next meeting will be Friday afternoon, April 26.

TO MEET IN EDENTON
 The Tri-County Committee of the Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Farm Bureau will meet in Edenton Monday, March 25.

Every step of progress the world has made has been from scaffold to scaffold and from stake to stake.
 —Wendell Phillips.

LITTLE DOLL

When a little girl wants to pretend she's just like mom these days, not only are lipstick and high heels a must, but a wig is included also. Amanda Northcote, of London, England, right, feels top of twin sister Vanessa's head and notes that wigs are kind of stiff.



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