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EDITORIALS

YOUR FUTURE

The Associated Press recently carried a very interesting little story, based on information provided by Commerce Clearing House, an organization that is concerned with tax and business law.

According to the story, "If you are a 29-year-old average male, you can look forward to paying a minimum of \$34,700 in taxes by the time you are 65." This average 29-year-old earns \$4300 a year, and has a mortgaged home and two children. Of that \$34,700 tax bill almost half—\$15,684—will go for Federal income taxes. The rest will be levied in the form of real property taxes, social security, gasoline, state income, various excise and "luxury" taxes and so down the long list.

The \$34,700 figure, remember, is a minimum. No one can forecast the future with accuracy. If government goes on with the prodigal waste that has characterized it for a generation, the ultimate tax bill for the 29-year-old average man and everyone else will be far higher. On top of that, more government-induced inflation will sharply reduce the purchasing power of what little money we have left after the tax collector gets through.

It is commonly argued that wars and the threat of more wars make these tremendous taxes inevitable. That's an easy alibi for the professional bureaucrats, but it won't hold water. The most thorough studies indicate that Federal spending for just the single current fiscal year could be cut by as much as \$10,000,000,000 without affecting the defense program in any way. Government is now the greatest squanderer of our money and resources and labor—and you pay for it whether you're 29, 59, or 99.

Economic Highlights

In one of his recent syndicated columns, Frank R. Kent wrote, "I and when the story of the present era is calmly written it seems inevitable that the impartial historian should dwell most heavily upon the idiotic fiscal policy which, in defiance of reason and experience, the American government fatuously pursued while passing through its greatest crisis."

"This will indict not only its rulers, but the people of the country as well. For, primarily it is the fault of these that the Washington politicians have been permitted to undermine the Federal financial structure upon the strength of which depends our ability to defend ourselves in a situation where thoughtful men feel our greatest danger is from within rather than without."

As Mr. Kent also said, practically everyone seems agreed that rigid reduction in non-defense spending and the elimination of all government waste are made essential by the incredibly expensive arms program. The President and most other top men in the government have said as much. So have all the leading economists. So have most of the newspapers. So have politicians of all kinds and degrees. Yet almost nothing has been done—so far, it's all been talk, and then more spending.

Here Mr. Kent brings the primary blame home to the President. He observed, "Chief responsibility for this ghastly failure rests upon Mr. Truman. For, it is axiomatic that no real curtailment of expenditures or waste can be achieved by congress without White House leadership. Instead of providing that leadership the Truman weight has been used to frustrate congressional attempts at reduction. Publicly, he has urged his heads of bureaus and departments to cut down nondefense expenditures but privately he has permitted them to classify almost every activity as linked with defense."

There is no lack of detailed and authoritative blueprints for cutting the non-defense cost of government. Any number of organizations and individuals, from the Hoover Task Forces on down, have indicated the way in precise terms, not just generalities. In each case, they show

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how many billions of dollars can be pared without damaging any essential governmental function. It is true that some cuts have been made by a congress which was appalled by the size and scope of the President's proposed budget. But these cuts have been of a relatively minor nature. The big economy issues have been avoided.

Moreover, this is not a partisan fight. A Democrat, Senator Byrd, has long been the most consistent advocate of tough economy in government—no Republican has worked as hard in this direction. And lately, a comparative newcomer to the Democratic ranks of the Senate, Senator Douglas, has taken up the torch. As it happens, Senator Douglas subscribed almost completely to the late President Roosevelt's New Deal program, and he approves of much of President Truman's version of it. However, he abhors waste and extravagance in government and says so on every possible occasion. This, incidentally, has put both Senators Byrd and Douglas in the White House dog house. As Mr. Kent pointed out, the President "is bitterly hostile to both."

It is clear as day that the cost of government and the tremendous expansion in the size and power of the sprawling Federal bureaucracy will be one of the two big issues in the next national election, foreign policy being the other. Many commentators, such as Mr. Kent, obviously feel that only the strongest possible public protest, as measured at the polls, can correct an intolerable situation.

Nature is grand so long as men and women leave her alone.



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NEW BABY GIRL ARRIVES—

A baby girl, weighing 7 pounds 8 ounces, was born August 20 to Mrs. Rosalind L. King, wife of Richard C. King, aviation machinist's mate, third class, USN, at the Tripler Army hospital, Honolulu, T.H.

King, who is serving with the Fleet All Weather Training Unit, Barber's Point, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil G. King of Central Point.

