

### What Is A Tax And What Is Not?

UNLIKE King Cole, King Rehoboth was not merry old soul. "Whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke. I will add to your yoke," said he. "My father bath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."  
The biblical monarch was referring, of course, to the tax imposed on his Jewish subjects. But it was patry indeed when compared to what the Romans levied 10 centuries later and hardly worth mentioning beside what U. S. citizens cough up for federal, state and local taxes today.  
King Rehoboth's subjects had another advantage: Taxes were things they were not disguised as anything else.  
U. S. citizens are not always so sure what is a tax and what is not.  
Take the case of the new boost in Charlotte's water rates. Realizing the city tax rate was getting out of hand, the Council increased old rates sharply to balance the budget. The increases amounted to 20 per cent in the county and 20 per cent in the city. These were not taxes but "service charges." Yet, clearly, they represent taxes. Mayor Phil Van Every has consistently maintained that any departure from the new scale would mean an increase in the city tax rate. From the city's own computing machines, comes the news that the hike is worth exactly 12.18 cents on the tax rate. In cold cash, the increases will bring an estimated \$28,294 from water customers inside the city and another \$146,880 from outside—a \$411,264 total.  
But this is only half the story. To an individual, city taxes are income tax-deductible. Water and sewage charges are not. Remember? They are merely "service charges."  
Since taxes start at 20 per cent, we could say that, to the extent the council has shifted the burden of producing revenue from the tax rate to the water-sewer rate, it has cost Charlotte's citizens 20 per cent of that extent—plus a great deal more in thousands of cases.  
As usual, Mr. Citizen is the fall guy. This is the same Mr. Citizen who has to work 1 1/2 months out of every year for a free America and a dollar for his own. Experts say that all the average American earned from January 1 to May 17, he had to pay out in taxes—local, state and federal.  
King Rehoboth's subjects were sitting pretty.

### Servicemen Should Get More Benefits

“GONE WITH THE WIND” returned to Brooklyn last week. Outside the theater stood two men, attired in Civil War garb, inviting young men to join the Air Force.  
On Staten Island, the Air Force offered to send a car to the home of any young man or woman who wanted to hear about a career in the wild blue yonder or AF ground complement.  
Up in New England, Air Force recruits flew to their training camp, still exchanging chugging prosaically away in the traditional troop train.  
Recruitment gimmicks? Yes. And it's going to take gimmicks, plus changes in laws regarding service benefits, to get the kind and quantity of men the armed forces now need.  
Brig. Gen. Charles A. Lindbergh summed up the problem of the Air Force cogently in the current issue of the SATURDAY EVENING POST:  
“Fleets of atomic aircraft, costing billions of dollars, can be operated efficiently only by a skilled, satisfied and experienced personnel yet thousands of expert airmen leave the service each year to get better jobs in the civilian economy. It demands that in this complicated electrochemical age long years of expensive training should be followed by opportunities, pay and conditions which encourage patriotism and loyalty in the careers they were trained for.”  
The rest of the military establishment shares the Air Force's problem. Service pay never has been high when compared with civilian salaries. In the past servicemen were compensated by various fringe benefits. But these, in recent years, have been whittled away. Post exchange and commissary privileges, allowances for shipment of household goods, medical recreation and social facilities, medical care for dependents, provisions for concurrent family travel and retirement policies have been altered so as to reduce—in some cases eliminate—entirely—attractive inducements to careerists.  
Friday the President signed a bill that substantially increases the size of retirement bonuses. That is the type of legislation which wants consideration now. The services must be made more attractive to the capable youngsters, as well as the capable servicemen who have been trained at great expense to the taxpayer.

