

Sneak Thieves! Watch Your Purse

Do you relish being the victim of sneak thieves? But victim you will be when Congress convenes for the next session, according to the best-informed Washington correspondents. No one disputes the imperative need for new taxation to begin liquidation of the colossal public debt and reduce the long odds on the eventual possibility of a runaway inflation. Too few debate whether the new revenue shall be raised by public appropriation of unearned income or by sneak-thief State confiscation of earned income.

With an election year in the offing, it is almost a certainty, in view of political expediency, that the new levies will be "hidden taxes." That is, specifically, imposts designed to

take more of the net income, after operating costs and fixed charges, of corporations—the so-called corporate "profits". The ward-healers who will vote for this robbery without lending ear to the few statesmen who will oppose it will do so in the well-warranted hope that the taxes, when shifted to consumers' like any other cost of doing business, may not be recognized by the voters as due to a Federal law.

The prospect is one that would have made our great great grand-fathers reach for the muzzle-loading muskets hanging over their hearths. In the shop and the store, in the sales room and the market place, wherever we seek to exchange the produce of our sweated labor—there

will be lurking the cadaverous sneak thieves, ready to rob us of the product of our toil. The honest shop-keeper, the scrupulous tradesmen, the fair-dealing merchant may put on new locks and add heavier bars but to no avail; here is a thief who laughs at locksmiths all.

This will be bad enough. But to add insult to injury, the journals of the Marxists and their monopolist allies will be hailing the measures as new signposts of social advance to the economy of "production for use—and not for profit." We ought to tell them: Rob us if you must, until the day when we shall stop you, but none of your damned drooling piety about it!

—W. L.