



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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After The Ordeal, A Plea For Pity

WHILE an inordinate amount of sympathy was being summoned up this week for the painted Easter biddy we could not help noting the absence of any compassion whatever for another victim of the season. In fact, April 15 has come and gone without a single cheep out of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Taxpayers.

It is, of course, too late now for anything but condolence. The check for the victim of the season, in fact, April 15 has come and gone without a single cheep out of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Taxpayers.

But while the bleats and cries of the victims are being raised a capella it is not too late to consider the threat of future Form 1040s (already at the printers, we hear).

It is not that the income tax is unfair in principle. As a matter of fact, it is superlative in principle, for if you make no income you pay no tax. But the form and character of the income tax system have undergone more changes than Dave Beck's financial records. Over the years, the innovations have been applied piecemeal without too much consideration for the whole machine. An elaborate assortment of inequities has resulted—inequities that make all of those April 15 jokes somewhat less than laughable.

The income tax cannot be abolished. Ultra-conservatives who suggest such a thing are allowing their fancies to run dangerously amuck. The difficulties of finding ways to supplant the income tax would be too formidable.

The income tax can be remodeled, however—not piecemeal but with careful emphasis on overall consistency, not haphazardly but in such a way as to meet the needs of fairness, of enterprise and of efficient democracy.

What kind of an income tax would that be? Some of the clearest thinking along these lines has been done by the Committee for Economic Development.

"(1) It would be a broad-based tax. It is important in a democracy that most citizens should pay some part of the costs of government directly. (2) As far as possible, it would tax persons with equal incomes equally. This rule is one of the

most important aspects of taxation. (3) While taxing larger incomes at a higher rate than smaller ones, it would not impose any rates so extremely high as to distort economic activity seriously, to induce legislators to create legal avenues of tax avoidance, or to impede the flow of savings and investment. (4) It would provide the largest single source of federal revenue. Despite defects in practice, an individual income tax can be fairer than any other tax."

Citizens who have just survived Form 1040's wringer—and have a rough idea of the ordeal of friends and neighbors—are well aware of some of the more glaring inequities. If they aren't they should be. For instance, it is fairly well known that Congress shields several categories of taxpayers from the full rigors of the rate structure with a host of exclusions, exemptions and deductions. It is, however, no gift to the people. Others simply take up the slack.

There is, of course, the discrimination between the man who owns his own home, an individual income tax can be fairer than any other tax. There are discriminations among various kinds of bond holders. Many self-employed persons are permitted to blithely write off as business expenses certain expenditures which would be reduced to zero if they were personal expenses.

In addition, tax consciousness has become a matter of first priority in the use of money. Both savings and investments are channeled in directions where tax advantages can be reduced. In many brackets, marginal rates on personal income are far higher than the rate of tax on income that can be manipulated in such a way as to be counted as capital gain. This creates a strong incentive toward investment in those types of activities that are likely to result in capital gains.

While lawmakers are devoting up to 10 percent of their budgets to adding a nickel of revenue here and looting off a dab of appropriations there, it would seem that certain of these matters would attract attention. The time has come to stop tinkering and start planning. If the income tax is ever to become a logical, honest and perfectly coordinated system of raising funds for the common good, a complete remodeling job will have to be undertaken. Now would be a perfectly delightful time to get started.

Take The Dollar Out Of Justice's Scales

A NEW MOVE to abolish the Jaypee fee system has been launched in the General Assembly by Northampton's Sen. Perry Martin.

It suggests that Sen. Martin has an optimistic and logical turn of mind, and that he subscribes to the adage that enough drops of water will dissolve a hunk of rock. Martin's is the latest drop of water to strike the moss-covered rock of the Jaypee system. It has changed very little. Underneath the moss, the system's flint-like inadequacies and invitations to injustice still flourish.

