This Labor Group Opposes Income Tax Rates

Who do you think wrote the following: **"Every working citizen is compelled to devote one day's labor per week to foster extravagant waste, boondoggling and downright wantonness involved in the distribution of this easy money by thousands of One-World do-gooders. Only an aroused citizenry can put a halt to this never-ending evil."**

That, neighbor, was written and adopted by the New York State Federation of Labor at its 93rd annual convention in New York City on June 27, 1956.

Believe it or not, that is the way this federation of working men and women feel about this iniquitous income tax and prodigal spending of their wages.

THEY WENT ON TO SAY that income taxes are a contributing cause to juvenile delinquency, as it forces mothers to abandon their homes and young 'uns to take jobs in offices and factories to eke out their husbands' wages.

They asked both the Republican and Democratic parties to "promise to reduce considerably or abolish entirely this hateful legislation."

For a long time the income tax was praised as a way to "soak the rich." But it is now found that it soaks nearly everybody—and how! Eighty per cent of all personal income taxes comes from the first 20 per cent tax bracket.

With more and more citizens getting into the moderate-income class, and having to pay higher and higher taxes, this group may swell the ranks of American voters who will impress Congress with the demand to tax less and spend less.

Speed that day!

48 States Being Dis-possessed of Sovereignty

The sovereignty of each of our 48 states is the foundation of our U.S.A. liberties. Part of the Constitution and its Bill of Rights is the Tenth Amendment, which states: "The powers not delegated to the United States (meaning the Federal Government) by the Constitution, or prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

Now it appears that the Federal authorities — Executive, Legislative and Judicial—are nullifying the powers and rights of the Sovereign States.

The last twenty-five years of Constitutional brainwashing has done a transforming job on both of the two great political parties.

WE CANNOT BELIEVE our President is fully aware of the significance of present proposals. He has said so often: "Statism is the beginning of the decay of Freedom."

By "statism" is meant that one consolidated government manages and controls the lives of the people.

This drift to "statism" has been going on for 20 years. Both major political parties have fallen to its siren voice—only, of course, because they have found it easy to win votes by so doing.

Freedom, indeed, is being exchanged for the illusion of "security."

Clobber Officials To Lower Taxes

When you read that some major segment of our national economy increases its labor costs, you need to remember that such cost eventually finds its way into the products you buy.

When the federal government requires business concerns to withhold employee taxes, it adds a considerable cost to each concern's overhead expenses. This, too, is included in the price you pay for goods.

Many Americans presume that the tax corporations pay comes out of profits; this is not so, any more than other costs incurred by business.

INDEED, THESE CORPORATIONS merely serve as a subtax collector for the government. Corporation taxes are, in a direct manner, just like withholding taxes taken from the employees' pay envelopes.

The corporations collect the money from people who buy their products, then mail them to Washington, D. C. (Or, in the case of State taxes, to the State treasury.)

So, if you want to be able to buy goods at less cost, clobber the men and women in Congress and in State Legislatures who, after all, determine how much of your income you shall fork over to the tax collectors.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

In an ankle-judging contest in Olde Englande a few weeks ago, first prize went to the owner of a pair of ankles whose owner's other portions were hidden behind a curtain. She turned out to be an 81-year-old grandma. Said the contest judge: "She has the trimmest pair of ankles I have seen in years." Congratulations, Grandma! No doubt there are millions of grandmas whose pedal extremities are very, very trim.

Even the Hollywood movie studios are retrenching in man and woman power . . . so they lay off a lot of talent. Well, sorry they lost their jobs . . . but most of them deserve a rest.

Michigan's State constitution was last revised in 1908, but essentially it is the same as the one adopted in 1850, states a U of M political science professor. He argues for modern revision, and makes numerous points to support his argument. However, he doesn't expect the voters to get stirred up about this subject . . . so the professor believes Michigan will continue to drift along . . . just drift along . . .

People generally gripe when things go wrong, when things do not suit them. It would be a wonderful collective set of acts if each of us would make joyous noises when things go right, when things suit us.

During an election year, the wonderful American spirit of competition causes the political party not in control to blast the daylights out of the party in power. The "outs" will even hold up needed legislation in order to hurt the record of the "ins". This is done by both major parties.

Closer and closer seems to be coming Lake Huron's cold, clear, fresh water to this Detroit metropolitan area. May the delay be held to a minimum.

