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The undersigned of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely represent Organized Labor in all of its efforts and to endeavor to secure for the publication the best possible news and to give it the widest possible circulation. The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of combined circulation of two large circulated weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Paton and all major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

"AS I SEE IT . . ."
 By STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

Due to many requests and misrepresentation of the facts, I am today going to outline, in detail, the money received by State Representatives and State Senators of the General Assembly. The pay of a State Senator and a member of the House of Representatives is identical; each receives \$3,000 for the biennium at a rate of \$1,500 per year. During the 1929 Session of the Legislature, Governor Duff signed a Bill which would allow each member of the General Assembly \$100 per month for secretarial purposes. In some cases, members of the House use this money towards expenses incurred. But, in practically every case, each State Senator is compelled

at this time to clearly state the true picture as it exists. Every Session finds a flock of new bills introduced to raise the salary of these men but, for some unknown reason, none of them get to the Governor for his signature. We must admit that while a number of these bills pass the House of Representatives, most of them come to a peaceful death in Senate committees. Our conclusions for the death of these bills are as follows: (1) The House is composed of many ordinary working men, (2) the Senate, in the most part, is composed of manufacturers, lawyers and doctors. Most of these men, being very wealthy, do not wish to have a lucrative salary because same may induce the ordinary man to run for their positions. The position of State Senator, in most cases, is one of honor.

While it carries many obligations and responsibilities, the monetary gains are of no value and I, personally, think that if the salary were increased to the point that a man could make a decent living, after elected, we would find many new faces in the State Senate of Pennsylvania. But, at the present time, many of the men in that body are only interested in protecting their own investments and while they receive little pay for their services, while at Harrisburg, they vote for and pass Legislation that brings in great monetary gains throughout the years by protecting their own business. It just does not make sense to have a man in office receiving \$1,500 per year to pass his judgment on a billion dollar budget. Certainly, some day, someone, or somewhere along the line, this "closed corporation" will be exposed and men with good judgment and who are not interested

in their own private business will take over. Then and only then can the people of our Commonwealth look forward to broad and intelligent legislation. Pay for Councilmen Now, while we're on the salary basis, we wish to point out that during the 1927 Session of the Legislature, a bill was enacted permitting Councilmen of all Boroughs to receive some remuneration for their services. This bill was set up on a graduated scale covering Councilmen from towns with populations of 1,000 to 10,000. In communities like Paton, Barnesboro, Ebensburg, Nanty-Glo and several others, the Councilmen are permitted, by passing an ordinance, to receive a salary of \$20 per month. This, of course, is a maximum. They may, if they wish, pass an ordinance to receive less. We feel

quite certain that the people of our communities will find no objection if, according to law, the various Councils pass ordinances to receive this meager stipend of a salary. First, it will induce every councilman to attend every meeting, which is not being done at present. Second, they will sense their responsibilities more so if paid than if not paid. Third, it may induce men who are in retirement, but who have a broad knowledge of a community, to once again become active and vote the part. All in all, no person should be asked to devote his time and talent to running a Borough, taking upon himself the various responsibilities, without receiving something for his services. Twenty dollars is not too much for a Councilman and we feel that every Borough should enact an ordinance along these lines. JOHN J. HALUSKA

Easy, But Unpopular, Taxation

The wage tax is an easy way to get money for local government. It's easy to collect. Like Uncle Sam, the local government can take it out of the pay check before the man who earns it ever sees it. Under our Pennsylvania Constitution there can be no exemptions, no credits for dependents, no graduated scale of taxes falling more heavily on the rich than on the poor. Any Pennsylvania wage tax is a flat tax. You can have a family of 13 children and earn a fixed amount. A single man earning the same amount has no dependents. But both of you pay the same wage tax—exactly the same. That's the main unfairness of wage taxes. It has other unfairnesses which the experience of others can be fairly well charted. It grows and it spreads. It may start out at one-half of one percent. But in case of need it can be increased. And need always can be shown. It may start out as other taxes do—as an "emergency tax." The real reason being shown is that the emergency never seems to end. Where one local government adopts it, the nearby localities—for one reason or another—usually do. The wage tax has been instrumental in helping out community saving bodies in many places. However, it's UNFAIR taxation.

