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The Five-Percenters

Recently there was a great stir-up and investigation of the Washington five-percenters, which revealed a shocking state of affairs. Congress has adjourned and what came out of the investigation? Practically nothing, with a tendency on the part of some high officials to whitewash the whole affair. It was a condition of selling influence by certain groups, that never should have been allowed. It's too late to close the barn door after the horse is out.

These five-percenters have made big money in recent years from their prospective clients through high-top contacts they are able to make with government officials or departments. Those who know "their way around" in Washington have made large sums of money with little effort. The enormous amount of government red tape is responsible in a large measure for the army of five-percenters selling hand-outs and favors. The five-percenter should be eliminated from the national scene. And the best way to bring about this needed and overdue reform is to eliminate the questionable causes within the government which make their existence possible.

A Big Industry

Standing at a service station yesterday we saw another customer drive up and alighting from his car say—"fill'er up!" And the courteous proprietor proceeded to do what he was told to do.

That is not an uncommon sight. It is one that happens daily at the 250,000 service stations scattered in every part of this country, and this does not include the 175,000 other outlets such as country stores and garages which sell gasoline and oil products.

What does it mean? It means that the world is moving on wheels, and that regardless of what happens—folks are going to ride, and automobiles are being sold in increasing numbers. We are told that the motor driver will see a service station every time he drives 12 miles along a road in this country. Customers say "fill'er up" or call for less, and it is done in a matter of seconds. And while the average motorist never thinks of it—back of this service is a highly developed industrial organization that exists for the purpose of having the gasoline and oil products available for the motorist when he drives in and makes his wants known. The public asked for service, it asked for better gasoline, better lubricants so their cars could be operated for long periods of time with a minimum of maintenance. And it got them. It's that way—folks usually get what they want.

You Can't Take It In

One of the country's large insurance companies has figured it out that the federal government is spending \$80,000 a minute. By its statement it has reduced to understandable terms the estimated 42 billions of government expenditures for the year 1949-50. And yet the political President Truman is advocating higher taxes in order that the wild spending may continue.

The average citizen, including us, can't begin to comprehend the government figures released from time to time. We used to talk in terms of a million dollars. That is scratched, it doesn't mean anything anymore. Now we talk in terms of billions for spending and indebtedness, not knowing what it's all about.

Someone asked us what is a billion dollars. We haven't the slightest conception. But here are some facts by statisticians that ought to make taxpayers think, for they are the group who must cash up the billions.

If you put a billion dollars together side by side, they would stretch out 96,908 miles—which is equal to almost four times around the circumference of the world.

If you put a billion one dollar bills one on top of the other it would make a stack that towered sixty-four and one-half miles into the sky.

On today's 40-hour week, it would take a man 2,935 years to run a billion one-dollar bills off the press. If a person spent \$10 a day, it would take 273,974 years to expend a billion dollars. In he decided to speed up the process and get rid of a dollar a minute day and night, it would take 1,902 years to get rid of the money.

Congress spends in big figures

while the people back home toil and sweat to meet the bill. You can't take these figures in we know, but whoever you are, you ought to be able to see that a house-cleaning must come in Washington.

The Tax Problem

Sen. Olin D. Johnston, member of the big-spending congress, said in Columbia a few days ago that he "is not in favor of any additional taxes at this time." Instead, he said, "the federal government should look for ways to reduce spending and avoid an annual deficit." That makes sense, so far as it goes.

Just about the same time, Senator Johnston said that the Greenville air force base, for which he has been plugging, may be retained. He also said he had not yet given up the hope of saving Fort Jackson from the Defense Secretary's economy order. Both are slated to be closed down soon, and they should be, along with many other expensive war-time projects, in spite of Chamber of Commerce protests which are largely commercial. The war is over.

A congressman or senator can't blow both hot and cold at the same time, though they may try to fool the people back home. The way to make additional taxes unnecessary, of which Johnston speaks, is to cut expenses and spending. There is no other way to do it, as any person of just average intelligence must know.

The present congress, of which Senators Johnston and Maybank are members, set a peacetime record for spending. It must be said for this body that it ran expenditures up to a new high level with the prediction now made that this fiscal year will end with a deficit of five billion dollars. One of President Truman's economic advisers recently resigned because he could not give his endorsement to the present administration that in a time of good business and general prosperity is far over-spending its revenue, and piling up more deficit. You can't blow hot and cold at the same time.

When Senator Johnston and others in Washington honestly endeavor to retrench all along the line, and stop endorsing and working for camps, projects and hand-outs for which taxpayers must pay—taxes will come down, and not until then.

