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Freedom And Reason Will Suffice

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure. Error of opinion must be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

THE Smith Act, passed in 1940, made it unlawful for any person to advocate or teach the overthrow or destruction of any government in the U. S. by force or violence, or become a member of a group dedicated to teaching such doctrine.

But times have changed since Jefferson's day. Men in high places do not share his faith in reason and the right to express the most violent opinions.

Charlotte Crime: Multiple Approach

THE fact that Charlotte's police dept. is undermanned can hardly be disputed any longer. Staff writer Harry Shuford documented personnel needs for News readers yesterday with the help of Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics.

Most significant fact: Charlotte must preserve law and order with a police force that is 10 per cent below the regional average.

Proposals that the size of the local force be increased deserve thoughtful consideration. But the number of police dept. employes per unit of population is just one factor affecting crime in the community.

Stop The Presses, Mr. Postmaster

IN A 20TH CENTURY world where virtually everything from corn likker to French postcards has gone into mass production, the U. S. Post Office Dept. has not lagged behind the times.

Even when striving for realism, the department's designers are not always successful. Experts say the plane picture on the current U. S. air mail stamp would never get 10 feet off the ground.

Washington needs that happy combination of good common sense and good aesthetic sense. Let's lower the quantity and raise the quality of commemorative stamps.

'But I Thought He Was Coming For Sure This Time'



HERB LOCK
CONFLICTING VIEWS

What Is Unfair Taxation?

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

THOSE STATE and local taxes which take a big bite out of your pocketbook will touch off some lively lobbying at the grass roots level next year.

While national attention concentrates on federal tax revision efforts, both labor and business groups intend to pressure for "more equitable" state and local taxes.

But we would that both organizations be free to spew forth whatever tripe they wish, however repugnant it is. Congressional committees can be used in presenting the facts about such organizations.

—which may also erupt again next session. President Eisenhower says he will press Congress to take action on excise taxes due to expire April 1.

FEDERAL AND STATE TAXES are still going up. Because some 85 per cent of Uncle Sam's budget now goes to meet the cost of national defense, east and present, state and local taxes account for over two-thirds of revenues spent for such civilian needs as schools, highways, and hospitals.

Chief source of state revenue is the sales tax. At the local level principal source is the property tax.

Existing state and local taxes are "unfair"—whether to rich or poor depends on your viewpoint—and should be revised.

Ways and means spokesmen claim business income taxes in most states today are "shockingly low," and declare that sales and payroll taxes penalize lower-income families.

Those who represent special interests know that a dollar in (sales and property) taxes levied by states and local governments costs the wealthy much less than a dollar collected by Uncle Sam in income taxes.

Officials in CIO headquarters are urging "a campaign of education and political action" next year, when 44 state legislatures will be in session, to help institute "genuinely progressive" income taxes in a majority of states.

Community inventories to see that no industrial or other property improperly escapes from the tax net in the winter of 1955. There, at a farewell dinner when no speeches were to be made, he rose and insisted on making a statement.

Miller, a former Republican highway commissioner for New Jersey, was made one of Ike's first assistant secretaries of labor and was sent as American delegate to the International Labor Office in Geneva in the winter of 1953.

After Miller sat down you could have heard a pin drop. Then rose Phil DeLaney of the U. S. labor minister of Pakistan, reminded him that speeches were taboo.

"I merely want to read President Eisenhower's Thanksgiving Day proclamation," Miller announced.

The chairman relented. Miller then made a speech proclaiming that Eisenhower was the only leader of any importance in the United States, that his margin of victory was 14 million votes (actually it was 6,500,000), that no one should pay any attention to Adlai Stevenson, plus more of the same.

The international group of labor leaders and experts from every free country in the world sat dumbfounded. No one had ever discussed American internal politics before and no one was supposed to discuss the domestic politics of any country they were supposed to leave domestic problems at home.

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Budget Battle To Be Long, Lively Tug-Of-War In 1955

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON SENATOR EUGENE MILLIKIN of Colorado, a Republican with a strong sense of humor, described the atmosphere at the meeting of congressional leaders as so harmonious that the participants could almost hear the cooing of doves.

One of them, and it may well prove to be the biggest one, is labeled, "Taxes and debt." With a secondary caption, "So you promised to balance the budget, ha, ha, ha."

This is a sort of shoe-on-the-other-foot situation for the Democrats, who for years in presidential campaigns had the charge of deficit spending thrown at them.

By and when really stirred up, Byrd and other Democrats is the suspicion that various devices are being used to get around the debt ceiling.

