

A common-sense plan

The United States of America is a group of states recognizing the need of federation to accomplish certain vital common ends. There is no institution in the world more potentially dignified than the United States of America. It is an association, and associations require operating funds. No responsible private association would establish an ineffectual, complicated, unbalanceable pseudo-system to pick the pockets of or levy whimsical assessments on its members—as in the case of our federation of fifty states—to the end of gaining a hodgepodge income, undignified, disproportionate, shaky, unpredictable, unfair, if not downright dishonest and fraudulent.

No private responsible association of prestige and importance would do this, yet that is precisely what our association, the United States of America, does do.

Membership in our association, the United States of America, is an invaluable privilege and boon to every member state. The cost of operating this association should, by all logic and justice, be sustained by its members in proportion to their potential income. Having established this principle, each state should appraise the land of all its counties. The counties should meet their own operating expenses from an agreed portion of the rental value of their area, the balance being paid to the state, which in turn should meet its expenses from an agreed portion and pay the balance as its "dues" to the association—the United States Government.

If this system did not bring sufficient revenue (and we will look at sufficiency later on) we could always reimpose some of the taxes we had hoped to abolish forever—the least harmful, if such there be—and still benefit to the extent that our progress toward socialism would have been slowed down.