

Looting The Public

Want to know how easy it was, in 1913, to loot the American people through the medium of taxing them? That was when the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted, allowing Congress to tax all incomes.

AS TIME GOES ON the local politicians, with all the power of legalized bandits, take more and more of your income.

The politician, however, is entrenched, is secure. With all the power that goes with the money he has to dole out, he is the most influential person in your town.

Not only does he levy high tax rates on you, but he also engages in the passing of many new laws, many of them granting special privileges to a few, most of them setting up new controls over your entire economic life.

That is exactly what has been going on in the United States since 1913 when

From Our Point of View

Drew Pearson, newspaper columnist and radio commentator, is being congratulated in a language no lady would use by Fulton Lewis, Jr., and Westbrook Pegler. It will be interesting to follow the case.

Hats off to Democratic bigwigs James A. Farley and James F. Byrnes! Both of these old-line Demos are outspoken in their criticism of the road that Roosevelt's New Deal and Truman's Fair Deal are taking the people of the United States.

Thieves stole Britain's Stone of Scone, a rectangular stone on which rested England's coronation throne for centuries. It symbolized the wedding of Scotland and England, having come from the Land of the Scots.

So They Say . . .

Lewis P. Todd, educator of American history is "a knowledgeable man who would be no less a something to be taken in six easy doses, like good vitamin pills."

Guy M. Gillette, U. S. Senator from Iowa, investigating election irregularities in Philadelphia: "A flophouse in which three people live produced 105 registered voters."

George C. Marshall, Secretary of Defense: "The history of national defense in this country has been a succession of feasts and famines."

Robert I. Cotten, of Reading, Pa., which is called Santa Claus parade: "We have nothing against Santa Claus but we feel that Christmas has become too commercialized."

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

The Eccentric will publish contributions of material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcome. Any anonymous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

the income tax law was adopted. "Ever since World War I debt" "Emergencies" the politicians "take" has increased, until, when war comes (the only real justification for high income taxation) the federal government wields the tax club.

WANT TO KNOW HOW to lower, through legitimate controls, the amount of "take" the politicians can exact from you via the income tax route? Get behind the movement to amend the U.S. Constitution, limiting the tax powers of centralized government in Washington.

Already nearly a score of legislatures have approved the idea. Enough more are needed to cause the proposed amendment to be placed on the ballot at a national election. Once it gets before the people, don't you think they will adopt it? You bet they will!

If you are interested, write to American Taxpayers Association, Inc., Munsey Bldg., Washington, D.C. It will cost you nothing for the information.

Civilians in the Next War

There will be no mass evacuation from American cities in case of atomic attack, says James J. Wadsworth, Acting-Director of the Civil Defense Office, who points out that any potential enemy fears "our marvelous production capacity" and that this must be kept going at all cost.

Wadsworth criticized the "take-to-the-hills" mentality that has developed, declaring that "if and when the chips go down, every strategic target area in America will be manned and fought with every bit of human vigor and every scrap of material resources we have."

For the first time since the Indian Wars, Wadsworth pointed out, every soldier and every civilian in this country will be equal in danger and personal responsibility.

Production capacity must be maintained and this cannot be done without maintaining the communities in which it takes place.

MOREOVER, MASS EVACUATION would be only a stopgap and not a "practical way of life for the average family even in the atomic age."

We call attention to the remarks of this official because there has developed in some areas the idea that at the first hint of trouble it will only be necessary to grab a change of clothing, a toothbrush and a few cosmetics and get out of any area that might be attacked.

Since no one can foresee where a bombing raid will lead, it will be impossible for Americans living in industrial areas to know whether their community will be bombed or not.

Hoover's Foreign Policy

Ex-President Herbert Hoover's recent utterance that the United States should place greater emphasis upon developing "security of our own hemisphere" is, finding widespread popular approval.

Naturally, it is not to be expected that the Truman administration will agree with Mr. Hoover—for to do so would be to reverse itself on its foreign policy.

Bq Hoover's truthful statement that "other members of the United Nations are not measuring up to their expected military commitments in Korea, and they may not do so in Europe" is cause for much of the weight in his address.

Certainly, unless the other UN nations DO more than give lip service to the defense of freedom against Communism, then the United States will have to change its official foreign policy.

For the American public will not sit idly by and watch its own sons slaughtered in Western Europe as they have been in Korea.

Radio Under Bureaucracy

In seeking renewal of licenses for his three radio stations, one of them WJLR in Detroit, G. A. Richards is reputed to have spent a million dollars in legal fees, as his case will be investigated by FCC officials. The FCC charges Richards with "slanting newscasts" on his stations, thus alleging he operated them against the public interest.

Without going into the pros or the cons of the case, here is proof that radio is controlled by bureaucracy (which, under the circumstances it must be), but in the type of public office who sits in judgment in the real issue—is he fair and impartial? Probably not as much so as an average court procedure is. Some day radio licensing may be placed under the control of something more fair than mere appointive political bureaucracy.