In order to make from $3,000 to $4,000 per year as an American farmer, you'll have to invest from $50,000 to $100,000 in a farm, say agriculture experts connected with the State of Florida. Coming from Florida, one can understand why the price is so high.

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One Hurdle to Go

NATURE NOW

Man Has Unique Place in Nature

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Your response to our July 15 column provocatively entitled, "Man Disregarded in Nature's Laws" has prompted this writing.

Our thought is that in his major biological responses, man is no exception. He is as involved with Nature's laws and demands as is the gull, the hemlock, the dauber wasp. Nature does not exist for man's delight; man is a product of nature in the largest sense.

Mrs. Frehse

However, the great difference between man and any other living thing lies in his response to nature's laws. It is these all together which make up his environment.

AN ANIMAL'S responses are propelled entirely by instinct, while man all along his road from savagery to civilization has developed a wholly unique property called intellect. This has given him the power of choice

It is in the exercising of this choice that man has been able to put his hand on nature's shoulder. He has succeeded to the extent that he is increasingly able to adapt his environment to better meet his needs.

This is a very gradual process and man has not always been wise in his choices. However, it is in the considered control of his environment that he has been increasingly able to escape some of the natural controls of nature, thereby enriching the circumstances of his life to make nature's laws work for him.

HE HAS DONE this in a multitude of ways. Through wise management of natural resources he has achieved almost unlimited power to multiply his numbers and to surround himself with an environment increasingly favorable to his kind.

He has harnessed the wind and water to do his bidding. He has increasingly succeeded in managing his lands and forests, his rivers and watersheds to maintain the delicate balance existing between the forces that keep life at its highest point of functioning.

Man has been aided and abetted in his conquest of nature by an almost unbelievable advance in technological skill. This has further enabled him to take nature's raw materials and to organize them in new ways and combinations to sustain and to make more efficient every aspect of his life.

AT THE SAME time, in order to survive, man has been forced to learn cooperation with his kind to the extent that he could organize and live in a social group with his fellows, a group whose moral and social controls were pointed toward the ultimate good of the group.

Now man in his involvement with the world's life and its environment has reached a kind of crossroads.

Marsten Rates, a University of Michigan scientist, has thus expressed his position, "Science is a way of bringing into focus the whole history of life on this planet. It now goes a step further by seeking to relate these facts to the persistent effort of the human mind to order and understand them."

IN OTHER WORDS, man is inexorably involved with nature. This "understanding" of his place in the universe which precludes his relationship with all that it holds must become his continuing challenge.

Man has paid a high price for those controls which he has achieved. He is no longer at home in his world in the same sense as was his savage brother. In his slow progress he has opened wide for himself such a range of choices as can lead to his doom or to his delight.

It is inevitable that this should be so. If man alone can choose, it is also man alone who possesses memory and anticipation. It is he alone who can laugh and weep.

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
August 17, 1906

Mr. Davis was in London recently and wishing a cab, stepped into a nearby stand to telephone for one. It came. He looked it over. The cab was in a most dilapidated condition, paint off, spokes out of the wheels and the box leaning far to the one side so that one felt always as though about to roll down hill. And the house was in worse condition if possible, than the cab.

Tuesday afternoon Moses Goodell rushed into town with the startling information that the roof of the Detroit Scenery Co.'s big building on the Randall subdivision had fallen in and four men were killed. Drs. . . . soon arrived and the three suffering men were promptly cared for.

From a report on the P. O. & N. railway which was beginning to penetrate good farm lands: "Then there are a few farms with buildings and some clearing that can be bought for $700 and upwards."

30 YEARS AGO
August 12, 1926

Citizens of the State of Michigan will be given equal opportunity with alumni to purchase football tickets in a preferred seating section for Future University of Michigan home games, Director Fielding H. Yost announced today, in connection with the financing plans for the new University of Michigan football stadium.

Work is now going forward with a will on the new Christ Church at Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Bloomfield Hills will not only have a church of its own, but a church school and a school for older boys.

Ned M. Green, dismissed from office as prohibition administrator for California, admitted giving parties at which confiscated liquor was served.

15 YEARS AGO
August 14, 1941

Southfield township residents, particularly a group in the northern section bordering Birmingham, are "down" on this city for two debatable grievances, it appeared this week. One concerns alleged pollution of River Rouge, and a public meeting on the subject will be held tonight in the Birmingham Municipal building. The other complaint concerns alleged excess use of water from the new Southfield well.

