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The endeavor of the Union Press-Courier is to sincerely represent Organized Labor in all efforts to obtain economic freedom. Material for publication must be signed by the writer as an evidence of good faith. The Union Press-Courier gives its advertisers the advantage of combined circulations of two large-circulation weeklies and has a reader coverage that blankets Patton and all major mining towns in Northern Cambria County.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Taxes We've Escaped

Pennsylvania during 1951 witnessed a lot of heady matter about taxes in a legislative session that lasted just about the entire year, and, do you know, the ultimate result of the session has left the state in very select company? There are only six states that do not levy either a sales tax or an income tax, and we are one of them. The others are Maine, New Jersey, Nevada, Nebraska and Texas. Citizens of many states are afflicted with both income and sales taxes, plus, of course, what Uncle Sam loads on their aching backs.

How long Pennsylvania can hold out is a good question. We squeaked by the just-ended session of the legislature without getting that \$1,000,000 income tax which came close to passing. There is a lot of talk in Harrisburg about "broadening the base of the state tax structure." In plain everyday English that means dumping a sales or income tax on us.

It's a safe bet that the pressure on the next legislature will be as hot as the kitchen stove in an effort to put across either a sales or income tax of some description. Years ago most states paid their bills with money collected from property owners and corporation taxes. Now the levy on retail sales, incomes, liquor, tobacco, autos, and gasoline provide the chief revenue. Of course, these taxes don't apply to Pennsylvania so far as income and sales taxes are concerned. Corporations, liquor, tobacco and gasoline provide the chief revenue.

The sales tax burdens the citizens of only 28 states, but it is the biggest single revenue producer, accounting for 21 percent of all state income. West Virginia, by the way, was the first to impose a consumer-absorbed sales tax. That was back in 1921. West Virginia socks all retail sales two percent. Ohio imposes a three percent levy, and it is worth noting that Ohio accepted the sales tax in depression days as an "emergency" tax. As in most such cases, the emergency seems to have been permanent. The tax proposed by Governor Fine for Pennsylvania figured out at only one-half of one percent. Judging from the past history of taxes, however, the legislature would have raised the rate sooner or later. Many public officials, joyfully eyeing the tax money rolling in, have no trouble finding new places in which to spend it. Republicans as well as Democrats come up with the theory that the people want all of these services, so they must pay for them.

The "Relief" Monster

Our poor we have always with us. There was a day not so long ago when the county had poor directors, and funds from the county treasury gave some assistance, mostly to old folks in their homes, or in the County Home. The latter is supposed to be a home for the aged, but is anything but that presently. It houses adults of all ages, and for the most part, all people in need of public care and treatment.

But County Poor Directors were eliminated. Relief was handled by federal and state funds, and administered by them. There hasn't been any exacting ceiling on the sums spent. The legislature last year voted down a proposal which would have put a ceiling on the public assistance "overhead" in this state. Perhaps the measure was impractical, although the State Senate passed it without a dissenting vote. But the general idea of cutting the cost of relief, in some measure, must be applauded.

With a New Year now having started this is a good time to take another look at the giant problem public assistance has become in the brief 20 years or so of its life. Born in 1932 in Pennsylvania, and around that time in most other states, public assistance now has become a way of life for more than 5,000,000 Americans. To support them, federal, state and local taxpayers are putting out well over two billion dollars a year.

According to a recent article by John Harrisman of the North American Newspaper Alliance, these expenditures are twice what they were in the depression year of 1933. And the number of persons being helped it at an all-time high. Why is this? Why has the number of assistance clients grown right through a boom period when most everyone who is able to work can get a job? It has increased a little in recent months, but the total still is large.

Public assistance, of course, has taken over practically all the persons who formerly were supported by private charity, poor houses and the like. But does anyone think that millions were supported by private funds and local poor districts? No, it must be concluded that the availability of relief attracts relief clients in growing numbers. We're not talking here about outright chiselers—persons who have jobs or money and manage to get relief, too. They are fairly easy to catch, so their numbers must be relatively few.

We're talking about persons who could support themselves if they had to; persons whose relatives could support them if relief were not available; persons handicapped in some manner who could be helped and encouraged to become self-supporting. We can think of no other reason for record or near-record dependency in boom times.

Public assistance is here to stay. It's the best way to care for persons who cannot support themselves, and there always will be such persons. Some method must be found, however, for limiting it to those who must have it. If this is not done, even a mild recession could break the public treasuries, which are already overburdened. While we have been distracted by wars and rumors of wars, relief has become a Frankenstein monster that could some day destroy us.