### FBI Informants Aren't Special Agents

MACHINE GUN KELLY had a gat in his hand, but he let it drop to the floor. He quivered and covered as his captors closed in. "Don't shoot, G-men," he said. "Don't shoot."  
Thus, 21 years ago, the desperado who breathed his last at Leavenworth Saturday carried a name that stuck to the "government men"—special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.  
The title was adopted. Treasury Department sleuths were labeled "G-men." We recall a movie called THE F.M.A.N. (The key character didn't quite what it takes to be a G-man.)  
You don't hear the term "G-man" so much anymore. U. S. Edgar Hoover's helpers are referred to as "spies," "spies," their correct designation, or simply "FBI agents." But another group of persons is moving in, or being moved into, that latter category, and the difference between the two groups ought to be made clear. Yesterday's McCarthy hearing story affords an example.  
A man who had furnished information to the FBI while in the Communist Party was in the witness stand. The informant identified as Renee Charles Wojchowski, who was in the room. Wojchowski protested and, just before the senator had the cops haul him away (McCarthy hearing is complete until the cops haul someone away) the senator said: "You are not going to come here and call an FBI agent a stool pigeon."  
The informant was not an FBI agent, or special agent. The special agents are a select group, practically all of them being lawyers or accountants who have passed the most grueling tests and are tested from the rigorous FBI training school at Quantico, Va.  
In this case, as elusive as the favor of a Charleston belle. The "hey" is a mere prefix, sometimes heard, sometimes not, but the rest of it goes something like this: "How-ye-ye?" Or you might try it: "How-ye-ye?" Now and then it comes out as "Hah-ye-ye?" It's the inflection that counts—a rising accent on the "ow" sound, followed by a sort of swizzle of the tongue and vocal cords, with a brief and inquisitive "ye" at the end. The response invariably is "Fahn, jus' fahn."

Glancing further through Mr. Smith's glossary, we are amazed to see that up North—North that is—the fruit that everyone knows is pronounced *chrange* is pronounced *orange*. Further, those little tikes on the playground are not *chirens*, they are *children*. Did you ever?

From The Richmond News Leader  
**GREETING, SOUTHERN STYLE**  
IN HIS forthcoming book, THE REBEL YANKEE, humorist H. Allen Smith offers a brief lexicon of speech differentials in the North and South. For the most part, his word list strikes us as remarkably accurate, especially for a Southerner and a Yankee, and it certainly is interesting to read how people up North would have thought that the word all of us pronounce *ay* should anywhere be pronounced *ey*?  
But we do suggest that Mr. Smith's perceptive ear failed him on the familiar Southern greeting, at least as it is heard around Richmond. He translates the Northern "Hello!" into a Southern "Hey-how-ye-ye?"  
We are not at all certain of doing any better, but Mr. Smith's version is not exactly right. There is a delicate R-sound



Custodians Of Greatness  
Movie-Makers Distort . S.