A Coach's Job

President M. W. Brown of Presbyterian college at the recent Walter Johnson Day celebration in Greenville sponsored by the Merchants association of that city, in speaking in high terms of Johnson, said: "Johnson was one of those coaches who didn't have to win games to keep his job at Presbyterian college."

That was an unusual statement, but we are glad the president of the institution said it. It is so different from the general procedure in many colleges now, as well as in many of the high schools. Recently down in Columbia the alumni, students and others were calling for the scalp of the Carolina football coach because his team was not winning this season. When Carolina defeated Clemson in the fair game the report came from Columbia that the victory raised Enright's standing and assured him his job for a longer time at least. We note that at Gainesville, Fla., a move is reported on foot to oust the university's head coach. The statement was made in the face of spreading rumors that influential alumni wanted a change in coaches because Florida lost to Vanderbilt.

A coach's job, especially in large schools, is hard and uncertain. His record decides as to whether he is to be put upon a pinnacle or kicked out, which shows how college athletics has been professionalized and commercialized.

The big idea now is to win. We are glad that Presbyterian college over the years has not taken this attitude solely. Every team wants to win, of course, but there's no sense in becoming fanatic and wanting to kill the coach when his team slumps, as all will do.

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As Washington Sees It ... THE NATIONAL SCENE

Special to The Chronicle.

Washington, D. C.—One of the highlights of the debate on the Anderson farm bill during the week, was the charge in the senate by Sen. George Aiken that the commodity credit corporation was just about out of money and would need more if farm prices were to be kept on the 90 per cent of parity basis for another year.

This is a reverberation on the Republican side of the fence of the measure offered previously in the house by Congressman Jesse Wolcott, Republican of Michigan, to give CCC another billion dollars in loan authority. Congressman Brent Spence of Kentucky immediately challenged Wolcott, declaring CCC had plenty of money for the purpose of carrying out the farm price support law.

Facts are that as of June 30 this year the commodity credit corporation had approximately two and a half billion in borrowing authority left out of its original 4.75 billion dollar authorization given about two years ago. This means that CCC has about two and a quarter billion tied up in loans and inventory out of which it may or may not realize a profit or a loss. Then out of this two and a half billion available, it must carry on its price support program the rest of this fiscal year until June 30, 1950.

Actually CCC has only lost approximately \$250,000,000, all in 1948, and from its inauguration in 1933 to the beginning of 1948, has made an overall profit on its operations. Some profits during the war were on the fantastic side. It piled up profits of some \$200,000,000 on its cotton inventory alone.

So officials of CCC are not anticipating they will run out of money unless the crops of next year are so tremendous that huge grain surpluses pile up. If the crops are normal or in short supply they may well make a profit on the commodities taken over under this year's loans.

This 81st congress has made a fairly good record on conservation of natural resources and kindred projects, the count being more than a score of bills which include measures earmarking approximately a billion dollars for flood control, river and harbor and reclamation projects.

The administration and others in favor of a Columbia river valley authority or administration just cannot seem to get over the hump on this kind of legislation. A dozen bills have been introduced and bitter debate has been engendered over the valley authority question in general. Both senate and house public works committees have held extensive hearings and plan to hold on-the-spot hearings in the Columbia valley itself to get local interest viewpoints. Whatever decision the congress makes on the Columbia river may provide a blueprint for other river valley developments.

The first CVA bill was introduced by Rep. Hugh Jackson, Democrat, Washington, in January this year. In April Rep. Hugh Mitchell, Democrat, Washington, Rep. Jackson, Senator Warren G. Magnuson, Democrat, and 17 other senators, introduced the long-awaited administration's Columbia valley administration bill. It has the approval of Secretary of Interior Krug. It provided for a new governmental agency headed by a board of three directors to take over all existing projects in the valley and develop it under a unified water control, resource conservation and development program. Local participation was provided for through advisory boards and councils.

The administration backed a bill provided for the adoption of the activities of the bureau of reclamation, the corps of army engineers and the Booneville power administration in the Columbia river basin. All other federal agencies including forest service, conservation service, and fish and wildlife service would retain independent status.

Then the pulling and hauling began. Rep. Walt Horan, Democrat, Washington, introduced a resolution for creation of a Columbia basin commission and Sen. Harry P. Cain, Republican, Washington, introduced a bill providing for overall development of the basin through a Columbia valley administration and another bill providing for similar development through a Columbia interstate commission.

Then Senators Cain and Magnuson have introduced other bills providing for the construction of certain flood control and navigation works along the river.

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