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Forecast among the latter is Sen. Harry F. Byrd of Virginia. A year and a half ago he was chiefly responsible for blocking a rise in the debt limit from \$275 billion to \$290 billion.

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People's Platform

Please keep letters brief, and give name and address. Names may be withheld. The News reserves the right to condense.

See Your Christmas Cards Come To Life

I HAVE received several greeting cards this year that were pleasing both in appearance and in sentiment. Those with a religious note are appealing, and those with pretty-ribbed holly leaves and holly berries are so appealing.

Some thoughtful friends from far away places who never write otherwise, never fail me in the Christmas season. Sometimes a little handwritten note accompanies it telling of the passing of an old acquaintance or the topping of one old landmark that I once knew as a lad.

On Sunday, I was caught in a snow storm at beautiful Roan Mountain, where the balsam and hemlock grow. Snow-capped peaks, each seeming to reach higher than the last, stand against a white, misty sky.

Each seeming to reach higher than the last, stand against a white, misty sky. The cattle in a hundred yards, the sheep clustered on the hillside, the smoke curling through the trees in the services, singing the songs in the manner that mountaineers always have sung them.

With good Christmas wishes to all, I remain—MERCER J. BLANKENSHIP

Quote, Unquote

Wife—Why do you tear out the back part of that new book? Absent-Minded Doctor—Excuse me, dear, the part you speak of was labeled "Appendix" and I took it out for reading."

That's What We Like About The Times

AMERICAN SUSAN TELLS OF VISIT WITH SAM. "I proclaimed the Post. SUSAN BARETS TRYSTS, yielded the Daily News. NURSE'S BILL STORY IN Q & A was the Daily Mirror's way of soliciting our four cents. Even the Herald Tribune ran the unfortunate wife's name under the headline SUSAN HAYES TELLS TRIAL OF AFFAIR WITH SHEPPARD."

The Times treated Miss Hayes somewhat differently. On Page 36, in the second bank of a standard one-column headline, appeared the name of the woman. Tells of Relationship with Doctor."

Uncontrollable French

Thought it's been kept very hush-hush, French Premier Mendes-France has made a startling proposal that the United States agree to stop all production of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

Mendes-France made his proposal during secret meetings of the Atlantic Pact Council which began last week, and as a result, Secretary of State Dulles is able to talk it up out of it. New the unpredictable Frenchman has renewed the whole idea.

Benson's Delay

The secretary of agriculture has finally announced support prices on so-called feed grains, will fall to the Reds within sorghums—at 70 per cent parity.

This is an announcement usually made before planting time so farmers can know how much they are getting for their crops. No farmer can plan his crop schedule unless he has some idea of what supports will be available for the announcement this year until after crops were planted—and until after the elections.

Washington Pipeline

The "king-pin" agent who Spencer Miller Jr., says was planted in government agencies is supposed to be Jay Lovestone. But she would never allow an inspection team inside the Soviet Union to see whether the Kremlin was living up to the agreement.

His excuse was that he wanted to see what drought conditions would be like, though agriculture experts say he doesn't have one extra day's strong rain than he did before the elections.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

AT his recent meeting with congressional chiefs President Eisenhower was trying to decide whether to deliver his state of the union message to Congress on the 6th or 7th of January.

"Either day suits me okay, but I'll be glad to make it on the 6th if you want me to," he told the leaders.

"That sounds good to me," remarked Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas. "My birthday is Jan. 6. We can adorn right after you finish, and the House will spare the tribute usually accorded me by my colleagues."

"Okay, let's make it on the 6th," agreed outgoing Speaker Joe Martin amid chuckles. "But we're not going to let your birthday pass without some oratory, Sam. We'll give you the tributes on Jan. 5."

Kit Clardy's Swan Song

There's an interesting story behind the swan-song statement of Congressman Kit Clardy of Michigan that "a gigantic network of Communists still operates in the State and Labor Departments."

In the first place, Kit Clardy was one of the three McCarthyite congressmen. All Republicans, to be defeated in the recent election. Second, he offered to work free for the House on Communist-American Activities if they would keep him on as a staff member.

Sam Rayburn: 'No Birthday Oratory

Jersey, is one of the few officials fired by the Eisenhower administration. Here is the reason why:

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From The Wall Street Journal

FINE FEATHERS

LADY in England reports that her white Widgeon first became speckled and then turned black. Later the hen became white again. But now it is changing color once more.

This puzzles the hen's owner. She appealed to the national agricultural

advisory service. Those gentlemen said they would look into it.

It is our theory that this hen has observed that females of the human species may be blond at one time and brunette at another and has found some way to dye and then bleach her feathers.

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