### Movie-Makers Distort . S.

BY PAUL GREEN  
Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from Mr. Green's latest book, "Dramatic Heritage," published by Samuel French & Co.  
OUT OF the belief in the inviolable and sacredness of brains and hands has come a new age to the world—the machine age. The inventive genius of a free America has led the way, for its coming—with the turbine, the steamboat, the cotton gin, the telegraph, the telephone, the electric light, the development of the dynamo and combustion engine, and more lately the automobile, the airplane, the radio, the motion picture, television, the atom bomb, and many another marvel never allowed for in heaven above or earth below.  
Seventy-five per cent of the machine age inventions have come out of America. And all of them, some more and some less, have taken with them the potentialities of greatness of service, enlightenment and inspiration to all men everywhere. For it is the nature of the machine to be universal in its humility of servitude, its obedience to a master's will and hand. A carburetor works for a Chinese or a Japanese, an air drill cuts for a white man or a Negro, the only requirement is the knowledge of how to run them. And that knowledge is not a matter of color or creed or race of birth. It is a matter of opportunity and diligence.  
NOTHING LIKE IT  
Now of all the machines which man has created for his own betterment and self-expression, none it seems to me for the present is loaded with greater possibilities than the motion picture. Here is an invention which is unlimited in its power for progress and good—for enjoyment of the finest, the best, the most inspiring, glory, grandeur, whatever term you wish to use in interpreting human nature and its desires and ambitions. There is nothing like it and never has been before—the radio, the phonograph, newspaper, television, education, customs and their deeds.  
For here is a universal and democratic instrument for humanity. It is a door back in some way with power to match any requirement and need of any creative mind. Nothing that can be imagined or thought of or glimpsed or dreamed is beyond its ability somehow to state dramatically and excitingly. The hopes and fears and ambitions and disappointments and griefs, the varying faiths, the tugwars and despairs that fill our lives from the cradle to the grave are material for its recording and its telling. The all-hearing ear, the all-seeing eye and the all-knowing camera have made it possible.  
A PART TO PLAY  
And today the movies have a part to play greater than ever before—a part in the order and welfare of the world's future. The warring nations and races and creeds of this frantic planet are striving to get closer together in spirit and thinking as they have gotten closer bodily and physically through the use of that winged engine, the airplane, and the radio, and no agency is better fitted to help bring this to pass than the motion picture. For the screen appeals primarily to the eye and can hurdle language barriers more easily than the written or spoken word. It can reach directly to an audience whether in Moscow, London, or Berlin with the illustrated story it has to tell.  
But the movies are not fulfilling their potential greatness. They are stopped and stymied by the producers and the manipulating money-makers. These trailers and betrayers of the common weal and the people's heritage have a modern cynical and scandalous exploitation of the human weaknesses flooded the world with sensationalism, melodrama, novelty, titillation, froth, shine and stuff for sensual appetites. They have continued to portray our country as a land of excess, of easy money, of poverty and crime, of gangsters and tough guys, of dull and ignorant politicians, of furred and empty-headed women, of cheap success, of hollow heroism, of easy sex, wastefulness, bad manners and adolescent intelligence.  
The only honest exceptions I know are the pictures of Walt Disney and Charlie Chaplin.  
A group of our American business men, artists and journalists of many nationalities were recently visiting the United States. They were surprised at what they saw: "Your country is not at all what we expected," I heard them say. "We had only known it through your movies. How different it is! You are intelligent people, kind, generous, you read books, like music, have writers, painters, singers, statesmen, leaders, teachers, scientists. You have a great culture. Truly, it is not all money and trading and profit taking with you. We had not known it so long ago."  
Well, the war has changed many things, and there is hope even in that. And it would seem that the time has come for us to release this powerful instrument of human expression from its enslavement and let it begin to show the true heart and nature of this land of ours—something of its real inner dynamic soul and idealism which you and I know to have and which is at one with the true heart of men everywhere.

### Quote, Unquote

If we can get communism and democracy to live peacefully together in the world we may move on to a tougher job—persuading dog lovers, garden fanciers, and parents of small children to share the same block without feuding.  
—Florida Times-Union.  
A water helped the cops catch a criminal. That's a switch. A writer doing the tipping—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.  
An ad says you can fly abroad and pay later. That's certainly going to make a hole in the American plan. — Ellaville (Ga.) Sun.  
The speech 24 hours in advance so newspapers could publish it in advance of delivery, plus the explanation of what senators could read his speech before the debate opened and would have a chance to understand it.  
"That's a unique idea," exclaimed Smith of Maine. "Why do you do that?"  
"Well, I am an inventor," replied Flinders. "I have 29 patents. And I see out reasons why something new should not be invented for the Senate."  
McCarthy-Go-Round  
Believe it or not, but McCarthy has suddenly become camerashy. After years of hugging the klieg lights, he now goes out with the cameras and TV cameramen. . . . This is because publicity advisers have warned Joe that his personal reputation is being made and told better keep out of the limelight for the time being. . . . The man who worked the case of a solid GOP man against consideration of the Flinders anti-McCarthy resolution was Michigan's shaggy Homer Ferguson. . . . He didn't want McCarthy to come to Michigan to campaign for him; thus he would be in a bad position if he were to make a fool of McCarthy. "That was one reason he told Flinders: 'If you insist on bringing up your motion picture make a deal with you, but please don't bring it up.'"