The baby, named Emerine Leonni, is the first child for the Kings, who are residing at 428 G. Halawa Veteran Husing, Honolulu.

PHELPS—

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Phelps and children, Myra and Don, have left for New Mexico, to visit their daughter Joyce and son-in-law Joe Estremado, stationed at Holloman Air Force Base. They are to return September 21.

P.S. Tom hopes to see a Bull Fight in old Mexico while he is there, because Winnie is getting the best of him and he wants to learn some new tactics.

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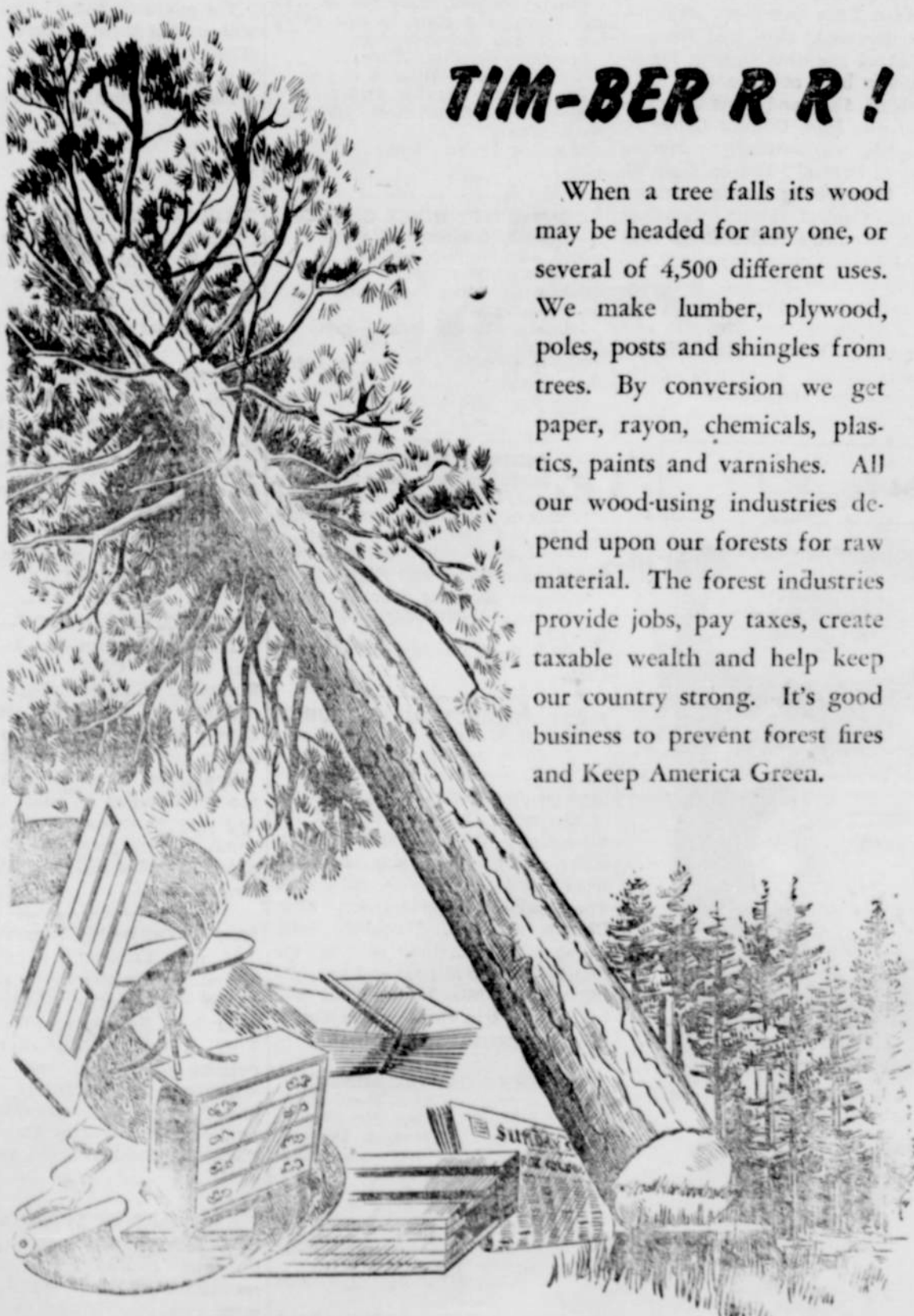
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