SATURDAY, OCTOBER 80, 1948

Property Tax Limitation Amendment

THE four amendments to the N. C. Constitution to be voted on Tuesday, one, perhaps, will draw the greatest ber of negative votes for the very le reason that it appears on the sur-

simple reason that it appears on the sur-face to permit an increase in property taxes. No one, of course, wants more taxes. But there's a good deal more to the amendment than that, and the voter who takes time to find out why the last Gen-eral Assembly decided to place this issue before the electorate, will probably con-clude, like the legislators, that the change is needed.

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The present 15-cent limitation is set forth in Article V of the N. C. Constitution: The total of the State and County tax on property shall not exceed 15 cents on the \$100 value of property, except when the County property tax is levide for a special purpose and with the special approval of the General Assembly, which may be done by special or general set, Provided, that for the maintenance of the public schools of the State for the term required by Article IX, Section three, of the Constitution; Provided, further, the State tax shall not

exceed five cents on the \$100 value of property."

This limitation was adopted in 1920 and, at that time, seemed adequate for covering the normal operating expenses of County Governments. But it was not long before mounting services of government boosted control of the services of government bounded to the began authoriting Counties to levi taxes for special purposes and to create aspecial funds within their budget. That explains why Counties in North Carolina have property tax rates ranging from \$5 cents to \$2.20. Most of the tax collections go to special funds.

That was an obvious, though pechage necessary, dodge, a way to eyade the Control of the tax collections go to special funds.

That was an obvious, though pechage necessary, dodge, a way to eyade the Control of this legal toophole drew the criticism of the N. C. Supreme Court which said, "It the General Assembly can authorize the levy of a tax in excess of the Constitutional limitation for the ordinary expenses of a County, Article V. Section one, which was intended to protect the people against excessive taxation, would be a 'dead letter and of no effect." The Court has pronounced the suprementation of the supreme Court's position, or an increasing demand for services, have combined to make the 15-cfbt limitation entirely inadequate. Either a relaxation of the Supreme Court's position, or an increasing demand for services, have combined to make the 15-cfbt limitation entirely inadequate. Either a relaxation of the Supreme Court's position, or an increasing demand for services, have combined to make the 15-cfbt limitation entirely inadequate. Either a relaxation of the Supreme Court's position, or an increasing demand for services, have combined to make the 15-cfbt limitation entirely inadequate of the suprement of the suprement court's position, or an increasing demand for services, have combined to make the 15-cfbt limitation entirely inadequate of the suprement of the suprement courts position, or an increasing demand for services, have combined to

Russia's 15-Year Plan

Russia 8 15-Year Plat
THE Soriet Union has announced a
gigantic fifteen-pear reclamation and
development program covering 300,000,000
acres, and since this is a triple-decker fiveyear plan, the Russian press can't help
erowing a mite and throwing a addeways
dig or two at the free societies of the West.
The plan calls for:
(1) Planting eight basic systems of forest
belts in four band defenses lines, which all
the dry winds-from the Astan deserts must
pass to enter furopean Russia.
(2) A field-by-field forest defense on
every collective State farm in Russiaabout 300,000,000 acress. Before 1965 these
farms will plant 15,000,000 areas of forest.
(3) Building of more than 45,000 resert.
State farms. These will be used for irrigation, manufacture of hydro-electric power
and for maintaining high ground water
level.
(4) The most grandlose revolution of as-

and for manneau.

(4) The most grandiose revolution of agricultural processes ever undertaken. Eighty thousand collective farms in the next six ricultural processes wer under date. Again ty thousand collective farms in the next six years will be put on a new improved grass and errop rotation system. This is devised to conclusion the process of the process of

sort of "organizing" and "planning" is bursenucracy in its most objectionable form.

Even from this distance we might visualise the text of those Russian communiques handed John Q. Kulak by the high command. Without doubt they will surpass anything encountered during the painless perhaps they will symbolise the fundamental difference between East and West in their continuing indeological warfare. To Russia the individual means nothing, to the democracies everything.

Our program of reclamation and conservation, if Russia cares for the facts, dates back to Teddy Roosevel's time when the Caras will rods herd on the downtrod-den Russian people. The first Federal Reclamation Law was passed in this country in 1002. Since that year the U. S. Covernment servation projects—but it has never sought to ram them down the people's throat. The U. S. effort considered primarily of an educational program to help the people learn why conservation is vital to the nation's

Religious Book Week

JUST as healthy persons take more exerJoint has the unhealthy, religious persons read more books concerning religion
than do the godless. This is both a good
thing and a bad thing—good because exercise will keep the healthy person healthy
and religious books will keep the religious
person gentally healthy; bad because those
persons who actually need exercise—either
mentally or physically—are not reached
by either exercise or religious books.
This week —Oct. 24-31—has been Religious Book Week and the sponsoring organizatish has called attention to many
worthwhile religious books that are available. But more than that, the sponsor—
The National Conference of Christians and
Jawa—has called attention to religion and

- has called attention to religion and

tainhead of our rights and the bulwark of our liberty. The United States of America was born because men believed themselves created by God and because they believed that their Creator had endowed them with in-

alienable rights — among these, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. So long as we believe this and insist that others respect our belief our rights will be

others respect our belief our rights will os secure.

In recent years, however, the American man has turned more and more from the faith of his fathers. He becomes a Stunday Christian, he has given only lip service to the control of the house of the control of the house of the control of the house of the control of the

promises.

If we ever doubt the price of paganism let us remember Germany and Italy where totalitarian leaders first destroyed or made impotent the church before taking away the rights of Germans and Italians. The truth is written in many books; the National Conference of Christians and Jews is doing humanity a service in reminding us

From The Charleston, S. C., News And Courier

Not A Lynching---And Why

INUE CA Lay and the properties of the properties

Poor China-And Uncle's Shirt



People's Platform

Our Fate Rests With Scientists

ing Republican administration may have the will the power to restrain importunate Russians and etuous Americans. On this, probaby, depend our and the lives of our children.—LEWIS ATER SMITH.

Crisis On The China Front

—ALFRED KOHLBERG, Chairman, American China Policy Assn. In

Give 'Em A Break

Quote, Unquote

Marquis Childs

Pinch Of Necessity

Joseph And Stewart Alsop

Moral Commitment

under the rug, and not be an easy decision.

The foreign ministers of the five Western Union nations—Britain, France, and the three Benefux countries—have now decided to propose to the United States the opening of formal negotiations for a, de-

to the United States the opening of the United States the opening of the committee pact.

This is, of course, no sudden and unanticipated decision. Ever since the passage of the Vandenberg resolution with called for the "association of the United States with the Western States of the Vandenberg resolution with the Western States of the United States with the Western States wi

take.
the other hand, various milirepresentatives of the United
a have been closeted with the
ern Union military staff come, considering the amount of
any aid which will be required
the United States to place
irm Surope in a "posture of
se."

defense."

Both Lovett and the American military men have consistently taken much the same stand. They have repeatedly emphasized to the Europeans that any final commitments could only be made by the eact Administration and the next

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Between The Lines In Senate Probing

Barklonian Humor

Wrong Name For Good Friend

Bankers Increase Rates