### World Balance Of Power Tilts Toward The Kremlin

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON  
WHILE the world waits for the outcome at Geneva, it is already in time to face the central fact in the American situation. What ever happens to Indo-China, the foreign and defense policies of the United States must be changed.  
"Liberation" — "Recaptured Initiative" — "New Look" — "Massive Retaliation" — It is down right unkind, nowadays, to recall these optimistic catchwords, which have turned out to have no more practical value than an old country-woman's runs to cure warts.  
No one has been liberated. There is hardly a region in the world where the Kremlin does not have the initiative. The New Look has turned out to mean the new weakness. And after all the talk of massive retaliation, no serious and decisive effort has been made to prevent an Asian Munich.  
There are a few hopeful patches, to be sure, here and there in the picture. Guatemala is a gain. These are better in Iran. Maybe there will be settlements soon between the Italians and Yugoslavs at Trieste, and between the British and the Belgians at Suez. These situations, that were acutely dangerous, are not so dangerous any longer; and in all these cases American diplomacy has helped to make the danger less.  
But these local gains have not in the least counteracted the fundamental and all-important tendency of which the anxious conference at Geneva is only a symbol. With increasing speed, with gathering momentum, the world balance of power is tilting in favor of the Kremlin and against the West. This immense process, which is nowhere being effectively checked, has taken three different forms to date.  
First, there are the developments in Indo-China, which only Sir Winston Churchill has had the courage to describe as a smashing victory for the Kremlin. Maybe, at Geneva, the Communist negotiators will carry their arrogance too far. Maybe the western allies will never themselves to

### Big Push On In Congress To Boost Veterans Benefits

BY CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY  
Rep. Edmund P. Radwan (R-N.Y.) July 2 offered a resolution calling for House consideration of the bill. Radwan's bill is an attempt would be launched to obtain signatures of a majority of the House. And in three years, when this country is exposed to total destruction in the way that Britain is exposing already, American policy will also be enfeebled by the consciousness of peril.  
These are the hard, basic realities of the present world situation.  
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### France Will Join EDC—For A Price

WASHINGTON  
U. S. POLICY REGARDING Indo-China has flipped almost as rapidly as John Foster Dulles has shuttled across the Atlantic. However, out of these transatlantic trips and the latest Dulles report to President Eisenhower the following policy now seems in vogue.  
The French are back in some way the same position regarding Indo-China as last April when Vice President Nixon warned that we might have to send American troops to Indo-China.  
Reason is that we have now made a definite commitment to back up France in the Indo-China War if the Reds keep on fighting. Though we have talked about this in the past we have never made such a commitment before.  
What happened was that Premier Mendes-France told Dulles that if the United States would furnish financial aid to share the responsibility, Dulles agreed. He also agreed to a line parading policy in Indo-China. We would have to back France all-out if the Reds don't accept a reasonable line.  
Simultaneously, Dulles became convinced that Mendes-France was a sincere patriot, was trying to stabilize Dulles from the political instability of France. Finally, Dulles got an extremely important pledge from the French premier — namely that France would join the united European army.  
All this did not take place, however, without some unpleasant moments, and until after Mendes-France issued one of the bluntest threats ever served on a recent American secretary of state.  
The French premier issued a virtual ultimatum that either Dulles would come to the Geneva conference or France would break with the North Atlantic Pact and adopt a neutral attitude in Europe. U. S. Ambassador Douglas Dillon, who converted the French warning, told Dulles that Mendes-France would bluff, that he had better make the trip.  
That was why the secretary of state packed his baggage and caught a plane to Paris in three hours, later sending his undersecretary of state, Bedell Smith, to Geneva.  
Sen. Ralph Flinders of Vermont was visited by many of his Republican colleagues last week who pleaded with him not to put the Republican Party on the spot by a vote on McCarthy. Among those who called on him were Senators Saltonstall, Merriman Smith, Ives, New York, and Margaret Chase Smith of Maine.  
The Vermontor, who has spent all his life as an engineer-industrialist, remained adamant. He even outlined to senators the speech he planned to make and told them that he was thinking of releasing

Latin Yanqui  
Twenty-two years ago a South American expatriate arrived in New York, penniless, an exile from his country. He was Carl Davila, who after serving four years as ambassador in Washington, had taken over the presidency of Chile. His first job was to make many Latin American presidents, he left with no "nest egg," no secret funds in a foreign bank. He had run a strictly honest administration and left Chile with only the clothes he had on.  
Davila settled in New York and made a name for himself as a professional journalist. He became one of the great interpreters of the United States to Latin America, pointed out that crime in the United States was not the most honest administration in the world. He had idealism, culture, music, opera, literature.  
But after a year in Chile as editor of the Nationalist, he came back to Washington last year to become secretary general of the Office of the American Republics. He was noted for the most important jobs in the western hemisphere—the job of welding the Americas closer together. Under Davila's direction it should go forward with vigor.