Observations—Here and There

Last Monday a flock of county officeholders were sworn to faithfully execute the duties of their respective offices at the county courthouse. They were the ultimate product of an election that was held not so many actual weeks ago. But, dear reader, before this present month ends there will again be folks about you to keep you election-conscious, for on January 29 will come the first day for circulating nominating petitions for the spring primary in April. Like taxes, elections are always with us.

Information from Washington is to the effect that the Army has given a green light of getting Congress to extend the draft period beyond 24 months of service, but service calls in the draft book to be higher. Cambria County draft quotas have been upped. Draft calls will run 50,000 to 60,000 a month through the spring and summer. By fall, 19-year-olds will be tapped. That may not be enough. If this crisis comes, the Defense Department can do several things. It can look closer at the 4-F category; tighten student deferments; draft fathers with one child, and seek loopholes in occupational deferments.

Remember some time ago when a farm building in the North of Cambria County burned to the ground because there were folks sitting on a party telephone line who denied the owner of the burn-



ing building the opportunity of giving an alarm? That same thing happened the other day down in Mifflin County. Generally the conversations that take place are of a gossipy nature, and phone users should really clear a line, even if the fire reason is given in jest. There would be some conscience suffering eliminated if this were done.

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
 Central Press Writer

A DEPARTMENT store Santa Claus in Dorchester, England, thought he'd relax with a cigarette and immediately made a scientific discovery—false whiskers are allergic to matches.

The milk is a mighty small animal to be the center of such a mighty big ruckus.

New York baby whistled the first day he was born. His first words will be, no doubt: "Wow! What a world!"

A giant vase, 300 years old, found in a cave in Siam, puzzles archeologists as to its use. Probably served the Siamese as a place in which to dispose of old razor blades.

Grandpa Jenkins says he's just about giving up hope of ever seeing a department store Santa Claus who looks like Santa Claus.

Whatever became of that puppet emperor of Manchukuo? He ought to go big on television.

A newspaper item tells of a species of Malayan fighting frogs that use blades of grass for swords. Wonder if they ever thought of using a dandelion as a war club?

"As I See It"

By STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

Last week, we mentioned in our column that we would explain in detail, Governor Fine's ill-fated Income Tax so that our readers may have some inside knowledge as to what may have happened if this Bill should have passed.

Under Mr. Fine's proposal every wage earner would have been compelled to pay 1/2 percent of his gross earnings to the Commonwealth on a monthly basis. The 1/2 percent looked to be a very innocent figure and many of the Senators were inclined to go along with this measure but, let us analyze the outcome of this Bill had it passed.

The State of New York has a graduated Income Tax Measure that started off at 1/2 percent and now has reached the high level of 7 percent which is deducted from the wage earners in that State. Once this Bill was placed upon our statute it would have made little difference whether, in years to come, we had a Democratic or Republican Governor. The foundation would have been built and from that time on the expansion program would have continued and we would have found ourselves paying as high as 10 percent, rather than 1/2 percent, in a few short years.

To prove that statement, we only need go back to Governor Earle's Emergency Tax Program set up in the Year 1935. The depression was on and a tax was placed on cigarettes, liquor, beer, gasoline, inheritance and down the line on many other items. It was then distinctly understood that this Tax was on for a few short years that Governor Earle was in office. What happened?

Along came the candidacy of Arthur James who, viciously, in his campaign speeches condemned the, as he called them, "Nonsense Taxes." He stated that a bonfire would be created if he were elected Governor and give the people of the Commonwealth relief from such obnoxious taxes. Upon his word and promises Arthur James became Governor. Did he create a bonfire with Earle's Emergency Taxes? Positively not! He re-enacted all the Emergency Taxes and added more to them. And, the same procedure was followed by Governor Martin, Governor Duff and now Governor Fine. The record shows that not one of the Emergency Taxes has ever been repealed. So the same fate lay in store for Mr. Fine's Income Tax.

That was one of the reasons why we so bitterly opposed its enactment. Secondly, how many persons realize that, if this Tax were enacted and an ordinary housewife should hire a lady for any one day in the month and should pay her a minimum of \$1 per day, or more, during any calendar month, she would be compelled to keep records and be able to verify all or any monies she paid this lady and the recipient of this money would be compelled to file, with the Department at Harrisburg, showing in detail the amount she received and the source and then pay 1/2 percent of her earnings.

lowed and it is our contention that there would not have been sufficient jails in this Commonwealth nor sufficient courts to prosecute all the innocent violators.

So, while we have been labeled as the man who killed the Income Tax, we proudly accept this title and while we realize that the people of the Commonwealth cannot quite comprehend what we, in our humble way, have done for them, they must bear in mind that Governor Fine will, once again, do his utmost to try to have this Tax enacted at the 1953 Session of the General Assembly.

