

The Clinton Chronicle

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CLINTON, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1943

We Should Begin At Home

The most popular political pastime today is planning a new postwar world.

But before the United States can take any great part in such a world, it will have to set its own out-of-order house in order.

Large, continuing production is the only basis for financing our government and maintaining adequate living standards and a feeling of personal security. In the United States, under a private enterprise system, living standards reached a world peak and provided real independence and security for a greater population than in other countries.

So, while planning the postwar world, our planners might as well get down to earth and consider practical plans for encouraging expansion or private enterprise at home.

Only a policy of moderate taxation after the war will encourage individual initiative. Exorbitant taxes add to the price of goods, depress employment and deter investment and risk-taking. We had better clean our own house first.

The Subsidy Fight

The administration's food subsidy program, ordered killed by an overwhelming house vote, now goes before the senate banking committee where opponents have warned they will fight any attempt to salvage subsidies as a price control aid. Farm organization spokesmen have denounced the proposal as a disguised, inflationary and unjustified wage increase for labor, and as a brake on farm production.

Under the subsidy system government moneys are paid producers to keep increased costs of production from being passed on to consumers, the plan to cost about \$800,000,000 this year. Those sponsoring a continuation of the system argue that the expenditure of \$2,000,000,000 in subsidy payments would be a cheap method of avoiding inflationary dangers in higher prices.

Opponents of the plan argue that subsidies merely transfer food costs from the nation's grocery bill to its tax bill where they would be assessed against individuals not in accordance with the amount of food they consume but in accordance with ability to pay. They also argue that subsidies would regiment the food industry, break down historic price differentials and reduce food production vitally needed in the war program.

This is not a price-inflationary fight alone for the whole question has become involved with political maneuvering for 1944—pastime No. 1 of the present administration.

What is a subsidy? According to Mr. Webster's dictionary it is "any gift made to aid another financially"—or "a government grant of money to aid or encourage a private enterprise that serves to benefit the public." What we need to guard against is letting our congressmen legislate subsidies which are limited to "aiding another financially." That kind of subsidy is synonymous with charity—and if we are going in for out-right charity the people ought to decide for themselves who is going to be the beneficiary.

Subsidies of any kind are hand-outs, to which The Chronicle is opposed. They are devious and evasive tactics, filled with politics and in our judgment bear a close connection with the nation's voting power.

The controversy now in, the open may be expected to be a hard, bitter fight with many brick-bats thrown on both sides. We need to get away from the idea that every time government approves a hand-out it is doing us a favor. We need to stand on our own feet and stop looking for Santa Claus every day in the year.

Our Liberties Endangered

In time of war the citizens of a Democracy like the United States or Britain must subordinate certain liberties to which they have been accustomed, in order that the combined energies of the nation may be concentrated into one powerful striking unit. Just as an army, made up of numerous divisions—which in turn is made up of thousands of individuals—must operate under one directing head to function efficiently, so must the diverse forces of a nation be funneled into one united effort.

All good citizens with an ounce of intelligence understand this necessity and are willing that it shall be enforced, and submit to such drastic action. And then when they witness what is transpiring they begin worrying about whether or not they will ever regain the liberties which they believed they were handing over to their leaders, in temporary form only, because of the war.

There are great numbers of men and women employed by government

who are concentrating their efforts upon retaining for life the jobs they now hold and without which they might find themselves and their families with smaller incomes. These are the millions of "bureaucrats." They are the folks who supposedly weave spiderwebs in which the liberties of the people are to be enmeshed. They have their leaders—theorists who think they must serve as watchdogs for the hundred and thirty million citizens of the nation—these are the would-be dictators who tell us either openly or by implication that we cannot avoid anarchy unless we are regulated by a centralized, paternal government in which they themselves have a large finger and are drawing salaries far in excess of the services they are capable of rendering.

The bureaucrats believe the country will collapse unless they get control of its people and of its destinies. Such is the belief of the Socialists. Now we can call Socialism anything we like—the Germans call it Nazism, the Roosevelt administration calls it New Deal—but under any name it smells the same and means the management of our liberties by a party of human beings—not gods.