Lets Give 'em A Lift



Happenings of long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO January 4, 1901 Bertha Bowers, formerly an employee of the D. & P. Ry Co. and later of the Northwestern Ry Co., has resigned her position and opened a barber shop at Northville.

Anyone finding a fur glove between the mill pond and L. B. Peabody's store will confer a favor on the owner, Miss Bertha Bigelow, by leaving the same at the Exchange bank.

Birmingham has a young lady grocer who has just established herself in business here. If she does not allow the young fellows to sit around her premises, they may get along without a partner for a while.

During the year 1901 Victor A. VanEvery will furnish public banquets and entertainments on clearing (providing no charge of admission is made) all the coffee needed free of charge. Any church entertainment or society may also obtain free coffee from Mr. VanEvery.

Mack Means of Brent Creek, Genesee county was calling on old friends in Birmingham and Southfield last week. He reports everything ok with him and hopes to be the same with all his friends here.

20 YEARS AGO January 5, 1901 Arthur C. Peck was installed president of the Birmingham Exchange club at its Tuesday meeting at the Community House. He succeeded Harry S. Stead, also vice-president and cashier of the First State Savings bank.

The Rev. Clarence W. Wright will be installed pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Wednesday, Jan. 21. More than 450 were present Sunday morning to hear the first local sermon preached by the new pastor.

The annual report of the Birmingham police department shows that they have successfully recovered 98 per cent of the total value of articles stolen here during the past year. The total value of stolen articles totaled \$11,777.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All must be signed, but signatures need not appear. Editorial opinion reserved. Letters must be limited to 300 words.

To the Editor: The library in our lovely town should not be called a library but a general community house and get-together meeting place.

I am very thankful that I had only an hour's work to do in that turmoil of noise and gossip. There was a woman in a grey coat who came in and talked about flower shows and books for flower arrangements in a voice that reminded me of Wally Webe. He is referred to as the walking microphone on the U of M coaching staff.

After her lengthy discussion with one of the librarians, I felt that more they had seen of college has been wasted and that should, in my last semester, rise up horticulture for a brighter future.

OLD FRIENDS meet here also. After a few minutes of quiet study, in boomed a woman in her twenties, who recognized an old friend at the other end of the meeting place.

Not wanting him to forget their long friendship, she introduced herself in a high pitched voice, and for 10 or 15 minutes they conversed about the hours and days they hadn't gotten together.

Also, they talked of what wonderful notes they had seen. I'm glad they got together. I feel their lives have been enriched.

There was a small boy who happened to be working at the library when I was there, returning books to their proper places.

HE USED A small four-wheeled truck on the linoleum floor, and gave me the impression of Johnny

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

WILL RECOMMEND 'NO PARKING' ON W. MAPLE

Police department observations of the traffic situation on West Maple, between Bates and Woodward, indicate that parking should be removed from both sides of the street.

During the past 90 days the situation has approached the critical stage, and this is not due entirely to the increase of shopping in the primary cause.

Increased population of Birmingham and the surrounding areas, bringing with it more and more shopping motorists, is the primary cause.

POLICE CHIEF Ralph W. Moxley shies away from publicly discussing removal of parking from this two-block section of W. Maple. The reason is he does not want to be subject to unwarranted criticism from opponents of the proposed off-street parking program.

But Moxley at this time hesitates to approach the commission, which he has recommended to take parking off the other two blocks. But he feels it is not a matter of "if" but "when" and it is ultimately settled, people will say his recommendation is desirable and artificiality is permitted to business.

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

—AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY—

As we move into what may well be the most fateful year in the history of American freedom, with every family called upon to make keenly felt sacrifices, our citizenry needs to be fortified with a better and more realistic appreciation of the American way of life.

Five village organizations will meet at the Community House on Jan. 22 to pay special tribute to J. B. Howarth, prominent real estate leader. He has been active in promoting the growth and betterment of Birmingham for many years and has done much ground work in these lines.

The Village of Birmingham will ask the state to pay \$23,544.41 in payment for village servitude in connection with the widening of Woodward avenue. This included the extension of water and sewer services and the laying of adequate sidewalks.

UPON ARRIVAL in New York they had \$12. They had no acquaintances, could not speak English and were completely ignorant.

Two of the favorite spots in the newly opened Ranch room of the Community House appears to be the snack bar and the juke box. Those attending the opening party in these two spots for food, fun and frolic.

Unseasonable weather is bringing unreasonable guests to Birmingham. Miss Margaret McCarroll and Miss Ella Adams, 431 Park, have today the return of a mourning dove to their yard. These birds usually leave early in the fall, even before the robins.

Swimming begins next Monday in the Barnum pool. The season will continue for 10 weeks under the general supervision of John Brozman, physical education director of the city. Each afternoon evening is being set aside for adult users.

