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VICTOR MEEKINS, Editor; CATHERINE D. MEEKINS, Secretary-Treasurer

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ENIGMATICAL ECONOMICS.

As everybody knows, the national income is higher than it ever was. So are wages and prices—the two have a habit of moving pretty much in unison—and so are taxes. Armies of people are earning two or three times as much as in the prewar era.

Yet a great many Americans, despite this statistical prosperity, are going deeper and deeper into debt. Higher incomes have been offset and then some by higher outgo. That is the theme of a Wall Street Journal news article aptly headed "Debts, Debts, Debts."

The paper cites case histories of people its reporters interviewed in various cities. These people represent a wide range of occupations and incomes. A Chicago steelworker earning more than \$5,000 a year is worried and in debt—the strike intensified his troubles, but he had them before it was called. A Detroit couple earning \$6,800 has cut its entertainment budget in half and hasn't saved anything for over a year. A \$20,000 a year executive has no debts outside of charge accounts and a big mortgage, but thinks he may have to buy a new fur coat for his wife on the installment plan. A San Francisco stenographer said she's always \$50 behind, and that her last vacation put her \$250 in the red.

These comments, the Wall Street Journal points out, square with Federal Reserve Board figures on outstanding consumer credit. When last August began, the total was \$21,200,000,000—a record—which marked a \$2,000,000,000 jump in one year. They also fit in with a Bureau of Labor Statistics report, covering the 1950 financial experience of families in various income brackets in 91 communities. During that year the average family in this group had income after taxes of \$4,300 and spent \$4,700, for a \$400 deficit.

A superficially confusing aspect to the picture is found in the fact that savings, as well as debts, are also at record levels—the Commerce Department finds that they were rising at the annual rate of \$16,500,000,000 during the second quarter of this year. That is accounted for, in part, the Journal says, because "this definition of savings, of course, includes a lot of things many people wouldn't consider savings, such as repayment of debts on consumer goods—so the bigger such debts, and the more the repayments, the more the 'savings.'" Also the 50 cent dollars make larger totals.

Lots of people are getting along nicely and are staying out of debt. The Journal quotes a number of these good managers, some in modest income brackets, who have more possessions than ever and still are making both ends meet. But they seem to be exceptions to the rule.

Here is one fly in the ointment of this depreciated money era, and various developments substantiate it. For instance, the steel strike made a hole in automobile production. Yet this scarcity of cars, which some dealers thought would bring in a flood of eager searchers for new machines, was accompanied by a scarcity of buyers. Save for a small handful of makes and models, no one has to wait for the new car of his choice, despite the drop in factory output.

To sum up, most of us have many more dollars to rattle around than we ever had before—but they don't go very far. And many of us are substantially worse off, if we make an honest accounting, than in times when prices, taxes and incomes were all much lower.

A western oil company recently ran an advertisement which had nothing to do with selling its products. It was called "Having Trouble With Your Family Budget?" and it dealt with the terrific tax bill families in all income brackets must carry.

The text took the form of a chart listing the taxes—Federal and state income, sales and excise, social insurance, property and so on—that the average family pays. And here, in part, are the findings:

If your family has a \$3,500 income, you will pay \$1,098 in taxes this year. If your income is \$4,500, you will pay \$1,494. If our income is \$7,500, you will pay \$2,801. And if it is \$15,000, you will pay \$6,618.

To look at the tax facts another way, more than three dollars in taxes of all kinds will be collected this year for every two dollars collected in 1949. And almost \$10 in taxes of all kinds will be collected this year for every six dollars collected in 1945—which was the peak spending year of World War II.

All in all, close to a third of the whole national income disappears down the insatiable maw of the tax-collecting agencies of one unit of government or another.

This is the answer to those who still are foolish enough to say that most of the cost of government can be raised by soaking the rich, and so it isn't particularly important to the rest of us. The rich have been soaked to the point of confiscation already, and if all the money they earn were seized by government it would only pay the bills for a few weeks. It's the people of small and moderate means who are taking the beating today—and who have the most to gain from the elimination of governmental waste, extravagance, and graft.

BELLY POLITICS.

(Laurinburg Exchange)

Much of the campaign oratory is aimed at the stomach and not at the brain. Man is essentially an earth-bound creature, and concerned largely with his physical needs. Thus it is not strange that we hear politicians and candidates ringing the changes on material prosperity and making like all that is necessary for man's happiness is a full stomach, plenty of spending money, and that elusive something that we call security.

That kind of campaigning is not only good politics, but it has precedent and thousands of years of history behind it. The ancients regarded the bowels as the seat of the affections, and such terms as "bowels of affection" are frequent and familiar in literature of the past. In our day we often hear such phrases as "intestinal fortitude," and "I hate his guts."

