Editorial Page

Telephone Excise Tax

We are now nearing the twentieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

One of the unpleasant fringes of a wartime existence was the duty of supporting our national effort through virtually any device that would contribute to victory and peace. Among them was the imposition of taxes on virtually anything that would support taxation, even by over - stretching logic and reason. Our hope was that with the attainment of victory and peace, reason would return to our tax structure as well as to the rest of our economic and social existence.

But today, nearly twenty years later, we are still paying a ten per cent federal excise tax—a "luxury" tax, if you will—on a commodity as essential to our social and economic life as local and long distance telephone service.

Many attempts have been made since World War II toward removal of this illogical tax. The House Ways and Means Committee conducted hearings on the subject before Congress last adjourned. Both President Johnson and Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon have stated that excise taxes will be given a thorough review again in 1965.

The only shred of logic behind the imposition of an excise tax on telephone service was directed to the idea that the levy would tend to inhibit the use of the telephone lines that were then tied up to capacity with vital wartime traffic. Today, there is no longer any need to place such a restriction on telephone service.

There are four strong arguments now to repeal this tax:

(1) The tax is on customers, not telephone companies, and it falls most heavily on lower income groups who must pay it on an essential household service.

(2) Repeal would be a substantial stimulus to the economy, because elimination of the tax would produce immediately a ten per cent reduction in telephone bills. This in turn would stimulate additional use of communications facilities and services, producing in turn more communications construction—more employment—additional tax revenues to the government. Thus, the loss of the telephone excise tax as a source of federal revenue would be offset, at least partially, by new revenue from other sources.

(3) Telephone service is not a luxury and it no longer needs the inhibiting effect of a tax to keep people from using it.

(4) The war emergencies which brought on telephone excise taxes have not existed for nearly twenty years.

Your Congressman deserves to know your feelings about this unfair, burdensome and illogical tax. Your letter will help him to get it repealed. Write now.

Now Hear This!

Everyone loves a fat man, the saying goes, but the U. S. Navy begs to differ. Ship and station commanders have been instructed to crack down on enlisted men who are guilty of what is called, in Pentagonese, *"dietary indiscretion."*

In the marine version of the battle of the bulge, overweight sailors must undergo a six-month schedule of reducing through diet and exercise, and those who fail to trim down will be subject to dismissal from service.

In keeping with its new policy of streamlining personnel as well as ships, the Navy may see fit to rephrase its recruiting slogan. "Join the Navy and See the World." In fairness it should be accompanied by a warning that travel, in uniform no less than out, can be broadening.

OUR READERS WRITE . . .

Letters To The Editor

Only Partly Honest

We hope you will place this letter where the person it concerns will perhaps read it.

On Feb. 25, my husband and I took our family to a movie at the Esquire Theater. The next day, he discovered he had lost his wallet sometime during the movie. It contained almost $250. Of course, we returned to the theater to make inquiries, but no one had turned it in.

Yesterday, March 22, we received through the mail a large envelope containing all the papers, credit cards, etc., that were in the wallet.

We would like to say to the person who found the wallet "thank you, for returning the papers and we hope you needed the money more than we did!" The biggest part of the cash, was to pay doctor and hospital bills.

Since your conscience "twinged" enough to make you return the papers, we wish we knew why it didn't tell you to return the money also.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alvarez

City Versus Suburbia

What is a city? A city is the people, of course, for without them there is no city. What is a city improvement? It is an improvement of the people by the people. It is more than a clean backyard, a paved street, or a tourist attraction. For "what does it profit" a city to clean itself externally but do nothing to clean its internal government. The people deserve honest government as well as respect and consideration from their elected officials.

Why are people all over the country moving to the suburbs? Why are people buying exclusively from suburban stores or shopping centers? It is mostly in protest of the high and mighty attitudes in city government and the outrageous taxation and assessments without representation.

Three cheers for the people who have the principles of decency and the courage to live up to them! To quote our own newspaper in the editorial of Wednesday, March 17, ". . . the most powerful force of all, the individual citizen who isn't afraid to speak out in angry protest against what's happening to him, his family and his regard for the American way of life. And back up his words with action."

We concur with our editor that we must stamp out the apathy of the people before we can stamp out crime and corruption on all levels.

Lucille Detroit,
1621 Austin Street.

For the record, however, Mrs. Detroit, the editor would favor a city of 34,000 instead of 17,000 and while he has high regard for the progressive-minded people developing shopping centers, don't sell the downtown merchant short. It should be remembered, too, that of the total tax bill we pay only 11 per cent goes for city government. As a taxpayer we are concerned more with what happens to the other 89 per cent.—Editor.

