

# Progress GUIDE

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DEDICATED TO HELPING MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN BETTER HEALTH, GREATER HAPPINESS, IMPROVED APPEARANCE PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT AND ECONOMIC SECURITY & BASED ON THE AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF WORLD-WIDE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

## *"Mother Knows Best"*

*. . . So We Thought!*

*By Victor Yackman*

NO LONGER can we pay our income tax once a year and forget it. Time was when the few who had to pay income taxes were considered fortunate to be earning enough to have to pay them. In fact, it was something to brag about! Now that most of us pay a tax on our income every week, and a super-catch-all tax every year, we are coming to realize that it is extremely costly to have our government handle an increasing number of problems for us—in fact, do most of our thinking.

If war were the only factor involved in our centralization, we could, with equanimity, consider the present situation as a temporary necessity. But it is *not* temporary. From the Hundred-Day Crisis of 1933



sprang a hundred planning agencies, some of them privately endowed, others governmentally controlled — but practically all of them have developed postwar blue prints that require more federal government control, more taxation, more welfare legislation and more government employees.

In 1932, business sat hesitant, waiting to see who would be the next President. After the election, business decided to wait until 1933 to see what the new President and Congress would do. Begging to be led out of the wilderness of crashing enterprises, business wanted some one else to do its thinking. And in those early years of the thirties, millions of jobless men went hungry, and food riots were common in the large cities.

We conceded the need of the government's Hundred-Day Crisis legislation. It began with the Bank Holiday. Then followed the N. R. A., the C. C. C., Social Security, minimum wage and hour laws, unemployment compensation, and many other acts designed to relieve the distressing conditions of the time.

But this legislation was palliative. Government was placing responsibilities upon industry to meet the immediate needs of wage earners and the unemployed. But it was not striking at the fundamental causes of the debacle. Raw materials were available, and the necessary tools for production were rusting from lack of use. All that was needed was freedom to produce.

The "Robinson Crusoe Islands"—free lands made available by the several Homestead Acts of the nineteenth century—were all grabbed up and held for speculation. The frontier was closed. There was not the opportunity, as in the past, for impoverished men to pioneer in new areas. Families were begging for food, shelter and clothing—but their men were not permitted to provide them, a fact that seems inconceivable.

Perhaps because so many of us were cold and hungry that winter of 1933, we made up our minds that never again would we run the risk of being out in the cold. *No, not at any price!* We turned to Washington; we set the Government on a pedestal; we deified her; we laid graven images before her. And ever since, we have

clung ideologically to her apron strings.

Once established, welfare legislation begets more welfare legislation. Such legislation has become so imbedded in the warp and woof of our economy that we accept it, giving little consideration to its far reaching effects. We have become so completely disarmed by welfare projects that we go to the polls every four years and vote, not as independent, thinking individuals, but as automatons, hypnotized by the beneficence of Government. "Mother knows best," and so we shift our responsibilities for another four years.

The conflict of interests among federal, state and local bodies is daily becoming more acute. Both power and tax-collection privileges are being increasingly usurped by Mother Washington; local governments are finding it more difficult to protect their traditional sources of revenue. While the various levels of government function interdependently, their revenues, in the past, have been definitely circumscribed to special sources. Instead of local governments supporting themselves, as they admittedly should, and have done in the past, they are turning more and more frequently to Washington for financial aid.

Is our future economy to involve the perpetual financing of one governmental unit by another? Must the local body be continually dependent upon grants from state and federal units? How can the expenditures of local governments, properly based on

revenue from facilities and services furnished locally, be kept within bounds? How can the citizens of a locality demand financial accountability and governmental efficiency from their elected representatives if Washington is allowed to furnish funds *which local officials themselves cannot be persuaded to approve?*

Washington gave many cities WPA programs and subsidized housing undertakings which were far more costly to execute than if such types of programs had been locally planned and financed. It may have been smart politics for local authorities and business interests to look to Washington for funds to relieve unemployment during the depression years, but this shifting of local responsibility not only abnormally increased the relief burden but went far in destroying the sound concept of local independence in financial affairs.

Business should make up its mind as to what it wants. While the cash register jingles, business is, apparently, asking to be left alone. Chafing under the regulatory legislation of the thirties and feeling the impact of still greater controls imposed by a wartime economy, big business asks for post-war *laissez faire*, and small business asks for the right to exist.

But business must keep a wary eye on the perennial leeches of its fraternity—that small but noisy group which still runs to Washington for exclusive privileges. The United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers could

render a public service by enlightening these fellows. There is nothing to be gained if one hand of business is raised in vigorous condemnation of Washington's usurpation of power while the other is held out, through pressure blocs, for special rights in rents, subsidies, royalties and tariffs.

By the same token, big business can't decry "Cradle to Grave" legislation if it does little to prevent unemployment or constricts the development of new industries. There is no eating one's cake and having it, too.

Business must cut itself loose from the apron strings of Mother Washington. Local business, local governments, and citizens everywhere must—before they lose the power to do so—assert their independence in all local affairs. In so doing, they can utilize to advantage the tried and true principles of community or town hall discussion of civic problems. They can call upon the local chapters of those groups already geared for civic leadership:

Parent-Teachers' associations, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Association for Adult Education, the National League of Women Voters, the Consumer Cooperatives, the American Association of University Women, the American Home Economics Association, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the J. Y. M. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Council Against Intolerance, the Tax Institute, the National Municipal League, City clubs, the Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, and many other groups

which have their roots in such community affairs, can cooperate to advantage in promoting local self-reliance programs. In so doing they would have a communion of interests which would be supported by the nation's leading social, economic and educational magazines.

PROGRESS GUIDE is encouraging such a cooperative program by promoting *Progress Discussion Groups* at various points throughout the country. It has published many special articles designed to inspire and facilitate such group discussions, and these have been universally well received. The articles, "Paying Our War Debt in Twenty Years," "Rich Man—Poor Man," "Apples vs. Opportunity," "A Continental World," and others of similar nature have been instrumental in developing study groups.

PROGRESS GUIDE is non-sectarian, non-partisan, independent and unbiased. Its articles are built from scientific sources and supported by documentary evidence—even those pertaining to social and economic problems.

As another step in bettering local government and making it answerable to a responsible citizenry, PROGRESS GUIDE presents in this issue a treatise entitled "Government Without Taxation," by Otto Cullman, prominent Chicago industrialist.

This article is of profound importance to all who are interested in post-war employment and self-sufficiency in local governmental affairs. We commend Mr. Cullman's article to your attention because it shows the rewards to ingenuity and enterprise where freedom of opportunity exists; how government can be financed without confiscation of the earnings of labor and capital, and how a measure of privilege can be done away with. It is a program that signifies "government of the people, for the people, and by the people." It gives sovereignty in their local affairs back to the citizens.

Severing Mother Washington's apron strings is the first essential step toward regaining local self-reliance—in the rise of a free people to the full stature of true American citizenship.

### *Within the Law*

» To ease himself out of attending a suburban dinner party, a man dropped in at a Western Union office and composed the following telegram: "Affectionate greetings. Sorry I cannot be with you tonight."

"We can't accept this message," the young woman behind the counter told him. "Messages of greeting are out for the duration, you know."

Without a moment's hesitation the man altered the message to: "Not allowed to send affectionate greetings. Sorry I cannot be with you tonight." And without a moment's hesitation Western Union accepted it.

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