Queenstown News

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Friday, November 16, 1951

Passing the Buck Again

Price Control Michael DiSalle has been most critical of the meat packers of late. According to him they are, deliberately attempting to destroy the whole price control system.

Mr. DiSalle is entitled to his views, but other observers draw very different conclusions from the present confusion in themeat industry. For example, news dispatches from Chicago said that, in a recent week, the 95 leading meat processors were handling 35 per cent less beef than a year ago. Of this the Wall Street Journal said editorially, "One thing this Chicago item ought to suggest to the Washington authorities is that if the processors were trying to gang upon the price control program, a curious way to go about it is to do themselves out of 35 per cent of this business."

The Journal then observed that the total supply of livestock coming to the market was about the same as a year ago, and continued: "Where did the rest of the livestock go? And why? It pretty obviously went to other processors, and there's a sneaking suspicion that quite a bit went to black—or at least gray—marketeers. There's also a tiny suspicion that it went to these rather than the 95 leading processors because of a matter of price. The leading processors pretty much have to stick to the letter of the price control rules because quite apart from a matter of honesty they have too much at stake."

It may be that attacks on the meat people and other business represent an effort to avoid th fact that price control always produces confusion and disrupted markets, and to pass the buck for the government's failure to realize this.No one should be deluded by such a stratagem. Apparently the packers are being abused for obeying the law.

The "Little Man" Pays

Economic Intelligence, a publication of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, points out that our presen tprogram of heavy government spending and soaring taxes is threatening the efficient performance and future growth of the American economy.

It is undemining the incentive to work and take risks.

It has reduced the ability and willingness of people to provide venture capital for new undertakings.

It is eliminating opportunity for the individual and for business.

It causes infiation, with consequent loss of confidence in the value of the dollar.

It has led to more and more growth and centralization of government powers.

It has burdened even low income groups with a weight of taxation which, up to now, was known only in the days of the greatest despots.

It is a commonplace to justify the ever-increasing tax burden by pointing to the need for a powerful inilitary establishment and for aiding our anticommunist allies. That is a phony alibi. Very heavy cuts in government spending—perhaps as much as $10 billion a year—could be made without harming a sound arms or aid-to-Europe program in any way This is the money which is being wasted on projects which are either totally unnecessary, or which could be indefinitely postponed.

Today it is the "little man" who must bear the main burdens of taxation. He, and he alone must, pay for the bulk of any new tax increases. It remains to be seen whether he will continue to let the government waste his money by the billions—while his take home pay shrinks and shrinks because of the tax collector.

A Good Chest Protector Too

The Federal Civil Defense Administration says we should get a "dog-tag" every one of us. It should have a high melting point, be non-radio-active, rustless and practically indestructible, preferably of chrome-steel. The C. D. advisors say it should give the wearer's rame, address, blood type and "other vital information This, we suppose ,in the highly federalized state that the bureau is working toward, should include Social Security number, Draft number, Military Service Record and Civil Service Rating, if any; Police and F. B. I. Bertillon Record, if any; Political affiliation, Labor Union status, Ration Book number, Income Tax File number, and of course, a set of finger prints.

However, we're afraid Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson would have quite a time finding that much chrome-steel. But it might be one way of using up some of that Fort Knox gold.

DON'T BOUNCE BABY DOCTORS WARN

Playful jolts may hurt a baby's immature bones and cause fractures and other ailments in later years, doctors warn. How one mother inadvertently injured her child is told in the helpful article, "Don't Rough Me Up", in November 25th issue of The American weekly. Nation's popular magazine with the Baltimore Sunday American. Order from your local newsdealer.

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