

EDITORIALS

THOUGHT FOR TODAY—Budgets are not merely matters of arithmetic but in a thousand ways go to the root of prosperity of individuals and relation of classes, and the strength of kingdoms.—LORD GLADSTONE.

The Meaning of Luxury

A luxury, according to the dictionary which we keep nearby, is "anything that ministers to comfort or pleasure but is not necessary to life, health, subsistence, etc..."

The great big dictionary, which is a little farther away but still worth consulting now and then, uses such phrases as "an expensive rarity... free indulgence... lack of utility" to describe luxury.

But no dictionary describes luxury well enough to make the word fit the heavy taxes imposed on many of today's "luxury items." Take ladies purses (a necessity), cosmetics, jewels, and on and on.

Or, take the telephone. Is your telephone a luxury, "not necessary to life, health, subsistence, etc..." as the word is defined? We doubt it.

Yet, your telephone is still subject to the government's luxury item tax bite—10 per cent of your phone bill each month for Uncle Sugar.

The tax was originally a war emergency tax, designed to raise revenue and curtail non essential use of the telephone. The emergency is over, but nothing is so permanent as a temporary tax.

No other household utility is subject to excise taxes. The telephone tax, thus, is discriminatory, and unfair to the 44,500,000 U.S. telephone customers. Last year, the Pacific Telephone Co. alone collected \$74,000,000 for the government from its customers.

We believe the excise tax which singles out telephone users among public utilities is discriminatory and should be repealed.

The savings would accrue directly to the users of telephones—and in most cases in the United States, telephones are no longer luxuries. They are a necessity.

A Voice of the People

The voice of the people is a mighty force in a democracy—but it is a good force only so long as it is truly the people's. When it is the delegated voice of leadership only, it can be misleading.

A disturbing example of this has arisen in religious circles. Last November the World Orders Study Conference, sponsored by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., adopted a resolution proposing that Red China be granted diplomatic recognition by the U.S. and admission by the United Nations.

With the Council's imposing title lending authority, this resolution could easily be considered the voice of a large segment of American Protestantism.

Such, however, seems to be far from the case. Disturbed by the implications of the resolution (which was passed, not unanimously, by 600 delegates), the Committee of One Million Against the Admission of Communist China to the United Nations polled nearly 9000 clergymen in all parts of the nation. Eighty-seven per cent opposed diplomatic recognition and UN admission.

When the Church of England's accented Red Dean declares publicly that Joe Stalin is safe in heaven, the world pretty well knows he is speaking for himself, not the Anglican communion. Such is not the case with the National Council. And therein lies a vital consideration for everyone who delegates his voice to someone else—the fact that the voice of the 9000 individuals spoke quite differently than did the voice of the Council's delegated 600.

Think It Through

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed." Luke 2:1. Caesar has moved from Rome to Washington.

His latest decree is that gasoline shall be taxed one-half to two cents more a gallon. Why? Because construction costs of the Federal highway program are higher than Caesar estimated. If Congress agrees to two cents, the total Federal and State taxes will average 50 per cent of the retail price, 66 per cent of the tank wagon price, and 97 per cent of the price at the refinery. In short, for every gallon the car owner buys, half the cost will go to the Federal and State Governments.

If free from taxes, you could buy two gallons for the price of one. Car owners should pay for the highways they use. But why should highways cost more and more — with all the modern labor-saving machinery now available to build them? They should cost less.

They cost more chiefly because Uncle is living beyond his means and going deeper into debt — which causes inflation.

Uncle thus makes State and local government also cost more and more — schools, parks, jails — everything.

The proposed new tax on



THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

Letters for an Ailing Friend

Letters are probably the nicest medicine an ill person can receive, and Gary Packman, who was recently absent from his fourth grade class at Madrona, is no exception.

The letters his classmates wrote, however, are a tonic for anyone — you don't have to be sick. We got our hands on a sheaf of the chatty messages the other day, and pass them along in part:

"We are on our 5 and 7X now. I hope you had a nice Christmas this year. I got a pair of shoe skats and a asslet set if you are worning what a asslet set is I will tell you. A asslet set is a set of Army things with a pt board and a landing craft and the pt boat has torpedos and 20 men to it. And remember I hope you will be feeling better. Your pall."

Then there's one signed "Your Frind," which says... "We have new book ready at school. Your book is Meeting New frinds it is a 4th greddy book. We are having the march of dines. We are learning about Heading Greeting body Closing and signature. We made booke that we have Social Studies pagers in... We have the thrift thing now."

Another pal wrote... "We are having dogeball games and we are having the nach of dimes today, and we hope you will get over your sicknis fast."

A young lady in the class, who closed her letter with love, said... "We won the THRIFT by one. Have you got any puppys ready to give away? If so let me no pleas. In football 10:24 9:30." Your guess on this is probably as good as mine.

Another "frind" said...

"I hope your are feeling good. Spelling we are on lesson 14. We have been having a lot of fun. We had a spelling test yesterday and I made 100... Mrs. Aronson was nice to us today."

Hints of skulduggery crept into still another letter, apparently from one of the sports-minded boys of the room. "We have been playing football and we won yesterday game and today. Room nine has been cheating there way along. They think they are leading us by two points. The bell rung when the ball was about to be bianke. We need you to play football with use."

School problems were upmost in the minds of the classmate who wrote "We miss you and we hope you will be back tomorrow and we had funny playing football and we are learn seven six in arithometric and we are learn eight time to the school shown a magic man."