Not a man in the General Assembly, we'd wager, would consent willingly to trial before a judge who would profit by his conviction. Year after year, however, the Assembly placidly perpetuates such a system as an appendage of minor political stratagems. By the time a bill similar to Sen. Martin's neared a vote in the House in 1955, at least 70 of North Carolina's 100 counties had been ex-

empted from its provisions. At that point, the sponsors of the bill gave up.

In the service of the adage, however, it might be well to explain. If the Jaypee proposal, all Jaypees would be put on salaries fixed by senior resident Superior Court judges on recommendation of county commissioners. Judges could remove from office any Jaypee found guilty of improper actions. The result would be at least a semblance of experienced supervision for activities of politically-appointed, cracker-barrel courts, plus removal of the temptation to make a buck by a prejudiced judgment.

We commend Sen. Martin's persistence and his proposal. If the rock can't be worn away by water, or its flaws removed by reasonable efforts at reform, perhaps dynamite will be used eventually to junk the whole system.

It is fundamentally wrong for the profit motive to figure in the scales of justice.

Senate Should Probe The Norman Case

THE frenzy of back-passing following the suicide of Canadian diplomat E. H. Norman has brought a charge of callous slander right back where it belongs—to the doorstep of the U. S. Senate.

The President, the State Department and the FBI all deny any connection with the Senate Internal Security subcommittee's revival of discredited charges against the integrity of Norman. The Canadian government has reaffirmed its rejection of the charges and threatened as a consequence of their revival to stop sharing security data with the U. S. As the buck came to the Canadian government, subcommittee chairman, said the subcommittee had sound reasons for publicizing the old charges against Norman, but reasons which he could not discuss. So the central question why the subcommittee didn't quietly pass along to Canada any information it had on Norman—remains unanswered. More important, the question has been sharpened by the fact that on April 12, Sen. Eastland told the Senate that Canada has a "very fine and efficient government" which

has been "zealous" in protecting itself against communism.

Canada, then, has both the means and the will to defend herself against subversion. She also participates with the U. S. in an exchange of security information. Yet a subcommittee of the U. S. Senate for a "sound" but unspecified reason—publicizes old and unsubstantiated charges against a Canadian official serving not in this country, but in Egypt.

This explanation will not ease Canada's sense of outrage, nor that of Americans who lack both faith in the wisdom and judiciousness of the Eastland subcommittee.

The situation behoves the Senate to investigate the subcommittee's action with the purpose of either justifying that action in understandable terms or apologizing for it.

Nothing less will relieve a regrettable strain on U.S.-Canadian relations or on the system of exchange of security information operated by the accredited diplomatic and enforcement officers of the two nations.

From The Sanford Herald

OH, NO!

EVERYBODY is talking about Africa these days; even the New Yorker magazine. The discussion in that periodical, while lively, was confined to a cartoon which showed a group of capitalists sitting in a circle listening to the chief. The caption said:

"Now here's the plan. We let the world

out that we're in a state of political ferment. Russia smells an opportunity and makes overtures. The West gets worried. They make overtures. Russia asks to send cultural ambassadors, and we let them. They invite them. Then when we've got them all here, we eat them."

'Living Dead' Refugees Savor A Hot Hope Of Revenge

By JOSEPH ALSOP

UNDER THE mild but brilliant sunshine of the balmy southern Mediterranean springtime, the big camp of Palestinian Arab refugees a few miles from Gaza town seems not too bad a place.

The town — for this is what it really is — is well laid out and clean. The mud-brick houses are solid and well roofed. The leaders of the camp — Supervisor Misbah Mekki, Dr. Anwar Anthony and the rest — are all fine, hard working people who obviously do their best for the 20,000 or more souls committed to their care.

Outwardly, moreover, the camp almost conveys the impression of a town with a life of its own. The women gossip at their work at the little embroidery center. Through the open windows of the school, come the sounds of chanting Arab recitation. At the food warehouse, a great crowd of men and women and children are gathered to draw their rations of flour and oil, beans and sugar, and they talk and laugh while they wait for their names to be called.

NEAR RIOT
But here, if you pause among the crowd for even a moment, a near-riot automatically ensues. It is always the same when any foreigner steps among a crowd in one of the refugee camps.