So when the politician goes in for "belly politics" he knows what he is doing, and it is often more effective in winning votes than lofty arguments addressed to reason and the intellect. The truth is that we use our brains very little, and we are gullible and credible enough many times to swallow what the politicians offer us, without asking questions or looking at the facts for ourselves. And if we do assay to reason a little, we are likely to let prejudice and habit cloud our thoughts, or our emotions rule instead of our brains.

OTHER EDITORS

DON'T BLAME YOUR PARENTS (Oxford, Ledged)

Today it is the fashion to hold parents accountable for every flaw in their offspring from plain laziness to mental illness. Many parents, influenced by this vogue, are blaming themselves for loving their child too little or too much, for teaching him the facts of life too early or too late, for being too strict or too indulgent. Adult neurotics are attributing their troubles to parental errors in their childhoods.

Refusing this popular form of buck passing, Jacob H. Conn, M. D., says in the October Reader's Digest "Such half-baked misinterpretations of the importance of the formative years ignore the fact that most humans are blessed with an inner strength. Actually the average child is as tough psychologically as he is physically. Just as the body repels germs, so has the mind similar immunities and resistances to the unwise or unkind doings of parents."

Dr. Conn is assistant professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His article, as to Edith M. Stern, is condensed from Your Life.

Mental illness or neuroticism is not caused by an event but by the way a person reacts to it, Dr. Conn states. "Good old-fashioned character—a compound of inherited tendencies and our ability to tolerate disappointments—determine whether we withstand childhood tragedies or whether they down us all our lives."

The cliché, "There are no problem children, only problem parents," is as extreme and fallacious as was the Puritan idea that all children areimps of Satan, Dr. Conn asserts. "A child can be responsible for his own bad upbringing, for it takes two to make an emotional bargain. When a father is too authoritarian the reason may well be that the child craves being bossed."

Parents can supply inspiring examples of conduct which will influence mental, physical and spiritual growth. But acceptance or rejection of parental background is largely determined by the child's individual character. The majority of normal youngsters manage realistically to cope with their parents' antics. "Children who do not have the neurotic need to be dependent will not be dominated. Maybe they react with tantrums. Maybe they argue. Maybe they are sullenly silent. But whatever their technique for maintaining their integrity, 'Momism' won't work and can't wreck them."

PRESENTS A PROBLEM (Williamston Enterprise)

The increasing number of speeders and drunken drivers on North Carolina highways and streets is presenting a serious problem. The major seriousness centers around human life and limb and property. Then there is the apparent indifference on the part of the public. The number of alleged violators is mounting so rapidly, that public sentiment against violations is being absorbed by volume and prosecution and the courts has to overcome sentiment, business relations and friendship.

Over in Pitt County, the county judge is said to be "bearing down" on speeders. The more he "bears down" the stronger the sentiment will eventually grow against the officers and the speed law itself.

Martin County once had a fixed fine for speeders, but convictions were harder and harder to get. Even those who admitted a speed law violation complained about the fine and costs.

It is sad commentary, but the public holds up its holy horror at the increasing number of motor vehicle accidents, and then turns and gripes about the speed law and other traffic regulation being enforced.

It is a serious problem, one in which the public demands laws and the turns and questions the law at enforcement time.

SOMETHING IN THE SOCK (Wall Street Journal)

A long time ago Ben Franklin had a lot to say on the value of thrift, like a penny saved is a penny earned. Even McGuffey's Reader was chockful of thrift, and Parson Weems spoke highly of it.

But that, as we say, was a long time ago, when the penny was actually a medium of exchange and had some purchasing power. These days, sales taxes are about all a penny will buy.

Old Ben Franklin spoke before the Century of the Planners, of course. He lived in the days when a man and family were supposed to get ahead by hard work and thrift, saving for that rainy day.

The planners tell it differently. The government is going to take care of rainy days. The government is going to take care of all of us with unemployment insurance in case we get fired, and social security when we get old. Mr. Brannan would like to feed us more cheaply and Mr. Ewing wants to fix it so we won't have to pay doctor's bills. All we'll have to pay are more and more

HUMAN INTEREST

By CARLTON MORRIS, Editor, Gates County Index

During my rather hectic life, I frequently meet people who are interested in me enough to inquire into my welfare. Quite often they cover their collective mouths to prevent a yawn and ask, "How's the newspaper business?"

Often I meet people who are genuinely interested in newspaper work, but they also often labor under the misapprehension that the life of a country editor is very dull. I once talked with a reporter on a city paper whose subscribers run upward of 100,000 and my sensitive soul could feel the condescending attitude, that he had toward a poor country boy whom he believed to be hanging on the fringes of the newspaper world.