If we were a people who had always lived under the iron fist of autocracy we would naturally be more pliable. But we are not, and it is almost incongruous to even imagine the American people, or the British, allowing a handful of high-minded—or of sinister human beings obsessed with a passionate desire to rule—telling them under penalty of death or imprisonment what they should or should not do. We authorize it in wartime, grit our teeth and swallow a great many things solely for this reason—but we would pulverize it in peacetime. We are fed up on bureaucrats and regimentation. Unless a halt is soon called the dissatisfaction and resentment of the people may lead to pulverization squads.

It is not yet too late to block the spread in this country of the philosophy that political officeholders should "run the people." But unless that philosophy is blocked, the power that Mussolini once wielded over the people of Italy under the term "Fascism" will be child's play alongside the power of officials who control the basic industries and the natural resources of the United States under government ownership.

We need to open our eyes to the growing danger of national socialism which will ultimately mean destruction of individual liberty and opportunity. The taste of official restrictions we have experienced as a war necessity is but a sample of the restrictions we would be subjected to if bureaucrats dominate in the management of our future industrial-political structure.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS

By GEE McGEE

Paging Mr. O. P. A.

Washington, D. C.—I found another nice little eating shoppe last night that the O. P. A. has never heard of. The regular 5c soft drink that sells all over the world for 5c—baseball and football parks excepted—fetched a dime. Apple pie was the same old price, 10c per slice; the only trouble was they had made 2 slices out of one slice, thus cutting the pie into eighths instead of quarters; but they had been careful not to raise their prices on the pie. They were making more slices, that's all, meaning 2 prices.

The biggest swindle was in their little 5c hunk of ice cream: you get a small 5c wad for 15c. It must have been what you'd call 50-50 ice cream, too—50 per cent water and 50 per cent skimmed milk that possibly had never seen a cow. The hamburgers were still 10c. They had done nothing to them except to cut the size of the bread-roll by 50 per cent, and reduce the meat (hoss? search me.) about 60 per cent, and the onions they put on their hamburgers could have been used as sewing thread.

Everything else in this joint was proportionately high. The girls put their lip-stick on their foreheads. They wore their apron strings around their necks. Their hose went out of sight: they had to be high. The cashier sat on a stool not less than 5 feet high. The dimple that should have been on the waitresses' chins was between their eyes, just north of the nose. They even wore 2-inch-high heels on their shoes.

The price ceiling covering this "shoppe" was evidently above the roof. The only low thing I saw there was the actual overhead ceiling of the building—it was only about 8 feet low. The O. P. A. has done pretty well with lard, meat, flour, coffee,

sugar and gasoline, but only about half of what we actually eat each day is composed of those items. Hundreds of things are running wild that ought to be "ceiled."

Three Strikes and In

Well, we got the coal strike settled all right about four weeks ago. We won't have any more trouble at the coal mines for a long, long time. As a matter of fact, we think everything will go along smoothly till late in December, or maybe up to February 1944. As soon as the miners decide that they can't eat their dinner in 15 minutes, Mr. Ickes will have to go right back and pay them for eating.

According to statement made by a Capitol policeman, the miners will get pay from gate to gate both going and coming, and nothing will be deducted from their pay envelopes except the time they lose while devouring their caviar, baked ham, broiled steaks, pound cake, and possibly a few Manhattans to wash the food down in a hurry. If the O.P.A. keeps working on my meal ticket, my dinner-eating time can be cut from 20 minutes to 5 minutes.

The raise granted to the miners, so we hear, is only \$1.87½ per day extra, not counting over-time, Sundays legal holidays, birthdays, and July 4th. We have not learned how this raise will be distributed, but a truck driver near the Union Station told us last week that it was not so that John L. Lewis would get \$1.50 per day of this raise: the fact is, he (and his'n) won't get but \$1.48 of it. Funny how folks love to tell lies on Mr. Lewis.

After getting the coal mine strikers' troubles settled, the government is not looking for more than 1145 additional wage demands, and it might start with the railroad workers, and then Little Steel and Big Steel will have to be taken care of. Next in order will be the industrial workers, then the several hundred porters and red caps and motormen and, last but not least, the farmers will make a demand for a raise. They will be the 1144th to get anything, and then they'll get about 45c in the neck, and will be forgotten again as usual.

As Washington Sees It THE NATIONAL SCENE

Washington, Dec. 1.—The spending spree, on which the government started in 1932 and which has been gathering momentum ever since, appears to have reached a definite turning point as both representatives and senators applauded the demand for economy made by the house ways and means committee in its report on the 1943 revenue act.