These people have no past except the memory of the big homes long lost; no present purpose except to rot in the camps; no future except the hope of return and revenge. They exist from day to day on their poor rations, which have been insensibly set at a level not quite sufficient to prevent hunger. And so pouring out their

grievances, their well justified grievances, is to them irresistible.

LIVING DEAD

This is the reality. The tidy outward appearance of the camp is an illusion. For in this tidy setting the refugees lead the lives of the living dead, they and their children, and their children's children. And these living dead — 220,000 of them in the Gaza strip alone — are permanent reminders that new Israel, like Israel of old, was born in blood by driving out the simple people of the land.

Anyone who is mealy-mouthed on this point is either a self-deceiver or a hypocrite. But it is almost equally wrong to be mealy-mouthed about another point. The leaders of the surrounding Arab states, and not least the leaders of Egypt, are using the tragic refugees as pawns in their political game.

They are such useful pawns that any improvement in their lot is actually resented and opposed. In the Baghdad Pact riots last year, for instance, Egyptian and Communist agents led the attack on the admirable agricultural cooperative established near Jericho by Musa Bey Alami. The reason was that Musa Bey Alami had contrived a decent livelihood for too many refugees.

SIMILAR EPISODES

There have been similar episodes in Gaza. In sum, everything is done, by propaganda and by rules, to make the refugees and their children, the refugees' children, go on living the lives of living dead, and so to keep them as a political lever.

At this moment, Egypt's Presi-



Around Gaza, The Past, Present And Future Are Dead

dent Nasser is using the refugees as a lever in the Suez Canal negotiations. He is saying that he will not abandon his "right of belligerency" that he will not permit Israeli ships to pass through the Canal, unless Israel takes satisfactory steps to settle the refugee problem.

The failure of the Israelis to offer reasonable compensation to those they have driven out, their refusal to let those come back who wish to do so, is a standing reproach to Israel. But almost none would go back — you have only to ask them — to Israel as

Israel exists today. And what President Nasser means by satisfactory steps to settle the refugee problem is simply the re-partition of Israel and the liquidation of Israel as a viable state.

There are some reasons to believe that the U.N. authorities may not press the Israelis to make the kind of territorial concessions that Israel cannot make and stay in business as a nation. By the logic of our times, Hitler's crime against the Jews was expiated by a crime against the Palestinian Arabs. And now this second crime, so the theory runs, can be expiated by still another crime against all the hundreds of thousands of simple Jewish people who have pulled up their old roots, and with labor and sacrifice have put down new roots in Israel's soil.

FIGHT FIRST

In actual fact, any such U.N. pressure on Israel, like President Nasser's defense of his "right of belligerency," will be mere ritual maneuvering. The Arab nations do not have the strength today to liquidate Israel. The great powers are not going to use force to liquidate Israel. And the Israelis will fight first. So the refugee problem is not going to be solved by the liquidation of Israel.

In a more practical, less passion-ridden world, a plan might well be attempted that would at least compensate the first generation who are determined to go home to an Arab Palestine or die in the camps; and would also save the second and third generations from this life of the living dead. But this, no doubt, is too much to hope for nowadays.

People's Subscription TV Offers A Blue Ribbon Package

Chicago Editors, The News: SUBSCRIPTION television is not designed to be a substitute for "free" television, as your recent report on the pros and cons of subscription TV suggests.

Subscription television is an added broadcast service proposed for TV. It is not a replacement for the TV we know now. Further, subscription TV backers have no quarrel with anybody's right to see, free, anything whatever that advertising sponsors are prepared to program.

Nor do they intend to "take over" TV.

As a new and additional broadcast service, subscription television would allow the electronic home viewing of box office entertainment and education now seen only outside the home at movie houses, legitimate theaters, sports arenas, opera houses, or campus classrooms. This includes first run movies, Broadway openings, grand opera, sports of the kind that are increasingly "blacked out" — in short, the blue ribbon material that advertising sponsors cannot and do not program.

