

LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

Tax System Gone Awry

Editor:

Ralph Nader exposes the Great Myth of Progressive Taxation in his "People and Taxes" newspaper by the Tax Reform Research Group. He said in print, "Obviously, something has gone wrong with the theory of taxing each citizen according to his ability to pay."

In fact, in 1970 there were 112 persons who made \$200,000 or

more each but paid no income taxes at all to the federal government. Instead, they took advantage of loopholes unavailable to the ordinary citizen.

Our tax laws are riddled with special clauses benefiting primarily the rich and the powerful. And each loophole for another taxpayer means either higher taxes for you — or fewer taxes and therefore less government services for your community.

The Nixon administration apparently feels that the Revenue Act of 1971 did not shift enough

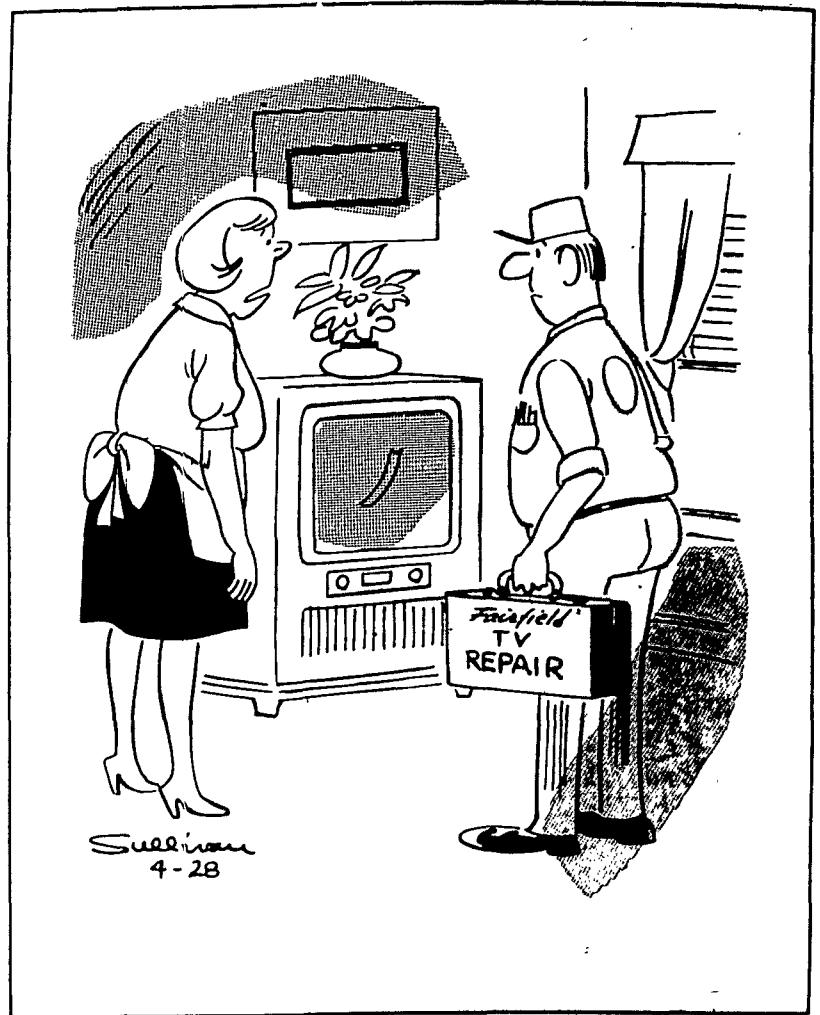
of the tax burden to the small taxpayer. Treasury officials are now conceiving a way to soak him further—the so-called Value-Added Tax on consumers — in effect, a National Sales Tax.

The "National Journal" recently reported: "Treasury officials concede that part of the appeal of the value-added tax is its novelty. Voters, conditioned over the years to oppose tax increases, may be slower to react against a tax which is not fully understood. At the very least they will have to be educated to oppose it."

Nader adds, "In other words, the Administration hopes the American people will buy it because they don't understand it."

After reading the above one wonders why the government has the heart to bring Dorothy Day to court for refusing to pay her income tax. A woman who has dedicated her entire life to help the poor is now being sued.

Anne B. Christoff
Rochester



"THE TUBE BLEW OUT DURING MARCUS WELBY, THEN SUDDENLY CAME BACK ON DURING ORAL ROBERTS!"

