

## HANDS IN YOUR POCKET

## A Borrowed Editorial

Washington is advising the public that a cut in income taxes will stimulate the economy and provide more incentive to business investment, so a debate has arisen in the nation's capital. Albany is advising an increase in taxes on motor vehicles and liquor licenses, also stimulating a debate. These debates only serve to hide the principal modern issue. Federal income taxes should be decreased because government expense is demanding too much a share of individual income. The New York governor's proposal for a boost in fees should be scrapped, for the same reason. This is the heart of today's debate so don't be sidetracked from this issue.

You clearly cannot afford the spending that is carried on under the excuse of serving you. The operation of government, both state and national, is costing too much money. Your agencies, bureaus, departments, divisions and that public payroll horde that outnumbers any and all private operations has become a monstrous extravagance. No emergency exists in maintaining this "service" that cannot be solved by cutting costs, sharply and steadily. Who is watching your purse in your behalf, except to find how much more can be drained from it?

Your budget needs more than a bureau of the budget to keep surveillance in your interest. Your government branches could use efficiency experts of the most critical nature in your behalf. Some of industry's time - check men and production control engineers would have a picnic in your behalf by studying any government office. Your income is paying for extravagance, waste, duplication, error and confusion in the offices and halls of government. This is where economy needs to be enforced under its definition of thrift administration.

Why are you, who pay the bills, forced to tighten your belt and pinch your budget to pay taxes or "fees" to support inefficiency or luxury? That consciousness of thrift is the responsibility of the people elected and appointed to government. They are responsible for keeping a tight rein on expenses accountable to the population. Government is "of the people" and the people cannot afford to sponsor air excursions, lobster newberg and job security for public servants while the vast majority drive mortgaged used cars, eat hamburger and wonder where the next pay check is coming from.

Your economy is not as complex as economic advisors, consultants and researchers would have you believe. This complexity can be served by a continuing thrift and a sharp efficiency that has never been applied. Government expense has been used as a prime excuse for more pull on private funds. And that continuing drain is held to be necessary because of your demands. This suggests that you are not making demands for thrift or efficiency. Apparently the demand for these virtues in government is receiving little audience before the leadership that your votes created. Take a hand now in prodding a response that will make your government more accountable to you.

Leadership is not that quality that requires public sponsorship. True leadership and responsible administration sets the tone and mood for public action and spurs you to act to meet the needs and challenges ahead. It also grants you the right to not act. How long are you willing to pay for the leadership that depends on your continuing and increasing payments?

The above Editorial appeared in a recent Edition of the Franklinville Sentinel-Press which we heartily agree with.

We have expressed our opinions on this subject recently and thought that an opinion from another weekly might be appreciated.

## Senator Keating Reports

The United States Congress spends much of its time keeping careful eyes on the operations of Executive Branch and the Federal administrative agencies. Unfortunately, however, it has been less than diligent in overseeing activities within its own legislative chambers.

For example, Congressional committees have insisted for some time that nominees for important posts in the Executive Branch make public a list of any stocks they own which might raise conflicts of interest. There is no requirement for members of Congress. Because I believe that this is the kind of information the public has the right to know and because I see no justification for a double standard, I have sponsored legislation requiring a similar disclosure by members of Congress. In my judgement, candidates for public office, as well as incumbents, should make available to voters and constituents a list of any substantial holdings they have in companies regulated by the Federal government.

The right way to do this is by a law applicable to all on a uniform basis. But it may be that a few members will have to set an example before we get a law. For that reason I intend to publish a list of my holdings, such as they are, in the same manner as would be required under proposed legislation.

Another area which needs Congressional self-examination is overseas travel. Such travel by members of Congress, just as by the President and members of the Executive Branch, on many occasions is necessary and justified.

The vast international and defense issues on which Congress must pass and with regard to which billions are appropriated frequently require on-the-spot study in the same way domestic problems do. But there are abuses and they could be prevented.

One practical step would be to make Congressional expense accounts subject to the same restrictions as business and other expense accounts. Under present practice U.S. disbursing officers abroad furnish the funds requested by Congressmen on a voucher which simply indicates their name, the amount withdrawn and the authorization for official travel. It seems to me that these vouchers should also indicate the specific purposes for which these funds are to be spent and that supporting vouchers or receipts should be required for each claimed expense.

The money Congress spends on itself comes from the same treasury as the money other public officials spend. It is the people's money, collected out of taxes that you pay to the government out of your payrolls and pockets. It should be regarded with the same care as a trust fund and spent only for purposes which benefit the country, not individual members of Congress.



Baltimore, Md., Record: "The editorials of any newspaper are an effort to achieve informed and balanced thinking on issues which affect the public and the country. They are designed to stimulate thought and express an opinion based on the facts, as free of prejudice as is humanly possible, and are designed to fairly include the interests of all in the community served by the newspaper, to reflect patriotism and an uplifting, Christian tone—Newspapers are businesses, to be sure but they are not run solely to make money. Traditionally they have been dedicated to public services and to printing the truth."

Corona Del Mar, Calif. Ensign: "It is pure political malarkey to urge a tax cut without making any effort to reduce the gigantic government spending. This political fantasy is a guaranteed way to speed us even faster along the road to bankruptcy. It is a time for courageous men in Congress to stand up and resist a politically attractive fraud."