In asking for authorization of subscription television, its backers are simply offering to take a competitive risk of the sort usual in American business. They do so in the belief that there are enough people willing to pay to see major events like those listed above, on their home sets, to make a fraction of the box office price.

Subscription television will bring these events over commercial stations to people who want them and are willing to pay for them, but can't have them at all unless subscription TV goes into operation.

TED LEITZEL
Director, Public Relations
Zenith Radio Corp.

McLeod Will Make A Great Ambassador

Charlotte Editors, The News: A big kick out of the apologetic lambent over the appointment of Scott McLeod as ambassador to Ireland.

As I read your baloney about "crotch-hungry senators," "McCarthyism," and the nasty old fellow who allegedly has done "a wrecking job on the reputations of able and innocent men" — a paramount shortcoming of yours and the entire liberal press is emphasized. That is, you find it simply unbearable unless all government officials are weak-boned, egg-headed liberals. It is in order to be philosophical, Mr. Editor! This conservative can tolerate the Eleanor Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Truman, and Eisenhower cult, as long as there are the Knowltons, Jenners, Byrds, and

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON SEN. Tom Hennings of Missouri has drafted a resolution of senatorial apology to Canada for making public the secret security data which brought about the suicide of Herbert Norman, Canadian ambassador to Egypt.

Such an apology was what the Canadian government has wanted, since it regards the Senate, not the State Department, as responsible for breaking confidence. However, there's little likelihood that the Senate would pass such a resolution unless drastically watered down.

Little Support

About 90 of the 96 senators might favor a resolution of apology, but publicly few are likely to back it for an interesting and significant reason. The reason goes to the heart of why the Senate Internal Security subcommittee has

Talmadges to challenge the incompetency and downright stupidity of the former with some good old typical American common sense.

Another unfortunate and rather sneaky shortcoming of the liberals is the practice of acknowledging conservatives as members of the human race only when they happen to differ with colleagues on some point. For example, your editorial referred to Sen. Knowland as "eminently respectable."

Nothing could be truer, of course, but the point is—in the context of your description—Sen. Knowland was respectable because he made a statement which you inferred was rebuke of Sen. McCarthy.

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I do not purport to possess the supernatural intelligence required to decipher the confusing and complex function of the contemporary liberal mind, but to me it is one of the most ludicrous and, at the same time, most pathetic phenomena of this century. At any rate, it'll be interesting to see how many "days" Sen. Knowland remains "eminently respectable" in the estimations of the senator's (and millions of oth-

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Protestant Churches Plot Mongrelization

Pittsboro Editors, The News: SINCE a ban has been placed upon carrying my communications, I am making this, probably my last, request. (Editors' Note: What ban?)

You carried my communication relating to integration at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill unit, in which I contended that this great old institution became a veritable incubator and the home of a Red cell, known and defended, from which all the Reds in this area stemmed, under the administration of Dr. Frank P. Graham.

I proved my contentions. There was an integrated recreation center in operation, the property being used under lease. When there was submitted to the electorate of Chapel Hill the issuance of corporate bonds for the purchase of the property, the same was voted down by more than 2 to 1; but the University itself was not affected, which is still integrationist.

I further ascertained that the Protestant churches of America, barring the Primitive or Free Will Baptists, under a species of emotional insanity, to me incomprehensible, have united to prepare the white race in order to prepare it for Heaven. . . . The fact that there is no evidence in the life of Christ and His teachings to the effect that He favored amalgamation of the races matters not to this. . . . group of churchmen, for that was determined before the laymen of the churches knew what was up. Obviously, you can segregate but even the God of us all can't de-integrate.

Of course, I make no contention that the truth in this instance will make anyone free or happy; but I do contend that the truth of this great land of ours have a right to know the truth and that it is the duty of our newspapers and journals as The Charlotte News to convey the truth to them.

—JOHN W. HESTER

Apology To Canada Heads For Defeat

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