It behooves all the voters of this Commonwealth to definitely determine from those who will be seeking seats in the General Assembly, at the coming election, as to whether or not they will pledge themselves to oppose such a vicious measure and it goes without saying that Governor Fine and his political cohorts will stop at no end to try to keep us from going back to Harrisburg to represent Cambria County in the General Assembly, knowing full well of our bitter opposition to his favorite Income Tax. It may be that, until such a tax is really placed upon our statute the people will not realize what we had done for them by the stoppage of this tax at the present time.

Yes, we singlehandedly killed the Income Tax. And, if returned to Harrisburg we shall fight to the very end to preserve the freedom that is rightfully due Pennsylvanians.

SEN JOHN J. HALUSKA

NEWS ON THE HOMEMAKING FRONT

Home Economics Representative for Cambria County

Clarifying Used Fat

Every now and then you need to clarify used fat. It's not a job that takes an unusual amount of time and work... but one that pays off in pennies saved.

First step in clarifying used fat is to loosen the hardened cake of your accumulated drippings from the container... an easy way to do this is to dip the container in hot water. Then slip the cake of fat onto waxed paper which you hold in your left hand. With a knife, scrape the sediment away from the bottom of the fat.

Now put the fat in a saucepan and cover it with boiling water. Bring the water to a vigorous boil, then strain the water and fat mixture through several thicknesses of cheesecloth. Chill until the fat has hardened, then remove the cake from the water. If there is sediment on the bottom of the clarified cake of fat, you'll need to scrape it off, then put in a saucepan, cover with boiling water and repeat the cooking and straining process. Repeat until you get a clean cake of fat, you'll then you can use the fat in more ways than when there's a sediment.

Sometimes fat has food odors you'd like to remove. You can do this by frying Irish potatoes in the fat. Measure the fat and for each two cups add one medium, pared potato cut in one-quarter inch slices. Slip the potato slices onto the hot fat. When the fat stops bubbling and the potatoes are brown, strain the fat through several thicknesses of cheesecloth. Throw out the potatoes. When the fat hardens, scrape the sediment from the bottom and store the fat for use as desired.

Quality Guide For Buying Citrus Fruit

Whether you're buying oranges, grapefruit or other citrus fruits, there are certain things to look for. And it's a good idea to keep them in mind when shopping because they're added insurance toward getting the most for your money.

First of all, citrus fruit should be firm and heavy for its size. When it's a little heavy it usually means there's plenty of juice. The skin of most types of citrus fruit should be fine textured. The color should be characteristic of the variety of fruit.

Sometimes when you see fruit that's russet—that's the dark reddish brown appearance you often see on fruit skins—you don't want it. But russeting has no effect whatever on the flavor of the fruit.

When buying tangerines, it's a different proposition. The skin of the tangerine is coarser-textured and puffier than that of other citrus fruits. That's because there's a fibrous substance between the skin and the flesh of the tangerine. When selecting tangerines, look for a deep yellow-orange color and a fruit that's heavy for its size.

Father-Son Team On Loretto Council

Loretto Borough Council last Wednesday night became one of the few municipal bodies in the area to boast a father and son team.

The father-son combination was formed when Francis Little, was one of three new sons sworn in by Burgess J. Y. Bard. The new councilman's father, Lawrence Little, has been a member of the body for a number of years.

Two other new members who took the oath of office are Patrick Riley and G. B. Moran. Mr. Moran was elected president of the group to succeed Rev. Father Gile, Wade of St. Francis College.

Harvey J. Conrad was named vice president and Charles Long retained as borough secretary. Miss Elizabeth Schwab was re-elected borough treasurer. She is not a member of council.

In addition to the officers and council to succeed Rev. Father Gile, Wade of St. Francis College, Walter Cronauer.

PURCHASE PROPERTY

Francis and Helen Gill of West Carroll Township purchased three lots in West Carroll Township for sum of \$5,250 from Joseph and Josephine Gomoka, of West Carroll Township.

The Johnstown Opera Company wishes to announce "CARMEN" SCHEDULED JANUARY 7 IS BEING CHANGED to the Pittsburgh Opera Company's Production of Verdi's "IL TROVATORE" ON JANUARY 21

Those who bought tickets for "Carmen" can use these for "Il Trovatore." Tickets available at the HARRIS MUSIC STORE, 219 Market Street, JOHNSTOWN. Phone 5-7334

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U. S. Government Bonds	Surplus
Other Bonds & Securities	Undivided Profits
Federal Reserve Bank Stock	Deposits
Cash in Vault and Due from Banks	Reserve for Interest and Income Tax
Banking House Furniture and Fixtures	Interest Collected But Not Earned
Other Assets	
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