Although the senate will undoubtedly change the bill considerably, it is not expected to make changes which will materially enlarge the amount approved by the house group—only one-fifth of the amount asked by the administration. For many of the members of the senate have made it clear that they heartily agree with the statement of the house committee which said:

"The conclusion of the committee was that maintenance by the government of the proper psychology, and freedom from fear of inflation on the part of every consumer, is considerably more important than the absorption of current excess buying power through additional taxes.

"The committee is firmly convinced that the proper psychology can be maintained only by strict economy in government expenditures, through effective price control, rationing and wage control."

Taking the attitude that the amount of taxes asked by the President would "threaten the liquidation of the middle class in America" and would kill the goose that lays the "tax eggs," the committee approved additional taxes totaling \$2,140,000,000, but strongly indicated that this was definitely the end of increased taxation. And the committee made it clear that from now on additional revenue must be raised, not from the taxpayer but from the government itself, through reductions of unnecessary and wasteful spending.

A general sales tax, which it was felt by some committee members would do the most to help prevent inflation by putting a direct tax on spending, was understood to have been killed by pressure from the administration. But it is possible that it may yet be revived again by the senate.

Debate on the tax bill, which included the insistence of so many members of congress that government expenses be reduced, indicates

Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well

24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and help them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

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NOTICE OF TAX SALE

By authority of a tax execution handed me by the Treasurer of Laurens County, I have levied on the property hereinafter described and will sell at public outcry for cash, either in or in front of the Court House at Laurens, S. C., on Monday, December 6, 1943, it being Sale day in December, the following described property, lying, being, and situate in Laurens County, State of South Carolina, to wit:

All that lot, piece or parcel of land lying, being and situate in the County of Laurens, State of South Carolina, near the city limits of the City of Clinton, bounded by the Hebron church lot, being the identical lot purchased from Jack Pitts and Sallie Nance by deed recorded in the office of the Clerk of Court for Laurens County in deed book 49, at page 16, by Missouri Harmon.

Levied on as the property of Missouri Harmon, the defaulting taxpayer.

All that lot or parcel of land lying, being and situate in the Gideon Hill section of the City of Clinton, containing one acre more or less, bounded by lands now or formerly of W. E. Nash on the east, on the south and west by lands formerly of Gideon Leake, on the north by public road, and being the lot conveyed to Chris Moore by M. S. Bailey and Son, Bankers.

Levied on as the property of Chris Moore, the defaulting taxpayer.

All that tract, piece or parcel of land lying, being and situate in Laurens County, State of South Carolina, containing 28½ acres, more or less, known as the Robt. H. Fleming home-place, bounded on the north by

lands formerly of W. J. Fleming, on the east by Spartanburg and Laurens public highway, on the south by lands of W. T. Blakely and L. B. Blakely, on the west by lands now or formerly of L. P. Blakely and W. J. Fleming.

Levied on as the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, Joe Martin and others heirs to the estate of Robt. H. Fleming and Miss Talulah Fleming, the defaulting taxpayers.

All of two lots of land lying, being and situate in the Town of Renno, Laurens County, S. C., being all of lot 19 and the southeastern half of lot No. 3 as shown on a plat of the Town of Renno made by E. P. Jones, surveyor, Oct. 8, 1890 Lot No. 19 bounded by lands of John Bell, Miss Minnie Ray and Mrs. John Bell. The half of lot No. 3 is bounded on southeast by lands of David Copeland, on the south by Bell street, on the west by lot of the Bell Co., on the north by alley.

Levied on as the property of Mrs. Rush Nabors, James Hollingsworth and others, heirs to the estate of Mrs. Beulah Hollingsworth, the defaulting taxpayers.

Terms of Sale: Cash. Purchaser to pay for stamps and recording.

R. A. BABB,

Tax Collector, Laurens County.

SAY, "I SAW IT IN THE CHRONICLE." THANK YOU.

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TODAY

(Thursday, Dec. 2)

He will be escorted by Cadets and the Band of the 39th College Training Detachment and Boy Scouts.

JOLLY ST. NICK'S ARRIVAL WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE YULETIDE CELEBRATION AND CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SEASON IN CLINTON.

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