Further evidence that the class is preoccupied with sixes and sevens is contained in the note which says "we have been doing out seven in times. We been play a game that you throw the bal at somebody and get them out call dogeball, and they boys play the girls, and this is our language and we have 55 minute and tell noon hourer and we are going to play dogeball. I am getting better in dogeball. I wassen play football put they said our room won. They were play room 4 and yesterday the 14th we had our spelling lessen 14th."

Sixes and sevens struck another classmate differently. He started out by saying, "We are satting are six and sevens haw haw he he and all that gazz. How are you doing that rasametezy. Did you see (?) train last night, boy that was wearde. I wort the latter at 11:20 today. Meet me in the field by the big (picture of tree) when you file better. get well fast are all come a (picture of gun) for you. We still have the thrift flag. I went in to the hudle and this is what they side we got a

teams that on the beam comes on boys lets go."

There are several more, but we think one from Margaret, in a beautiful handwriting, bears repeating in full. She wrote:

"I hope you are feeling well. Yesterday we had a test on our seven times. We all have new books. The name of the book is High Road to Glory. Mrs. Aronson is going to give our march of dimes cards before we leave. We have been playing dogeball during our recess. This morning we had a longer recess and if we are good we might have a longer last recess. We all want you to hurry back to school."

Just goes to prove that there is nothing like a letter — especially if you're sick. We'll bet Gary felt much, much better after he had read all about the thrift flag, dogeball, spelling, ... even the sixes and sevens.



"The simple (but difficult) key to contentment is to realize that life in its entirety is a gift, and not a right." — Sydney J. Harris.

"Life is like a gun. It can be aimed in only one direction at a time." — Alison Fowler Short.

"Some so-called experts are just people who are a long way from home." — Sunshine Magazine.



"Women's eyes are peculiar — they can spot a blonde hair on a husband's coat at ten paces but can't find a garage door opening."

Torrance Bank Reorganized

Banks were making news 25 years ago, as revealed in the files of the Torrance HERALD of Feb. 15, 1934.

Customers were reminded by the Bank of America that under legislation which had gone into effect New Year's Day of that year, deposits were guaranteed up to \$2500 by the F.D.I.C. The Bank of America was paying 3 per cent interest back in February, 1934.

First National Bank launched a 10-day drive to release 55 per cent of the deposits which had been frozen for al-

most a year following the national bank holiday of March, 1933. Plans were announced to reorganize the First National Bank on a locally-controlled basis and rename the new financial institution The Torrance National Bank. Depositors were asked to waive 45 per cent of their claims against the old bank.

Torrance acquired its seventh playground 25 years ago today with the completion of a neighborhood recreation center at Cota Ave. and Dominguez St. The other six playgrounds were the city ball park, two school yards, a room in the Buick agency building, 135 Pueblo, and 2 vacant lot at Post and Cravens Aves.

A request by the Merchants Baseball Team for a \$20 a month allocation from the city was turned down.

In relating their plight the team stated: "Last Sunday four-bats were broken during the double header played here. This does not happen every Sunday, but when a bat is broken it means an outlay of about \$1.85 for a new one. Four in one day is quite an item. Baseballs such as used in the hard ball games are not cheap affairs either." The press release revealed that the group hoped to meet their deficiency by continuing to pass the hat at future games in hopes of more generous contributions.

Law in Action

You cannot take it with you, but with a will you can at least see that your property goes where you can do the most good after you're gone.

Writing a will is an old privilege. The Egyptians wrote them 30 centuries before Christ, the biblical characters wrote them, and so did the Romans. Copies of Augustus Caesar's bronze tablet will be placed all over his empire. Fortunately you don't need a bronze tablet will. A typewritten or handwritten will is acceptable.

If you die without a will, "intestate," the California "statute of descent" lays out how and to whom your property goes. This may mean that those nearest and dearest may be left out. If you die intestate without any heir or next of kin, the State of California gets the property.

The advantages of a will are great. The will insures that property will go to whom you wish. It often allows you to save on inheritance taxes, and you name the person who carries out your wishes.

Your will must be in writing and signed by you. Unless the will is all in the maker's handwriting, you must get at least two competent witnesses present at the same time to witness your signing the will. They then sign in the presence of both the maker and each other.

Wills do not have to be notarized.

The will cannot be changed by an addition after being witnessed, like writing in the margin. A will may be changed by a codicil. Generally you must make out a codicil the way you made out your will.

Do-it-yourself wills often backfire. Even without litigation such wills may cause the loss of the valuable advantages which one's heirs gain from a well planned and drafted will.

SOUND



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS: 1-Healthy Republican party (init.) 2-War god 3-Mountain of Europe 4-Combining 5-Ireland 6-More finished 7-Cliche (slang) 8-Lined 9-Balance 10-Irish high 11-Sailor (colloq.) 12-Likely 13-Below 14-Frute 15-Fort person 16-Saturation in the East 17-Name of England and Denmark 18-Suffix 19-Follower of (pl.) 20-Fil's name 21-Drawing in a fence 22-The caama 23-Seed container 24-Stroke 25-Last 26-Region 27-Climbing 28-Church official

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Includes a section for 'The Old Timer' and 'and I Quote'.

STAR GAZER horoscope section by Clay R. Pollan, featuring zodiac signs and their characteristics.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including names and dates.