

Income Taxes

By Henry Ware Allen / Wichita, Kansas, 15 June, 1933

To the Editor of The New York Times:

The revelations of the committee in Washington investigating income-tax returns are in line with abundant testimony familiar to every business man in the country condemning the income tax from first to last. Just as soon as the administration at Washington can finish with palliatives made necessary by the present emergency, attention must be given to the abolition of those taxes which are the real source of our economic ills.

The income tax violates every consideration of justice and equity. Like Robin Hood it takes from the rich and gives to the poor. But this robbery of 2 per cent of the population of an amount which already exceeds fifty billions of dollars has largely killed the goose that lays the golden egg besides being wrong in principle and practice. In effect Uncle Sam sits on one side of the table with the taxpayer on the other side engaged in a game whereby the taxpayer loses every time. In those years when he makes a profit the government confiscates a large share of his profits, but when he loses no credit is given to him for his loss.

The government should be as honest as our individuals and should never collect a dollar without giving an equivalent in return. The three great groups of taxes which are mostly responsible for the business depression and which should at the earliest possible moment be abolished are those upon incomes, imports and industries.