Old Age Security for Self-Employed People

Several months ago we commented on the inequity of the old-age security tax now being imposed upon self-employed people in the United States. This tax amounts annually to \$81. We argued that, in the case of the vast majority of self-employed people, they would never collect any of that money back, presuming that they would enjoy an annual income greater than that allowed by the federal government. As we recall it, that income is now limited to about \$850.

fit, that income is now immed to account a series of the minute of the more than \$850 per year, he or she would not be entitled to receive old age security benefits: meaning that all monies paid to the federal government would be held by it—and we believed this manner of taxation to be "a surn."

FOLLOWING PUBLICATION of that comment we have been informed by offi-cial sources that self-employed people past

are not entitled to benefits if they are ill working, and earning in excess of

sol annually. However, if they are not working, but ceive from investments, annuities, or by other non-employed source money (rearless, of the amount) they are entitled old-age benefits.

That, of course, may help those thus thusted

That, of course, may help those thus stuated.

But for those who have no invistments, annuities or other outside sources of income, they are limited to the \$8.50 annual income. If they earn less that his aum, they may receive old age security benefits. This, of course, will help them.

But for those who, after lage 65, decide to continue to be self-employed, or if they at that time are working for others, and species in excess of \$8.50 per year (and most certainly they will be they are being faypped" out of all the annual \$81.00 tax payments they have made.

How wonderful are the workings of certain Congressional "tax experts"!

Capital Investment Necessary

In terms of money, industrial progress appears to be extremely expensive. Huge sums must be poured into machines and plants and other physical facilities. But, in the long run, this kind of progress is "cheap," measured in terms of savings and various advantages which result.

savings and various auxiliarys and various auxiliarys and a sustained and accelerating improvement program for more than a century. Gigantic amounts of money have been spent to make their operations faster, safer, surer, more extensive. In late years alone their spending for physical betterment and expansion has exceeded the \$1,000,000,000.

Small Incomes Taxed High

The old illusion that the cost of government isn't too important to the laverage family because it can be paid by soaking the rich diles hard.

Today, the rich pay extremely heavy taxes—the federal personal income tax alone reaches a top of 92 per cent. Even so, their tax contribitions meet only a small part of the total cost of government, for the plain reason that there aren't enough

He Changes His Point

David E. Lillenthal, who once headed the Tennessee Valley Authority and held other top government jobs, used to be numbered among the attackers of "Big Business." But now Mr. Lillenthal has published a new book, entitled "Big Business." in which e says, in essence, that there is no basis for continuing that attack.
His reason is that big business has changed greatly—that it is no longer momopolistic but highly competitive, particu-

Sellers and Consumers

A short time ago the Pennsylvania Chain Store Conucil sponsored a "Food News Workshop" in Harrisburg. Participants in-cluded consumer and producer groups, teachers, public officials, and representa-tives of news media

teachers, public officials, and representa-tives of news media. A wide variety of subjects relating to the food business were discussed, and the result was better understanding on all sides. So successful was the "Workshop' that the Council has aiready received re-quests for a second conference. It would be a fine idea if meetings of this nature could be held in every state of the Union, dealing with other contriodities in general use as well as food.

A GREAT MANY CONSUMERS have a woefully mistaken idea of how such pro-ducers and retailers operate—as an ex-

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comed. Any erroneous redection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, thru
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of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected it
grought to he publishers a stantion.

AS A RESULT OF IT, there has been a revolutionary gain in rullroad efficiency. Waste has been outlawed. Today the railcoads pay much more for wages, taxes, and goods and services of all kinds than they paid before the last world war. But he laverage revenue they receive for haulang a ton-mile of freight is less, in relation to other wices and to taxes then it other prices and to taxes, than it

ion to other prices and to taxes, than it was before that war.

The point is, that despite the huge dolar cost of expanding and improving basic interprise, progress is, a long-term barrain for all concerned particularly the uncomer.

them. According to the Tax Foundation, last ar a family with \$3500 a year paid \$1097 almost a third—in direct and hidden

agmost a tritar—in direct and induced axes.

It's the people of moderate and small incars who pay most of the cost of government and who have the most to lose from wasteful government and the most o gain from economical government.

arly in such important fields as research

Mr. Lilienthal's present views are in ac-cord with those of a great many other people who have studied big business with blective eyes. We seem to finally be learning that this country needs and has plenty of room for every kind and character and size of business—and that in a competitive economy all serve the public interest.

ample, surveys indicate that it is common for people to think that distributors earn a profit of as much as twenty-five cents out of each dollar spent, with them, when the actual figure is two or three cents. And, on the other hand, the business was the a better than the contraction of the cents. ness community can always use a better understanding of the problems and desires of the consumers.

The best way to iron out misunderstand-

ings is for representatives of diverse points of view to get together and talk matters over. Then all concerned are the gainers.

So They Say . . .

Richard C. Patterson, Jr., retiring U. S. Ambassador to Switzerland:

"I am returning from a miracle country in the heart of Europe to the greatest mir-acle country of them all."

Adlai E. Stevenson, Democratic nominee for President in 1952:
"Peace in the world, like good government at home, is a goal we approach but never finally or perfectly attain."

John A. Hannah, assistant Secretary of

"Substantial cuts can be made in mili-tary spending without sacrificing any de-fense strength."

Trygve Lie, retired Secretary General of the United Nations: "The free world must not let down its security guard at the first flutterings of the days of pages"

Scrapped for National Security



Happenings of Long Ago

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

10 YEARS AGO
May 15, 1903

If the party who borrowed out one from our store last fall will naue, but if not forbearance will non cease to be a virtue. White ead & Mitchell, Bring back our ose!

Manager

press residents with the need of shopping is Birmingham. "Dollars spent in the big city stores leave no lasting impression on our com-munity," they say, "and greatly hinder the proper growth and sta-bility of our own merchants." THE MIDDLE of October—seven months ago—saw our anniversary machinery start rolling in earnest. Contacts were made with scores of decal organizations, alerting them of our linent ty include them in our 75th Anniversary edition.

Election workers report Birming, the mine and the second way our minest to include the minest and the minest an

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE BY ALICE E. MORGAN

WHEN HE HEARD about the creased costs to the owners candering dogs he was delighte ut fell that, too, had its draw

ME CHUCKLED to himself while exeratched the old dog's ears "Ykkow, it she city keeps that oy Riley haston like they do nost of the kines, they goin to be a lot of owners payin, a lot of owners payin, a lot of owners because they can be a lot of owners better the dog and thousey in the second some they are the are they are they are they are they are they are they are the are they ar

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

It was enjoyable and interesting work—but the happy it weer.

I am referring to the preparation of this week's special 75th it and referring to the preparation of this week's special 75th it anniversary Edition of The Britan of the control of the preparation o

Our advertising department, too, beam should be a common to the property of the partments o

MY MAIN JOB was to see that the editorial copy and pictures came along steadily and in time for the particular sections into which they were to go. I edited all

By George Wm.

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