There's a lot of griping about federal income taxes. But the federal levy at least is as fair to most classes as it's humanly possible to make them. If you have a family and dependents, you are given credit for those dependents. If you are single, and haven't any dependents, you are soaked a lot more money. But the wage tax—well, you just pay certain percentage of your earnings to local government, regardless of how many those earnings, and of how great the need is in supporting others.

Can Be Overdone

Over-zealous boroughs and sometimes townships, in ordaining speed and traffic laws, can overdo restrictions and suffer criticism as a result. Particularly is this true when the restrictions are so severe as to affect the popularity and even the business interests of a community. In a neighboring county a borough is so restricting traffic that business people and most of the citizenry are now objecting and asking council to liberalize the restrictions. When communities seek to gouge the motorist to fill the cash register, rather than the thought of actual safety, there's bound to be reaction.

Parking meters, too, sometimes are a cause of complaint for motorists. However the fallacy of the parking meter and its alleged benefit is fast dissipating. Here in Paton after many months of trial this source of revenue to the borough and actual service to the end-user motorist is no longer. The liberal break on payment of penalties given overdue parkers is a display of friendliness on the part of the local authorities. You are not too badly affected if you forget how much time you have and find a meter in the way of your car. If you take the time to read the instructions on the ticket, take care of the matter promptly, you'll find the penalty may be but a few cents.

Of course there are many towns that are hard-boiled on parking meter violations. They may be gathering in the nickels from a parking general public but they also are creating for themselves an impression that if far from complimentary. A good community in which to live and do business is the community that is fair and just and doesn't gouge a visitor. Paton surely has been demonstrating that it is a good community.

Non-Partisan School Directors

There long has been agitation on the part of many civic-minded people that a school director should be chosen on a non-partisan basis, and that a candidate should not have to be branded with the trade mark of any political party in order to seek to serve his community, free of remuneration, and with the thought in mind of seeking to help in the educational facilities of the children of the community. There may be arguments both ways in the matter. However, a new version of legislation for the non-partisan election of school directors has been prepared by State Senator John J. Haluska of Paton and presented to the State Senate. One bill for this purpose preceded the Haluska version to a Senate committee, but has little chance of coming out of the Senate. Proposed by Senator Frank W. Hahn of Berks County, it calls for a special ballot at the primaries in all unincorporated places with a separate, non-partisan ballot for school directors alone.

The Ruth Bill permits referendums in second, third and fourth class school districts to determine whether or not the non-partisan plan shall be accepted. It has been presented by Senator Ruth at each session since 1928, but only once got out of committee and then promptly was sent back. Senator Haluska's bill instead would simply allow school directors, like judges, to run for nominations by both major political parties. The Cambria County Senator said that all school directors should be non-partisan and free from political parties or biases. The children would be beneficiaries of the absence of partisanship in the election, Haluska said.

School directors' associations and educational and women's organizations in the state long have endorsed the idea of taking the school director out of partisan politics. Perhaps it would be a proper idea. After all, the office of school director is one that should not be influenced by any political party, but a job that the man so chosen can feel was entrusted to him through the faith he holds with his neighbors. Whether he's a Democrat or a Republican shouldn't really matter much.

Two Kinds of Letter Writing

Send more letters to Washington, the seat of our national government, and then send some more to Harrisburg, the seat of the state government, and finally do some letter writing to officials at home. But keep those letters sensible, and practical, and know what you are writing about. This is the advice that is being given as a sure way to get better government, especially economy in government. When you are writing letters, regardless of to whom, whether it be to a public official or perhaps a newspaper, never use a fictitious signature. When you won't sign your name, there's evidence of insincerity.

Then there's another kind of letter that can do much harm. Usually it's the letter that's written to some loved G. I., perhaps sent off in the middle of the war. Sometimes a letter of this kind, perhaps from a parent or wife, can be a very delicate form of letters that results that of the winning battles and shells of the enemy. Every envelope addressed to an A.P.O. foot soldier, or sailor, or some, can be a potential bomb; not a bomb that will be laid that destroys hope and faith, something the very will to live and fight.