Then there are the people who think of a newspaper only in terms of accident, rape and sudden death. This I consider as entirely the

taxes. Many folks believe more in the planners than in the old adages these days. A news roundup by this paper yesterday showed that people generally are deeper in debt than they were last year, even though they earned more money. It showed something more. It showed that a lot of them aren't a bit worried about it.

The roundup pretty well bore out the findings of the Bureau of Labor Statistics recent report on family indebtedness. This report showed that the average city family spent during 1950 about \$400 more than was earned. To do that it had to dip into savings or go into debt.

The government sets the example for the people in spending and in indebtedness, and the example it sets is a bad one. The government spends much more than it takes in, and it owes a debt of about \$260 billion. Since the government is supported by taxes from the people, it means that the people owe that much more.

A government, like a family, is on shaky economic ground when it spends more than it takes in. It may look like prosperity, but if there's nothing in the sock, the sheriff usually comes right behind the rainy day. A nation in debt is only millions of families in debt and the one thing worse is for both to be in debt at the same time. The planners say this in all wrong, but old Ben Franklin knew it for the truth.

wrong attitude and from my own observation, I would say that this outlook is brought about by many papers that give such things top billing and front page space, while leaving the important things of life to a minor role. It is true that newspapers are more or less governed by what subscribers want, but a good paper can often educate the public to a better way of seeing things.

At various press meetings, I have heard editors discuss nearly every phase of newspapering, from advertising to editorials, but seldom do they mention the rewards that come to a lowly country editor and never do they mention the seamy side of life with which we are all too often confronted. Nearly always they talk of advertising and publishing and the mechanical end of the business. To things for they either make or lose them these are the important money. But to the poor old country editor who never hoped to make any money in the first place, there has to be some reward or he would quickly become a politician and make his living honest.

When we of the shiny pants gang, have worked day and night toward the promotion of some project that we believe will help or ease the load of our fellowman, and we see that project taken up by the rest of the world as a worth while cause, then are we tall in the saddle.

During my short career as a newspaper man, I went with the mother who lost her babies by fire and grieved with those who died in highway accidents. I viewed those who were sick and afflicted, with the utmost compassion and would to God that I could have relieved their suffering. Yet I found that when I tell the world of the thing I saw, it was impossible to put into words, all the heartbreak and pathos that I beheld.

In attempting to do that, much of the feeling was lost and I would often read what I wrote and did not find it good. But when it was finally written and placed on the pages of a newspaper, I was amazed at the response. One letter from the most lowly and humble person is all the pay that an editor can hope for, that is all he wants. Yet I have received them by the hundreds and while all were not complimentary, I value them as my most priceless possessions. They are my reward.

The job of a newspaper is to build when and wherever it is possible. It should record the happenings of the world from the cradle to the grave. It should present the land in which it exists in its best light not forgetting to

TRUCK FROM BELHAVEN KILLS SMALL BOY, 7

Wake County Boy, 7, Was Chasing Dog Back Across the Road and Ran in Path of Truck

No charges were filed against Jack Hanford, listed as being of Belhaven, driver of a fish truck in whose path a seven year old boy ran and was killed Tuesday about nine miles north of Raleigh. Gary Lee Hux, seven years old,

had been trying to drive his dog back home, and ran into the road in front of the truck, which swerved to one side, but the boy was struck by the side of the truck.

The boy attended Millbrook school, and lived at Neuse Crossroads. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hux. The mishap occurred on Highway No. 1.

WINSTEADVILLE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Talmage Selby and daughter, Debbie, of Wilmington and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Winn of Elizabeth City were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. Ottis Selby.

Advertisement for G&W SEVEN STAR 90 Proof! Blended Whiskey. Includes price list: \$3.65 FIFTH, \$2.30 PINT. Features a bottle image and logo.

hunting C

This company will issue temporary permits allowing individuals to hunt on lands owned by the company in Dare County, North Carolina. The permit will be valid only for the hunting season which opens in North Carolina on October 15, 1952. The fee for a permit will be \$1. To be eligible for a permit a person must hold a hunting license issued by the State of North Carolina.

Hunters are to carry their permits with them at all times while hunting on company lands. Most of the company lands may be identified by signs bearing the company name and reading: "Hunting Allowed by Permission Only," which are being posted in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission. In return for the privilege of hunting on company lands, a hunter will be expected to

- Comply with all applicable game laws.
Take every precaution to avoid setting fires negligently.
Extinguish any camp fire he sets; report any forest fires seen and, if practical, help extinguish them.
Generally respect the company's property and avoid damage, especially damage to growing trees.

Permits will be available on and after October 13, 1952, at the company office in the Fearling Building, Manteo, or through the following employees of the company: William Basknight, East Lake; Ira O. Payne, Stumpy Point; James Mann, Mann's Harbor.