Cheap Fun

We enjoyed the Indian dance exhibition we saw March 20 at the fairgrounds. The audience wasn't too large but everyone seemed to like it as much as we did. A lot of work and planning was apparent. We are looking forward to the coming dance exhibition to be held in conjunction with the All-Indian Rodeo Memorial Day weekend.

Last year during that weekend, we had a wonderful time right here in the Klamath Falls area. On Saturday morning we went out to Bonanza where at noon we ate the best barbecued beef dinner we had eaten since the previous year at the same place—lots of good food and for only $1.25 apiece. Then that evening we attended the Indian dancing program at the fairgrounds. Even though it was their first one, it was enjoyed by all the large crowd. And that was only $1 apiece. Sunday afternoon we saw the All-Indian Rodeo — and we have never enjoyed one more. That was $1.50 for each of us.

Add it up—$7.50 for the two of us, we had one of the nicest holiday weekends we have ever had. So we are looking forward to the 29th and 30th of May and another holiday right here at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn J. Shannon,
6047 Shasta Way.

Which is about as good a sales pitch as we've heard for Memorial Day weekend.—Editor.

Girl Scout

As one of many mothers who had a house full of girls the weekend of March 12, 13 and 14, I want to thank the Girl Scouts of America.

We have a Senior Scout, now, but she has been scouting for nine years, of this we are proud. Proud, is a very small word when you apply it to seven girls, very pleasant, sweet, and every nice adjective I can think of would apply to all of them.

We had these girls at our home during the Scout Conference and they were great. We enjoyed each and every one and felt this is the only way to tell people how teen-age girls can be neat, polite and basically just girls that play records, eat, laugh, and go to bed at a decent hour because they have very important things to do the next day. This is a Girl Scout.

Any time we can have all of them back, they are welcome.

Mrs. R. K. Coddington,
1343 McClellan Drive.

Civil Rights

Thank God we are a country in which people can commit "follies" without the fear of being jailed and prosecuted. You said we should use judicial channels. Did judicial channels get the Negro the right to vote truly?

Through the years, until now in the last decade, since they took to the streets to demonstrate, the courts in the individual states have consistently ignored the Negro civil rights.

As to the students at the University of California last year, they revolted at having their civil rights curtailed simply because they were students. What were they supposed to be studying? Democracy in action or how to live under a dictatorship successfully?

I abhor obscene language, rape, robbery, sex perversion, and extortion as much as the next person, but I resent the implication that the law is always the only recourse. If this was so, we would still be a British colony. The Boston Tea Party would be a dead dream in our great, great, great-grandfather's dead breast. Paul Revere might be well known for his silversmithing, but certainly not for his midnight ride. No one would have said, "Give me liberty, or give me death."

To quote you, "North and South, the tide is rising and even now threatens to sweep away all the traditions, all the standards of decency and morality which we have so long revered." I went to Alabama once. When I got off the plane into a taxi, I was told in no uncertain terms by the taxi driver that "niggers" weren't going to get any civil rights. I was told by others what was what and how to act. Although it went against my grain, (I was 18) I went along with the bigotry and thus made myself as guilty as the rest. I saw their standards of decency and morality. Thank God it is changing.

You said we should use judicial channels and then turn around and attack the highest court in the land.

When anyone takes away any personal right of anyone in the USA they take it away from me, too. Voltaire said in words to this effect, "I may not agree with what you say, but I'll defend to my death your right to say it." I believe this is as true for the humblest soul in this U.S. as it is for you.

When my brother lives in the darkness, can I truly live in the sunlight?

Crystal Matlock,
29 Gibbs Street.

LEON DENNEN . . .

Red China Counts U.S. 'Splinter' Forces

NEW YORK (NEA) — Red China, in search of Marxist-Leninist allies against Russia, is now courting "revolutionary" splinter groups in the United States—outfits like the one that plotted to blow up the Statue of Liberty.

Judged by Peking's propaganda, Mao Tse-tung even hopes for the emergence of a pro-Chinese party in the United States based on the Negro population as the "vanguard of the American working class."

Even the Russian press was unusually restrained in comments on the recent assassination of Malcolm X, dissident Black Moslem leader. But according to Red China's leading People's Daily the slain man was a "martyr" whose death showed that "in dealing with imperialist oppressors violence must be met with violence."

So far Mao has been conspicuously unsuccessful in his efforts to inspire the creation of an organization to oppose the pro-Russian Communist Party of the United States.

Few Negroes regard the Red Chinese dictatorship as an improvement on the rule in Selma. This was said bluntly in a message to Mao Tse-tung that the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) sent in 1963 after a Peking rally in support for the American Negroes in their struggle against discrimination.

