

REVIEW *and* OUTLOOK

How Long, Then?

In 1952, when this Administration was first elected, the national income amounted to \$290 billion. The personal income of all its citizens, after deducting such things as corporate profits not distributed as dividends, amounted to \$272 billion.

This year the national income will be very close to \$340 billion. The personal income of the citizens in the third quarter was at a rate of \$327 billion.

These two sets of figures, to which a host of others could be added, are a measure of the fact that the United States has been enjoying a period of unprecedented prosperity. We could hardly be forgetful of it, for during the recent campaign the candidates and supporters of the Administration constantly boasted about it.

Your Government, of course, has shared in this prosperity. In the 1952-53 fiscal year its net budget receipts amounted to \$65 billion. During its first term the Administration cut the tax rates. Yet in spite of this lower rate, so great has been the prosperity that the Government's net receipts have risen anyway. In the fiscal year ended last June they were more than \$68 billion. They are running at a higher rate today.

There is another little matter this Administration has rightly boasted about. It has been cutting expenses. In the 1952-53 fiscal year the Government's budget expenditures were \$74 billion. In three years the Administration pared \$10 billion out of the budget.

You might suppose that now, if ever, the Government would be in a position where it could reduce further

the tax load on its citizens.

But no. The Treasury opposes any and all tax cuts. Its top tax man, Dan T. Smith, told a House Committee this week that the Treasury "sees no basis for the reduction of any taxes at the present time."

In fact, the Treasury spokesman says the Government can't even afford to correct those tax provisions that it knows to be bad. "We have to be content with something that may not be entirely sound economically but still brings in the revenue we so badly need."

And how much money does the Government think it is going to have to get? "We need \$70 billion of revenue."

So there you are. The Government today has a greater revenue from taxes than ever before in history, including (believe it or not) the high tax years of World War II. It is not fighting a war, as it was during much of President Truman's term. There is no depression, as there was during much of President Roosevelt's term, to argue for heavy expenditures for relief, for welfare, for pump-priming public works.

Yet in this year, without war and with unparalleled prosperity, the Treasury "sees no basis" for cutting taxes. The Administration "needs" every extra billion it can squeeze out.

Well, what has happened to the great resolve to give us a Government of good husbandry? And how long will it be, then, before the Government discovers a basis for reducing the people's taxes?

THINK IT THROUGH A syndicated column published in various newspapers

By E. F. HUTTON, a public spirited citizen, co-founder of Freedoms Foundation

Who do you think wrote the following:

"Every working citizen is compelled to devote one day's labor per week to foster extravagant waste, boondoggling and downright wantonness involved in the distribution of this easy money by thousands of One-World do-gooders. Only an aroused citizenry can put a halt to this never-ending evil."

That was written and adopted by the New York State Federation of Labor at its ninety-third annual convention in New York City on June 27, 1956.

Believe it or not, that is the way this federation of working men and women feel about this iniquitous income tax and drunken sailor spending of their wages.

They went on to say that income taxes are a contributing cause to juvenile delinquency, they force mothers to abandon their homes and young 'uns to take jobs in offices and factories to eke out their husbands' wages.

They asked both the Republican and Democratic parties to "promise to reduce considerably or abolish entirely this hateful legislation."

For a long time the income tax was praised as a way to "soak the rich." But it is now found that it soaks the poor — and how! Eighty per cent of all personal income taxes come from the first 20 per cent tax bracket.

There just aren't enough rich people. Now we are hearing from the "guys" who work for wages.

Something's going to "give" on this tax-and-spend thing soon.

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Congress will not voluntarily adopt the sensible money-saving program which the Hoover Commission task force have recommended. Only by making it an issue with votes. If a Congressman or Senator gets a letter from you he'll know you are interested. If he gets just a half-dozen personally written letters from your town he'll begin to be afraid something must be done. If a few organizations send him resolutions he'll be about convinced he had better do something. If, when he goes home, every third or fourth person he meets asks when the Hoover proposals are going to be adopted, he may start working.

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Would it be worth any trouble to you to save that 25% of income tax? You could (1) write three letters, one to your Congressman and one to each of your U. S. Senators; (2) urge a friend or so to do the same thing; (3) introduce a resolution, at the next meeting of any organizations you belong to, asking them to do something now about the Hoover proposals, and instruct the secretary to mail copies to your Senators and Congressman; (4) ask your Congressman when you see him to explain what he himself is going to do; and (5) don't be a party to asking for special appropriations for your locality.

It would not take much of this kind of interest to produce quick action on the Hoover proposals.

But, if you like to pay taxes, Congress will take care of that. Automatically! You won't need to ask.

(See Other Side)

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