

The Gate City Journal

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Turning Back The Clock

From Public Service Magazine
In a column appearing in the Times-Record of Spencer, West Virginia, Delmer Hubbell takes a fresh

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and novel approach to the views of Karl Marx, whose Das Kapital is the bible of Communism. He asks, "Why did Marx, in seeking social and economic justice for the masses, believe that neither could ever be achieved under the conditions implicit in capitalism and democracy?"

"The answer is easy. Marx observed the conditions that existed in mid-19th century, when children toiled 12 hours a day, when the usual work day was dawn to dark, when workers were without organization or protection, when most employers actually did exploit their employees, when business morality as we know it today was not even dreamed of.

"Private ownership of the means of production and profits seemed hateful to Marx because at that time, in Europe and in England, there was no evidence that the system could ever create the conditions of social justice that Marx desired."

Mr. Hubbell observes there is much more to the Marxian theory than just this. However, as he says further, there is good reason for believing that "Marx today would be anti-communist and anti-Russian."

It is perfectly true that Marx saw, at first hand, the very worst results of the industrial revolution. So far as the masses of the people were concerned, it was one of the cruelest eras the world has known. And the point that Mr. Hubbell is making is that the modern counterpart of that era is found in the Soviet Union and the other communist states. They have turned back the clock. Slave labor is commonplace, the standard of living is incredibly low, and fear and terror rule. When Marx lived, the concentration of power that produced these conditions was held by industry and commerce. Now, in the communist countries, it is in the hands of the government and, as a result, is infinitely more difficult to correct.

Even the trade-unions, which did so much to better the lot of working people, particularly in the early days, have been victims of communists policies. In Russia and her satellite states, they exist—but in name only. They are literally a division of the government, run by labor commissars who obey to the letter each order of the top government officials. Their principal purpose is to hold the workers in line and to get rid of dissidents. In a police state, the police and their spies are everywhere and no man who wants to keep on living dares to protest, even in the circle of his family.

Capitalism, by its very nature, tends always to become more just, due to forces which can control it. The record shows that communism invariably exploits the masses for the benefit of a very small ruling class.

1950-51 Budget Is Within Limit

(Continued from Page 1)
ditures at \$663,482. Complete figures on the expenditures, estimated receipts and amount to be raised by taxation will be given in the official county budget to be published in the Gate City Journal next week.

Two changes were made in the estimated receipts. The board estimated collections on delinquent taxes at \$17,923 and placed the item for penalties and interest on taxes at \$2,500, making a total of \$20,423, which caused considerable contro-

versy at the opening of the hearing held last Friday.

The old budget contained an item of \$10,525, representing a refund from the state for the county health department, which the county will not now receive because of elimination of the full-time unit.

The estimated receipts amount to \$135,373, which is \$7,398 larger than the estimated receipts in the original budget. This \$7,398 also represents the difference between the \$17,923 increase and the \$10,525 reduction in estimated receipts.

The six per cent limitation law allowed a maximum of \$273,709 for the general fund.

Judge Troxell said at the Friday hearing that the county has more than \$600,000 in back taxes on the books, but said it will collect only a small per centage of the money this year. Collection of back taxes is just about always offset by delinquencies for the current year, the judge said.

E. E. Clark, chairman of the budget board, said before several dozen persons crowded into the office that "I am asking only that we handle this matter on a proper book-keeping plan."

The chairman said he wanted to include anticipated collections on delinquent taxes. Judge Troxell and other members of the county court objected.

Dudley Sitton, Ontario farmer and former superintendent of the Malheur experimental area, insisted that taxes represent accounts receivable and the county is certain to collect most of them.

O. E. Cheldelin, a member of the budget board, suggested paying back the \$39,000 the general fund owes other funds in two or three years, but Judge Troxell said the entire amount must be placed in the budget for the coming year.

Sitton said "You are \$39,000 in the red that is backed up by taxes. You might end up with a deficit next year, but that's no crime; you are putting in the \$39,000 this year."

The district attorney said the budget should include an estimate of anticipated delinquent tax collections. Clark suggested the board include \$15,000 for tax collections, but it rejected the \$15,000 and voted for \$10,000. Later the amount was increased to \$17,923.

BUDGET BUILDING

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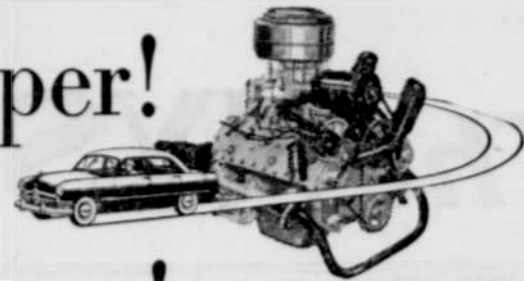
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