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Face to Face With Facts

Any plea for economy in governmental affairs today is whipped to oblivion, like a cry for help from a shipwreck victim on a gale swept sea. And yet the plea must be made again and again in the hope this country will bear it before it is too late. Not the national debt itself, but the manner in which the people of this nation can meet it, is the problem.

Adequate defense has made increased debt inevitable, therefore an effective plan for economy in non-defense expenditures coupled with rehabilitation of our tax system, is imperative without delay. National bankruptcy would nullify, not only all defense measures (bankrupt nations fall easy prey to the aggressor), but would wipe out every last vestige of the American citizens' savings, security and freedom.

In the first 27 weeks of the current fiscal year treasury (Federal) income was $7,000,000,000. Outgo $13.2 billions. Deficit, $6.2 billions. Public debt at year end, $49.2 billions. Next year estimated income, $8.3 billions. Outgo, $17.5 billions, Deficit, $9.2 billions. Public debt at year end, $58.4 billions.

In giving the above figures the Wall Street Journal adds: "New budget includes no aid-to-Britain; makes now allowance for new taxes Defense figures are tentative. So is work relief. But only sheer inability to spend will cut outgo schedule."

There is only one possible way in which these staggering expenditures can be prevented from bringing chaos to this country and to every individual living within its borders; that is for every person to become fully conscious of his share of the burden. Economy in non-defense spending will remain an idle dream as long as millions of people live with the lie that government can give them something for nothing. Direct taxes on all must be made to drive home the fact that the people, all the people, are the only ones who dig up every nickel that government spends. Only in that way can we save this nation from destruction from within while our military strength preserves it from those who would destroy it from without.

Safe---Maybe

It's only human nature to think that our lives are in small danger from fire, the great killer and destroyer. So, many of us defer taking simple "anti fire" precautions. In this case, putting off until tomorrow what should be done today, is safe—maybe. And that's a very important "maybe" indeed.

Fire isn't considerate enough to warn us of an impending visit. It mails no advance notices. It strikes when we least expect it—and often it strikes at night. If it finds us ill prepared, it enjoys a grim field day of destruction.

Perhaps you've seen homes and factories burn. You've seen walls fall in an inferno of smoke and flame. You've seen costly possessions and irreplaceable keepsakes reduced to worthless ash in a few minutes. Possibly you've seen helpless people trapped floors above the ground, waiting in panic at windows for aid that may or may not come.

You're lucky if that hasn't happened to you. But there's no guarantee that luck will go on indefinitely. You and yours may be next on fire's long list—unless you take those precautions that will make your property safe. Nothing offers greater potential dividends than fire prevention.

Not Too Hot Not Too Cold

By JOHN EMBERT

Exasperation

Almost every movie fan can sympathize with the little woman who was watching a film of "Virginia" at the Queen, Monday nite had her evening's pleasure marred by two girls immediately behind her had a bag of candy which they rattled continually. She turned, gave them an annoyed glance. The noise went on. Finally she looked around and said quietly, "My goodness, girls, what are you doing—building a nest?"

Age Below the Potomac

In North Caroline, the editor of the Richmond county Journal wrote an editorial about Mussolini and entitled it "Poor Old Benito." The editor of the Chapel Hill Weekly, seeing that title, reflected that there were only eight days between Mussolini's birth and his own, and thereupon let loose a bellow, "Anybody who calls Mussolini old is calling us old," he wrote, and furthermore:

The young whippersnapper editor in Rockingham—or whipper-flapper, if it be a female—must be more careful, If a shoe has been worn three years, you can properly call it old, A ten racket or an automobile is old at 6, a cat or dog at 10, a typewriter at 15, a furnace at 20, a mattress or a couch or a sausage grinder or a cook stove at an indeterminate number of years. But a human being is not old—at least, he doesn't like to be called old—until he is actually tottering. Our suggestion to the editorial writer in Rockingham is that he make a resolution not to apply the word old to any man or woman short of, at the very lowest, 75.

This seems to us a perfect example of stepping out of the frying pan into the fire. Fixing the "oldness" of inanimate objects, from shoes to cookstoves, and even of cats and dogs, is relatively easy; it is done here with intelligence and authority. But the last word, "75" is a hot challenge to everyone with many years (on either side) of age 75. We look for repercussions all over North Carolina, with a few lines from Anthony of Roanoke Rapids, N. C.:

With years a richer life begins,
The spirit mellows:
Ripe age gives tone to violins,
Wine, and good fellows.

But not even an editor who is within eight days of Mussoline's age can strain "good fellows" by fixing any age at which they can publicly be pronouced old.

Make it Two, Pal

It has been a good many years since attended an old-fashioned oyster supper. The kind where there were great bowels full of tiny round crackers which were placed in the soup before eating it. We are very fond of oyster soup and just dare anyone to invite us to one of those old-fashioned feeds.

Viola's Lipstick Lotion

The point is raised that the welfare commission's present allowance for incidentals permits none of the amenities of living. Among these are listed haircuts for men and lipsticks for women.

To the American way of thinking, "necessities of life" go somewhat beyond those things needed to keep life in the body. How far beyond, in settling on a standard welfare allowance, is a matter of much official pondering. It is complicated by the compelling considerations of self-respect, the health of the spirit and the keeping up of morale.

To these ends, the lipstick can do a great deal. It is not necessary to prove it: it is something every woman knows and her husband recognizes. It is included in the new treatment in use in mental hospitals for women, in places of detention, and whereve morale is vital but difficult. It is part of the armor donned by the woman of any degree if she is to face the world. How she ever got along without it we haven't the slighest idea.

Writing to Decipher

It isn't difficult to write like a doctor or lawyer. The trouble is, only a pharmacist or the Court will read it.

Don't You Kids Growup like Weeds

The saddest stories in the newspapers, to my way of thinking, are the ones that tell about boys and young men who have robbed some body or got into dad gangs and have been arrested, I don't mean it is sad they were are caught, I mean it is sad that they were not prevented from getting into a life of crime.

In times like this, with war talk and all, it seems there is always an increase in that sort of thing. I often wonder if the boys who get into such trouble ever read the papers or listen to the radio. In the papers, time and time again, they could see the story of somebody who thought he was smart enough to beat the law but got caught at it. On the radio they could hear that same idea dramatized.

I really believe that many a youth has been diverted from starting a life of crime by reading and hearing about such stories, proving that "Crimes does not pay."

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