## Capitol Comments By Assemblyman Don O. Cummings

As the Legislature begins the last month of its deliberations, the overriding problem continues to be the adoption of a State Budget for the fiscal year 1963-1964. Until this problem is decided, a large amount of legislation can not be considered. The following is a brief discussion of some of the fiscal problems that must be resolved.

## Budget Problems

In keeping with the other forty-nine States, New York is having serious Budget problems. Expenditures have risen in our State to a point where we are now faced this year with three alternatives. They are:

- (1) Increasing taxes to provide more revenue.
- (2) Abandoning pay-as-you-go and borrowing to finance our annual expenditures.
- (3) Cutting expenditures from the Budget.

Under the New York State Constitution, the Governor has a duty to present to the Legislature, a balanced Budget, wherein expenditures are tailored to meet income. We do not find this same requirement with regard to our Federal Constitution and hence, the Federal Government continues to have deficits year after year.

Governor Rockefeller has proposed to balance the New York Budget this year by raising taxes, notably auto license and liquor fees and these proposals are embodied in the Budget submitted to us. It now becomes the duty of the Legislature to decide on one of the three alternatives mentioned above.

In all my years in Albany, I have never received as many communications from Allegany County concerning our fiscal affairs. As you can probably guess, practically all of my correspondence has been opposed to the auto license increase. In light of this unquestioned opposition to the auto license fee increase, I decided three weeks ago to oppose such an increase and I have done so. Less I could not do, and remain representative of my constituency. Presently it is my opinion that there will be no increase in auto license fees, and I believe that it is the intention of the Legislature to avoid raising taxes.

The second alternative is to finance spending by borrowing. This is an easy way out of financial difficulties but it does not represent sound fiscal policy, in my opinion. I am not willing at this time to abandon the pay-as-you-go principle unless there is no other alternative.

Of course, this leaves the last alternative mentioned above, and I have joined with the majority of the Republican legislators in an effort to cut spending proposals from the Budget. This is a difficult problem in which we are now busily engaged. I feel sure that we will be able to effect economies that will balance our Budget; that will avoid the necessity of a tax increase, retaining a sound fiscal pay-as-you-go policy.

To conclude this brief discussion, I feel obligated to issue some warnings with regard to the future. Our Budget can be balanced this year by cutting expenditures somewhere between \$5-110 Million Dollars, but next year, unless there should be a substantial raise in tax revenues, the Governor and the Legislature may be faced with the proposition of cutting expenditures between 300-400 Million Dollars. I feel that this can be done only by cutting State aid and services in areas which will cause hardship to school districts and localities throughout Allegany County. In other words, you can "cut" a Budget by 3% without seriously affecting State aid and services, but a "cut" of 10-12% is bound to mean less aid to schools, highways and localities and drastic reduction in the services. It seems to me we will have to do some serious economizing next year or raise State taxes.

I hope that all who read this will seriously consider this problem and make known to me during the next year whether they desire to raise taxes and continue State aid, or whether again, they wish to have the Budget cut.



## Albany Report

By Barber B. Conable, Jr.  
State Senator, 53rd District

A person cannot conscientiously serve in the Legislature for long without wondering where his political philosophy is taking him.

Many legislators react to pressure on specific bills. But unless they have some basic philosophy of government to guide them, they are likely to be pulled many different ways, falling into inconsistencies and contributing more to confusion than to a rational social pattern.

Several conclusions have been impressed upon me by the impact of office. I believe these fit into a pattern which may eventually influence our voters either to identify themselves with me, or to oppose me.

1. I expect generally to encourage diffusion of power, whether it is the power of big business, big labor or big government. Power is destructive of freedom. The essence of our Constitution is to minimize the concentration of government power by checks and balances within the framework of the federal system. Big government is the biggest threat to our freedom today.

2. I expect to represent all of the people in our district, not just those who are organized. I am dismayed to find how many organizations exist solely for the purpose of getting something for their members, whether it is costly to their neighbors or not. But nobody tries to get anything for the little man, particularly the little businessman or the little taxpayer, and because he is not organized, his interests are frequently not considered.

Even taxpayers' groups, supposedly independent, frequently come to represent some particular economic interest.

3. Governor Rockefeller is right in his "new federalism" to the extent that he tries to concentrate social services at the state level rather than the federal level. But if this promotes freedom, how much better is freedom promoted by the solution of problems at the local level, where our individual voice amounts to something and the legislator is our neighbor. And how much less expensive it is!

We must stand for and fight for strong local government, managed by responsible people, if our democracy is to remain vital. This public good *euu pR kaf* means that we have to make it our mission to get the strongest possible leaders—people whose responsibility to the public good is unquestioned—into our town boards, boards of education and boards of supervisors. We must encourage by every possible means responsible and thoughtful local government. If we do, we will have gone a long way toward bringing the same responsibility and thoughtfulness into state federal government.

## Ashford Atomic Energy Proposal

Nuclear Fuels Service, Inc., a subsidiary of W. R. Grace Co., has announced that it will start work on the proposed \$22 Million facility at Ashford in Cattaraugus County about May 1, 1963. It is estimated that this should mean employment for approximately 600 to 800 workers. This facility is being built with private capital by this firm and they will attend to the hiring of all workers. I have been reliably informed that residents of Cattaraugus County have first priority for these jobs, with residents of Allegany County having second priority; followed in turn by those residents of Chautauque, Erie and other Counties.

This is the initial phase of a tremendous project and I am hopeful that many of our residents will find gainful employment not only in the construction of this facility, but also in the operation of the same after its completion.

Keep on buying Savings Bonds

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