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



I have read odes to nightingales and to skylarks, but in all my readings I can remember but one poem to a sparrow. And even in this solitary lyric, the poet points out that "The sparrow's dress is dull as dirt and he is impudent and pert." The poor little English sparrow has to stay and face the siege of wintry frost and freeze, while other birds wing their way to warmer climates.

In the Orient no one but the poorest of the poor will eat the sparrow: the meat on its bones is so little and that little is so poor to eat. Yet our Lord talked about sparrows. He always showed a marked interest in such lowly creatures: as hens, foxes and sparrows.

Men talk about the goodness of God in general terms. They think of it as pouring itself upon the world much like sunshine. Seldom do they conceive of it as the continuous action of an intelligent and living mind, knowing whom it visits and intending what it affects. Thus when trouble comes, good people simply say, "It's God's will." They are not comforted or really helped. Little do they realize that God's universal providence is also detailed and personal — reaching even to sparrows, and to the hairs of our head.

"Every hair of your head has been counted." Tiny as is the strand of hair, its structure is amazing. It has a foot, a stem, a vein, a fluid, a membrane — a world of parts. Each part is arranged, fitted, guarded, fed. A thousand functions go on to sustain this threadlike thing. God

cares that much about the least thing about us. How much more about us ourselves!

And yet what is abortion, artificial birth control, but a denial of the providence of God. "Yes," we admit, "He can run the world all right, with its myriads of stars and galaxies. But my particular life? Well, He just doesn't know my situation — you know, my wife's health, my wealth, all the worries I've got." Doesn't He? Well might we once again take a lesson from the sparrow.

Said the Robin to the Sparrow: "I should really like to know Why these anxious human beings Rush about and worry so."

Said the Sparrow to the Robin: "Friend, I think that it must be That they have no heavenly father Such as cares for you and me."

William Cullen Bryant, unable to continue his studies at Yale, turned to law though his heart was bent on a literary career. Forlorn and desolate, he was walking from Cummington to Plainfield, Massachusetts, where he hoped to start his law practice. It was a winter's evening, but the western skies were fired with warmth. The lone walker lifted his eyes, saw a solitary bird wing its homeward way across the pathless sky. The sight cheered him. He saw the providence of God in that bird's flight. Calm confidence settled into his troubled heart. Later in his poem "To a Waterfowl" he related why he had regained this soothing trust—

"He who, from zone to zone, Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight, In the long way that I must tread alone, Will lead my steps aright."

So again and again and again Jesus said, "Do not be intimidated. Do not fear. Do not be afraid." Perhaps the most oft repeated words in Scripture are "Fear not."

The rent? Fear not. The food bills? Fear not. Your health? Fear not. Your job? Fear not. Fear knocked at the door. Trust answered, and no one was there.

Does this condone a do-nothing stance? A thousand times no! There is this about a sparrow too — no creature works so hard for its daily food. It darts from bough to bough, not for play, but for food.

Work — we must. But for trust in God too must we work! Then not even problems frightful as those which confronted Jeremiah will be able to distress us deeply, confident that "The Lord is with me, like a mighty champion" (R2).

Special Affair At Youngstown

Editor:

On June 25 at 4 p.m. a Rosary Procession and Benediction will be held for those persons which donated the statue of St. Louis de Montfort, at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Youngstown, N.Y.

This year though, for the first time, the director of the shrine, Father Charles M. Barlassina, CRSP, will not be present to lead these activities for which he was so greatly responsible. Father Charles was found bound and strangled in a hotel room in Chicago June 29, 1971, as he was waiting to make flight connections to his new assignment in California, the same day he had said goodbye to everyone at the

Shrine and had promised to return as soon as possible for a visit.

It was his hope that the shrine could be another way to draw souls to Christ by the inspiration of the message of Fatima and to spread the true devotion to Mary as written by St. Louis de Montfort, the Apostle of Mary.

The shrine and Father Charles have many hundreds of friends in the Rochester Diocese and I want to invite everyone to come out to the shrine, Sunday, June 25, as we will honor St. Louis de Montfort and note the anniversary of Father Charles' death.

Domenick White
Youngs Avenue
Rochester

Keefe Draws Reader's Praise

Editor:

I was truly sorry to read Father Paul J. Cuddy's criticism of Mr. Keefe's news account of the local religious leaders' visit to Washington.

What other course can an honest reporter follow than to tell a story truthfully as he sees it? It seems Father Cuddy doesn't recognize integrity unless it's on the right (his) side. Thank God for the Larry Keefes of this world.

Joseph J. Pohl
889 Glide St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

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