

THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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EDITORIALS

TAX EVADERS CAUGHT BY INFORMERS

Few people realize that our Federal Government pays about a million dollars a year to informers who tip off authorities on income tax evaders. John B. Dunlap, Internal Revenue Commissioner, says the tax scandals sweeping the country are increasing the number of informer pay-offs to the point where he will need additional funds from Congress.

The way this spy system works is that any person who submits the name of a "crooked taxpayer" can collect up to ten per cent of the total amount brought into the Treasury as a result of the tip-off. The ten per cent fee is given only when the Department of Internal Revenue is furnished complete facts, which lead to catching the evader. Lesser amounts are paid for fewer facts about an evader.

Our first reaction to this informer system is that it is not the most desirable way of catching evaders. We do not like a system which encourages one neighbor to spy on another. Increasing suspicion and encouraging individuals to reveal confidential information for a few dollars is not a desirable social goal.

On the other hand, it must be admitted that this tip-off system is one of the Government's best weapons in catching up with people who cheat on their income taxes. It must also be admitted that each person who cheats our Government increases the tax load on every honest taxpayer. In view of the tremendous load on the back of each American taxpayer, we find ourselves unable to condemn this admittedly undesirable system of catching tax evaders, which is about the same as offering rewards for the capture of known criminals.

Nichols of Braves top pitcher with 2.88 earned run average.

EXTORTION RACKET, 1951

The Treasury Department reports encouraging progress in its effort to break up a blackmail system used by Chinese Communists to extort money from the Chinese population of the United States. A Treasury Department official estimates the shake-down netted the Communists \$1,000,000 during a one-month period in October and November.

According to Emmanuel Minskoff, Treasury Department attorney, the extortion racket usually worked like this: A Chinese receiving money from the United States is told by Communists in China he must pay a fine or go to prison. Because he knows prison probably means torture and death, the Chinese telegraphs or telephones for emergency money from his benefactor in the United States. He does this through an agent in Hong Kong. The agent contacts relatives in the United States and asks for money to prevent the arrest.

When relatives in the United States have exhausted their funds, and are asked for still more, they usually go to the benevolent societies or the police. Treasury agents, at first, encountered considerable reticence on the part of American Chinese to discuss their plight. Several months ago, a dozen members of the Department, most of them attorneys, went to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, New York and other large cities, to attempt to persuade the Chinese there to resist the Communist blackmail attempts.

The department reports that after

some reluctance to discuss the matter, the Chinese are beginning to cooperate closely with the Department. The Department warns that even though American Chinese pay out their life savings—as many have done—the victims are not spared Communist terror. As often as not, the intimidated Chinese, in the home country, meets a cruel fate at the hands of the Communists, despite pay-offs by relatives in the United States.

COMMUNICATION

Dec. 26, 1951

To the Editor:
Since moving to Central Point I have had many opportunities to feel grateful to the Business Association of our community for all the nice things they do for our children. I am glad to live in a community where the interests of the young are considered important, as has been evident in so many occasions in the two years we have lived here. But with my word of thanks comes perhaps an undesired criticism. What type of entertainment took place at the Free Movies given recently for the CHILDREN?

I don't know the name of either show, but had a report from the children. The first Saturday they told me it was a murder story and described a few gory details. I was relieved to see in the paper the "Bohemian Girl" starring Laurel and Hardy, so let them go with confidence. What did they return with this time? Tales of lashings and

drunks, enough to give nightmares to one little impressionable mind that night.

I can let them go to see trash in one of the Medford theaters most anytime, but we are pretty particular when the rare occasion comes when we let them go. I have no objection to a good Rip Roaring cowboy show occasionally, it doesn't have to be all mamby-pamby fairy-tales but it seems to me that good comes out of good, give them enough wholesome reading and shows and they'll never develop a taste for the sordid.

After all there are lists of recommended films for children. Here is hoping those responsible will be more careful in the future. Thanks again for all the nice things the Business Association has done for our children.
Mrs. Jack Batzer.

Senate unit says there is too much "brass" in capital area.

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TOO SMALL FOR SANTA—

Philadelphia, Pa.—To prove to an unbelieving friend that the chimney of their home was too small for Santa to use, Jimmy Kirk, 8, demonstrated. He climbed up on the roof and went down the chimney—but not very far. He got stuck, with only his head showing. A house-painter, working in the neighborhood, spied him and pulled him out.

341 DESCENDANTS—

Halifax, N.S.—Mrs. Augustine Stevens, better known as Grammie, is mighty proud of her 341 descendants. She has 55 great grandchildren, 209 great-grandchildren and 77 grand-children. Eight of her own twenty children are still living.

FIRE DEPARTMENT AFIRE—

McIntire, Iowa—When fire broke out inside the local fire department, they had to call on outside help. The blaze destroyed a chemical truck and part of the McIntire Fire Hall.

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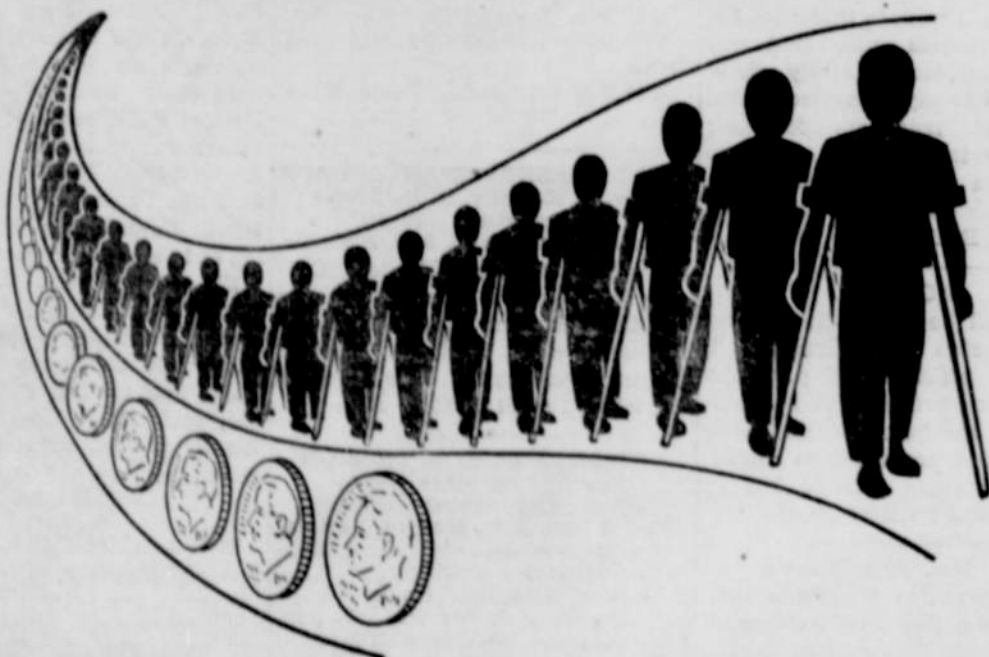
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March of Dimes incurred \$5,000,000 debt aiding 67,800 Polio patients in 1951. This included 45,000 cases carried over from previous years.

Despite yearly increases in March of Dimes receipts, the rising tide of polio has forced the National Foundation into debt each of the past four years. The debt in 1951 was approximately \$5,000,000. The financial crisis faced by the March of Dimes has been brought about not only by increased incidence but also by increased costs and increased numbers of carry-over cases requiring aid long after they have been stricken. The March of Dimes aided 45,000 such cases last year, in addition to the four out of five new patients needing and receiving March of Dimes assistance.