Opening Tuesday evening at Will-O-Way playhouse, Bloomfield Hills, is "The Ninth Minute," Celia Merrill's own musical comedy being produced for the first time. The date happens to fall on her birthday. This musical work she made her major project last winter at Juilliard Graduate School in New York where she has the distinction of being the only woman to hold a fellowship in conducting.

Three times in the past week, young misses have called upon Eccentric files for proof that their engagement has been announced. The draft board wanted it.

The pedestrian record reflected the fifth consecutive year of improvement for motor vehicle accidents in 1955.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER *By George Wm. Averill*

For two hours last week, more than a hundred residents of Birmingham's southeast section tried to impress the city commission with the fact that they didn't want to take any chances on losing what little sleep they have been getting these warm summer nights.

The city is proposing to sell two lots on E. Lincoln, and bidder on one is the Berry Door Corp. If this bid is accepted, residents say they fear the garage door manufacturer may put in a few more giant stamping presses.

As one unidentified man explained, "If you can't get a good night's sleep, you can't put in a good day's work."

Jim Tanury, 1590 Cheltenham, whose backyard is just across Eton park from the door plant, suggested to the city that perhaps the zoning ordinance could be amended to prevent excessive vibrations or tons-of-pressure machines.

If there actually is a way to rate machinery by vibrations effect on the neighborhood, or by decibel frequencies, the commission might do well to put into our ordinance the lower ratings as being the maximum Birmingham will allow.

Nothing's so good as a good night's sleep.

U.S. weather bureau attaches girl's names to hurricanes. Something relating to woman's wrath when scorned, or something.

What with them getting more prevalent, we may find the same system extended to tornadoes. But perhaps because tornadoes are several times more destructive and furious than are hurricanes, perhaps the weather bureau will find it more correct to use names of old witches.

When it comes to flowers, I like to see 'em and sniff 'em. But I can't quite see myself walking through Shain park (in downtown Birmingham between the municipal building and public library) admiring the roses, sweet peas and daffodils.

Grass and shady trees are my idea of a park. Maybe a representative flower bed or two. But not three or four or more.

Somehow, it strikes me that Birmingham wouldn't appreciate this huge municipal bed of roses, as has been suggested to the city commission recently.

American Suburbia's chief sales points are grass and trees, children and dogs. What flowers there seem to be are confined to backyards and flower shops.

Many a self-styled "big wheel" has wound up a flat tire.

Retiring Oakland County Drain Commissioner Ralph A. Main, among the items he mentions in his August report, points out that duties of the drain commissioner are not clearly understood by many people.

"We have had calls to the office which have been referred to us when a drain from a sink had been clogged," he reports.

"We get many calls regarding road ditches which are entirely under the jurisdiction of the Oakland county road commission. We are continually requested to clean out natural drains which have never been established as county drains.

"We have been requested in many instances to clean out streams."

A band is placed on the wing of a Bird and another capture is recorded.

Cranbrook Close-Up:

Banding-It's for the Birds

Special to the Birmingham Eccentric

Ever band a bird? Ever consider bird banding as a hobby? But let's not be precipitate, because to become a "cooperating bander" you must go through quite a process.

You must be licensed, you must have attained at least 18 years of age and be recommended by two well known banders or zoologists who will vouch for your integrity as well as for your knowledge of birds.

You can't pass if you write down sparrow when it should be warbler or pine siskin.

WE LEARNED this and many items about bird banding from Walter P. Nickell one cloudy morning at Cranbrook institute of science.

Although he does not say so, we feel certain Nickell must be the leading bird bander in the Detroit metropolitan area. In the twenty years of his continuing interest in birds and banding, he has banded exactly 20,270 and that's a great, big flock of birds!

If your application is accepted by the U. S. department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service at Patuxant Research Refuge in Laurel, Md., you will be sent bands in nine sizes.

Zero is for warblers, small sparrows, etc., while eight is for bald eagles, great blue herons, cormorants, loons, whistling swans, turkey vultures, and other birds of a type you're not likely to meet on a day's outing.

WHILE IT is highly romantic to band a bird at Cranbrook and receive a record of its capture or death months or years later from such remote places as Cuba or Nicaragua, there are scientific and economic reasons for bird banding.

On the scientific side, facts accumulate on bird habits such as life span, routes of migration, extent of migration, winter distribution of different species, etc.

The economic, practical side becomes important when it is remembered that birds are economic assets, being destroyers of insects and weed seeds harmful to gardens and farms.