That's a strong statement, says the Kwanza Magazine, but true. Ask any chaplain, any company commander. Ask Red Cross workers stationed overseas who have to listen to thousands of letters written by families and friends and finally see many miles from home. It's a real hell of things a man wanted to hear could build him up or tear him down. Other letters could tear a man's feelings to shreds. Letters like this: "My own boy! Mother hates to be the one to tell you that, but really the situation with Jean is becoming impossible. You'll hear, and I have worked to give you children a respectful place in the community, and I can't have your wife spilling it all for me."

Or a letter from a wife saying, "I just can't stand living like this any more. The baby's whining is driving me crazy." Or a letter that says, "You letter looks terrible. He's so worried about you, he's making himself sick." or "People are beginning to talk about your sweet wife and that new man from the bank." Red Cross men and service officers remember such letters and remember the men who received them. Those letters came and went to some extent in every way of the nation. Men today, are not receiving them. Write pleasant letters.

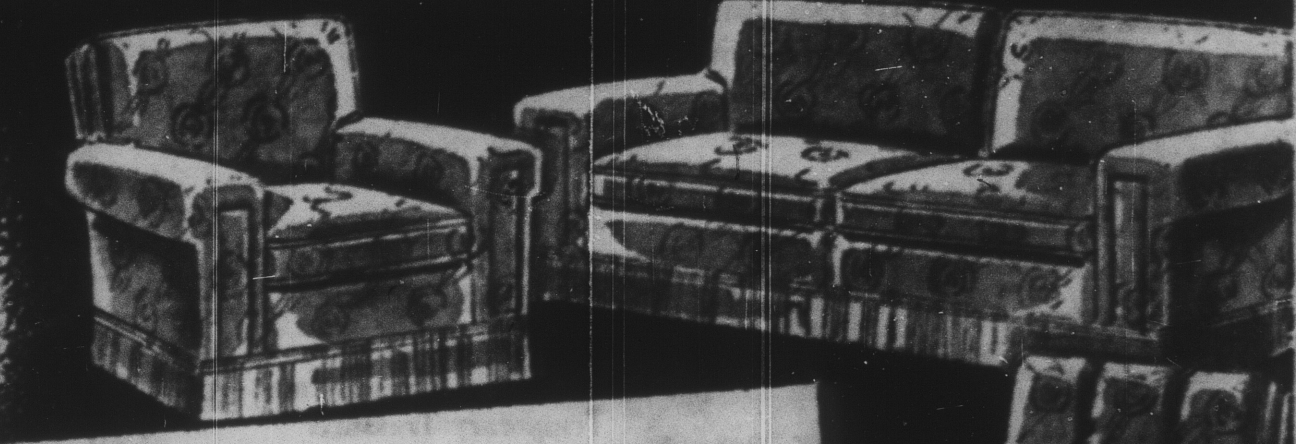
Letters are the most important supply lines of good feeling a community can have. Unpleasant things are bound to happen in every family. But unless it is something a man away from home can do something about, why worry him with it? Happiness is a good thing. If there is a serious illness which might warrant the man's return home, contact the proper authorities at once and see what can be done. If it's a minor illness, write nothing about it until the patient has fully recovered.

Letters are the man's one link to the only reality he can have in this world—his home and family. The letter that says, "I'm home and I'm glad to see you," is as good as his presence. Letters full of kindly cheering and encouragement can turn that man into a champion. The most interesting and satisfying thing a man can do is to write to his home, his parents, his friends, his community and his interests. No detail is too small.

In the case of the letters you write your officials, your representatives in Washington and Harrisburg, it doesn't matter how much you can say as your letter is sensible and personal your own and the community's. Never write any official a good letter unless that something they have done, or are about to do, is something that will make a change in the color. Some of the best letters are those that tell the man's column of something that has been done. Have some constructive thoughts.

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