"While CORE often is critical of actions or inactions of the federal government, we reject the view that the United States of America has an imperialist policy of racial discrimination," the message informed Mao.

"We are for freedom and democracy for all, including the Chinese people. CORE believes that with its methods success can be achieved without slave labor camps and mass exodus of people from their homes which have occurred in China."

But Mao's future hopes, as Chinese propaganda indicates, are not based on Negro leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP or CORE's James Farmer.

The allies he seeks in the United States are "revolutionary" outfits like the Progressive Labor Movement and the Revolutionary Action Movement.

Several leaders of the Progressive Labor Movement were arrested in New York recently on contempt charges for refusal to answer questions in a grand jury investigation into a possible conspiracy to incite to riot during last summer's Harlem disorders. William Epton, PLM leader in Harlem, is awaiting trial on a charge of criminal anarchy.

The mastermind of the Revolutionary Action Movement is said to be Robert F. Williams, a native of North Carolina now working for Communist Cuba and China. He is believed to have directed from Havana, where he now resides, the plot to bomb the Statue of Liberty, the Liberty Bell and Washington Monument.

Another obscure American group which, according to Moscow, promoted Mao Tse-tung's policy of revolutionary brinkmanship is known as Hammer and Steel.

It is a measure of Moscow's and Peking's ignorance of American reality that this miniscule group figured prominently in an exchange of "open letters" between Russia and China.

As one of Moscow's letters said, "In the United States" Chinese "support is rendered to the subversive activities of the left-wing opportunist group Hammer and Steel which sets itself the main task of fighting against the Communist Party of the United States."

Here again the pot is calling the kettle black (or too Red) which is one of the ironic features of the Chinese - Russian global conflict.

Perhaps Mao is not so naive as to assume that groups like PLM, RAM or Hammer and Steel will have much influence on Negro and white Americans. But they can foment disorder, chaos and commit acts of violence which is all that he can hope for at the present.

Violence is the major theme in Chinese propaganda to American Negroes. "The American Negroes have begun to discard the doctrine of nonviolence and are determined to oppose counter-revolutionary repression with revolutionary violence," said a hopeful editorial in the People's Daily.

Swastikas Fly Again:

Naziism Rising In Latin-American Politics

By BOB COCHNAR

NEW YORK (NEA)—Latin-American politics, to the North American observer, is often a combustible mixture of coup and confusion—not particularly important.

But add the specter of Nazism to this simmering political stew and you glimpse the 15-year ordeal of Theodor Binder, jungle doctor.

This soft-spoken man with piercing grey eyes, a disciple of Albert Schweitzer and a refugee from Nazi terrorism, arrived in 1948 to work with diseased and illiterate Indians and mestizos in Peru's interior. But he did not escape from Adolf Hitler.

"I was soon reintroduced to Naziism," Theodor Binder explained in his German - accented English during a visit to New York recently. "We were invited to the home of a rich German planter and on the wall of his main room was a big picture of Hitler.

"He asked if I had any German newspapers with me. I said 'no,' and explained why. I was immediately ordered out of his house."

Binder soon discovered that Peru's Nazi community was and is flourishing. "Hitler's pictures are all over. These sad people have regular meetings and spend much of their time trying to convince Peruvians that Hitler was right and that the concentration camps were Hollywood propaganda. They are dangerous."

In the beginning, neither Dr. Binder nor his wife Carmen paid serious attention to the Nazis. The Binders had come to Peru to start a hospital. And in 1955, a group of well-equipped buildings rose from the tangled rain forest and fetid swamps of the country's interior.

Money poured in for its support—from Germany, Switzerland, Sweden. A U.S. foundation was established for the Hospital Amazonico Albert Schweitzer. Boston's Cardinal Cushing contributed $10,000.

In Peru, the government and several wealthy families also give Binder aid—among them, Maria Louisa Gildemeister, head of the powerful and respected family which is Peru's largest sugar exporter.

With that contribution, Theodor Binder and his hospital apparently became political tools.

"Miss Gildemeister was the head of our Lima foundation," Dr. Binder said. "But when the government thought about passing land reform bills about two years ago which would have deprived her of some of her holdings, she decided to fight. I think she planned to use our hospital as a political battleground. Perhaps she felt that discrediting me would help her."

Reports were circulated to everyone who had a connection with the hospital—even in Europe—that "I was a Communist, that I was a Nazi war criminal, that I wasn't a doctor, that I wasn't Theodor Binder."