"There are many uncertainties in bird banding," Nickell says, "but as facts are assembled from banders all over the world, they can be put together to tell the story of birds, with the economic and scientific going hand in hand."

AGE IS PART of the story being uncovered at Cranbrook institute of science. How long do birds live? The oldest small bird recorded there is also the second oldest ever recorded in the U.S. She was a cardinal who lived more than a decade, and her story has human (female, that is) pathos.

In 1934 she was banded by Victor H. Cahalane, first director of the institute. She returned in May, 1937, with a banded male, whose number was recorded; in April, 1940, with another male; in April, 1941, with the same male; in December, 1941, alone; in November, 1942, alone; in November, 1944, alone.

"And that," said Nickell, "is Mrs. Cardinal's story. She had three husbands, one of them for possibly three years, but as she got older and older: she was always alone—males were no longer attracted to her."

One hundred, thirty eight species are represented in the more than 20 thousand birds banded by Nickell and his helpers, who this summer are Earl Neeb and Carl Haven of Pontiac, and Warren Hardy of Birmingham.

GREATEST RETURNS are from "colonial birds" which nest in colonies, like the black-crowned night heron and the common tern, of which 3077 were banded on Harsen's Island, St. Clair county, and Walpole Island, Kent county, Ont.

These birds brought returns between June 30, 1955, and July 1, 1956, from as far north as Quebec and as far south as the Panama canal zone. They were reported from the Gulf coast of Alabama and from the British and American West Indies.

A banded night heron flew into the patio of a house in Cuba, was reported by the servants and its band sent to Washington.

As we sat talking with Nickell, reports on four more night herons came in the mail: another from Cuba, one from the great Kingsville Ranch in Texas (the bird was dying when found, because of Texas oil in its plumage), one from Chesapeake Beach, Va., and one from Illinois.

THE REPORTING of banded birds when found is of course important, and in some cases amazing, since bands have been returned from the Arctic wastes and the interior of Africa.

"Natives of these regions," Nickell explains, "are often superstitious or curious or both when they kill or capture a banded bird—perhaps in a muskrat trap. And because the bit of aluminum with its numerals stamped in, is mysterious, they take it to a missionary who usually knows what to do. The Indians of Ecquador and the Eskimos of Labrador and Greenland are among the best helpers in returning bands.

"And incidentally," Nickel went on, "we take every opportunity to ask people in this region to report to us when they find a banded bird. If the bird is captured but alive, the number on its band should be recorded and sent or phoned to us. It is OK to release the bird because the band tells the whole story—its species, its age, where banded, etc.

"IF THE BIRD is dead, please remove the band and send it to us so that we can check our records and send a report on to the Wildlife Service. When I make such reports I send a duplicate to Ottawa, because I have a Canadian banding license, and the series numbers are the same as in the U.S.", he said.

"Migration of American Birds," by Frederick C. Lincoln, was published in 1939 and so is not up-to-date, but it does record the migrations of some of the birds most familiar to us in Oakland county.

A catbird, for instance, banded in Schoharie, N. Y., flew into a house in Tela, Honduras; another, banded in Northville, S.D., was killed in Tuxpan, Mexico. A barn swallow banded in Saskatchewan was found in El Carmen, Bolivia, and a purple martin from Winona, Minn., turned up in Para, Brazil.

MIGRATION actually means journeying from one region to another. Resident birds like the cardinal, grouse pheasant and bob white, stay pretty much in one area, traveling only a few miles in any direction, as discovered through banding.

Longest and toughest migrator is the artic tern which nests from Maine to the Arctic regions, then goes traveling along the coast by two routes: from Greenland and Baffin Island via Iceland to Scandinavia, down the French coast to the African bulge, then across the Atlantic to the Antarctic Circle; or directly to Africa and across the Antarctic.

These routes have been recorded on maps through the knowledge gained from bird banding.

ALTHOUGH FALCONS and storks were banded in Europe for centuries—probably to establish ownership only—John James Audubon was the first known American bander using thin silver wire on phoebes, and proving that the same birds often return to the same nests, or to the vicinity.

About 1900, the National Audubon Society started bird banding on a small scale, and in 1917 the Biological Survey took over, furnishing bands free to "cooperators" who promised to send in reports to the government.

Now there are between two and three thousand banders in this country, Michigan being near the top with approximately 100 people licensed to band birds.—M.H.B.