City Manager Donald Egbert was back at his allotted position when city commissioners gathered for their conference table Monday evening. Egbert, who has been on active duty with the navy, said it seemed quite natural to be back on the job.

Installation of the new sound equipment for the Birmingham theater started today under the direction of F. C. Dickey of Detroit. It is hoped the installation will be completed in time for showing of "Anchors Aweigh" on Friday.

Parsons coming out of the north turn and down the straightaway at the Indianapolis speedway, but it seems to me that those responsible could put some grease on the wheels of that man-powered hot rod.

In this well-equipped library, there is something of antique value and I refer to the typewriter which has been an experimental model, for it makes more noise than half stones on an auto's spring carriage.

I realize that typewriters are expensive, but surely there must be another room in which to work them.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST I should say that far too many of the librarians themselves, many of the conversations are instigated by the guardians of bound knowledge. The only thing is, they have a hard time getting anything out of books with all the gabbling.

Each of these women wears high heels, and they do not have any respect for those studying, for those heels sound like a horse galloping on a cobblestone street.

Have these guardians never heard of the "no talking" rule? I have heard of going around like a bunch of Hopping Cassidy's.

I write this column primarily for the few quiet hours reading in the library. Also for the students of Baldwin who would one time or another desire to study there.

THERE I WAS, unsealed and with a two-cent stamp on. I owe my life to the despatcher officer. The letter was addressed to me to do something about this Christmas rush business, but I'm afraid to read the post card and mail the letter.

FRED WEAVER, St. Louis, Mo.

He is intensely proud of the fact that he is a law enforcement officer, and believes it is his job to make Birmingham as safe a community as possible. This safety includes protection of life and property. He believes that the best traffic situation is to have no parking on either side of the street.

TO A CERTAIN extent, parking has been removed from W. Maple. It no longer is illegal to park between Bates and Woodward.

Moxley is so pleased with the better traffic situation in this particular block that he is going to ask the city commission to make the present 30-day trial permanent.

But Moxley at this time hesitates to approach the commission, which he has recommended to take parking off the other two blocks. But he feels it is not a matter of "if" but "when" and it is ultimately settled, people will say his recommendation is desirable and artificiality is permitted to business.

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—AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY—

They were thrifty, enterprising and, especially for the boys' sake, ambitious. Their love for America grew. They were now naturalized.

ON THEIR MODEST earnings the Forsters furnished a home, gave their sons wonderful American Christmas— and saved a little money.

Johnny got a job with a service station. In a few years he was operating his own on a busy street. And the couple continued to save money.

On heavily traveled U. S. 61 just north of Cape Girardeau, the Forsters built a modern tourist court with five air-conditioned cottages as a starter. This was in 1939.

Soon the war was upon them and the places were disrupted. They were faced with the demand for severe sacrifices.

WHAT THEY DID about it is part of Helene Forster's story. She says she really had a little for the happiness he gave her. "We never had a single day when we didn't go to the Navy and were in the fighting. My husband too."

She had written me expressing gratitude for our radio series, "Land of the Free."

MICHIGAN MIRROR By Gene Alleman

—LEGISLATIVE HEADACHE; FINANCING STATE SERVICES—

G. Mennen Williams, the man who says he is not a politician, winning reelection, was inaugurated governor for a second term at Lansing, Mich., Tuesday.

The state legislative session, as contrasted with Williams' 1950 plea for increased spending. Needs of citizens in state services, was a tremendous problem by the way—area to get priority of review in New York state, for example.

IN MICHIGAN the problem is more acute because of the mounting treasury deficit due to diversion of sales tax revenues to local governments. On the other hand, the past year (ending last July 31), the State of Michigan is doing in the red to the tune of more than \$100,000.

The year-end deficit was \$21,311,232. The state legislators trimmed expenditures for the current fiscal year (ending next July 1) 10 per cent in order to get out of the red. And so it is not difficult to foresee the A-1 problem of the state.

State civil service employees have received their first pay increase since May 1, 1949. Some 21,145 workers split a \$7,500,000 pay year increase over an average boost of \$30 monthly for each.

Too much poor quality butter in Michigan? A Michigan State College survey says yes. F. M. Sizer, vice president of the department bureau of dairy industry, says most complaints are due to cream dilution.

At the Year's Beginning

By BEATRICE McDONALD

May you find time within the year for all the necessary things you want to do. With hours enough left over for a few nice happenings, important ones and one or two that you don't want to miss. Of peace and happiness, of wonderment Beyond all understanding, heaven-sent. To compensate its grievances and care.

A New Year is so clean, so sparkling-bright, With each new day another little year. With every slate new-washed in morning light Of failure, grief, despondency and fear. May each day find you closer to your goal With hope and courage in your heart and soul.

FRED WEAVER, St. Louis, Mo.