Peru's Gildemeister family has been a potent political and economic force for more than a century. Its New York bank says "it is very well regarded by Peru's banking and commercial people." With such backing, the rumors about Dr. Binder were not taken lightly.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT SCHWEITZER: The Hospital Amazonico Albert Schweitzer near Pucallpa is never without a clientele.

Der Spiegel, Germany's influential news magazine, wrote a critical account of the hospital. The German press circulated stories that Binder was misusing contributions to the hospital, that he didn't take proper care of patients, that he committed sexual offenses against nurses and patients.

Said Binder: "It was filthy. And none of it—not a shred of it — was true. They succeeded in uniting Peru's Communists and the Nazis against me."

Official Peru then cast a stormy look in the direction of the beleaguered hospital. The minister of public health, whom Binder says is a close friend of the Gildemeister family, ordered an investigation.

"We welcomed the investigation," the doctor recounts, "until we found that three of the four men to be sent were our worst enemies. So we refused to allow them to enter the hospital."

The Peruvian press was then invited by Binder to visit the hospital. "And all the papers and magazines, with the exception of one controlled by the Gildemeisters, exploded the rumors and printed the truth."

Since the propaganda stopped the flow of funds from Germany, the doctor last February invited two members of the board of the U.S. foundation to inspect the hospital. Their verdict, as several German newspapers reported, was that "all of the allegations are false."

Yet the rumors persist and funds are still frozen in Germany. "Miss Gildemeister has much money," Dr. Binder says, "and she has told me she will not rest until I leave Peru. But I will never leave."

The Nazis haven't stopped fighting, either. Binder maintains that former SS generals walk freely through Lima streets. "They and their foul friends are fiercely anti-Semitic. They poison the atmosphere. And they have had their bad effect on Peruvians."

But the jungle doctor, his wife and staff refuse to allow their enemies to stop the work of the hospital. They treat some 400 outpatients a week and about 40 bed patients. A grant from an American foundation sponsors research in fungus diseases.

U.S. Peace Corpsmen have worked at the Hospital Amazonico Albert Schweitzer. Theodor Binder still hopes to establish clinics elsewhere in Peru.

THE WORK GOES ON: Theodor and Carmen Binder treat the sick and fight political enemies at the same time.

ART BUCHWALD...

The Great Gold Heist

WASHINGTON — The American gold shortage is a constant thorn in the side of the Great Society. Every solution from taxing tourists to bringing home our GI's in Europe has been suggested, but none of them makes any sense.

It was just by accident that I discov red an answer to the gold problem which nobody in the Administration had thought of. I read in the newspapers that although the United States is losing millions of dollars worth of gold every day, the gold itself never leaves the country.

As I understand it, anytime a foreign country wants to cash in dollars for gold, they go down to the New York Assay Office and they tell the people they want to buy, let's say, $100 million worth of gold. But they don't take the gold with them. All that happens is the gold is trucked over a few blocks to the Federal Reserve Bank and put in a room where it's credited to the country involved.

The Federal Reserve Bank in New York is holding $12 billion worth of gold belonging to countries throughout the world. Each country has its own room and the gold is just sitting there doing nothing.

Now, this is my plan. Stashed away in our Federal prisons are some of the greatest bank robbers this country has ever known, men who know their trade and would be willing to go back to work if there was a good reason.

We would approach these men and say, "Look, the United States is in terrible trouble and we need your help. Would you be willing to pull a heist on the Federal Reserve Bank of New York? There is about $12 billion in gold there and if you could get it out for us you'd be doing this country a great service."

Most bank robbers are patriotic by nature, and would certainly agree to go along with the plan. To facilitate matters and make the robbery authentic, they would be provided with plans of the bank, burglars' tools, and a non-lethal tear gas to make the bank guards sick.

It would be no trouble to knock off the bank and then the gold would be secretly transferred back to Fort Knox. Each of the men who participated would be given six months off their time as a reward.

Now, as soon as the gold was stolen, Dean Rusk would call up heads of state such as President de Gaulle and say, "Mr. President, a terrible thing has happened. The Federal Reserve Bank has been robbed and they took all your gold. I hope you were insured. You weren't? What a pity! Well, since it happened in the United States, we're going to try to make good your losses. We can't replace the gold, but we're shipping you a billion dollars worth of butter. The FBI is investigating, of course, and if we get our hands on the robbers, you'll be the first to know."

At first there will be a wave of protests from the countries who lost their gold, and a few American embassies might even be sacked, but in the long run there wouldn't be much they could do about it.

The beauty of the plan is not only would we have $12 billion in gold to play with, but every country will think twice about cashing in their dollars the next time.