

Noah D. Alper's Brief Cases

WHO KILLED BUSINESS?

The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives recently conducted hearings on taxes in connection with sales across state lines, according to a letter from the American Brush Manufacturers Association to the effect that: "States, cities and counties are requiring businesses to (1) act as unwilling "tax collectors" for the sale of goods delivered to it; (2) pay a tax on the value of catalogs or sales promotional material sent into it; and (3) pay license and/or franchise taxes to deliver or sell there."

Who, then, killed business? Taxemia did it in!

PEOPLE, WATER AND LAND VALUE

"Coming: A Tunnel to Carry Water Under the Rockies," is a headline in the U.S. News & World Report of August 20th. Water from the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers is to be diverted through the tunnel to the Arkansas River which flows east, at a cost of 170 million dollars. The purpose is to "provide irrigation and flood control for the Arkansas Valley, now about 30 per cent short of its annual water needs, and electric power and water for Pueblo, Colorado Springs and other cities in the area."

And will this add to the flow of people and industry to the benefited areas, and to land value? Are the "speculators" in land speculation idle or are they already in the field? Once again a thieving and legalized racket is being glorified and stimulated. And men take wealth without adding wealth while others who add wealth are denied.

THEIR COMMON MISTAKE

Another item in U.S. News & World Report tells of a Communist decree in August abolishing one-family homes in cities and towns. This is intended to "strike a blow at private property, which the Communist party regards as a source of corruption, and to effect savings in construction of large-scale cooperative apartments, which tenants must help finance."

This is in line with the Soviet tendency to do away with all private land holdings, even in the rural areas. Their goal is to have farmers living in apartment houses, as factory workers do.

Odd, isn't it, with the communist worship of science and materialism, that they fail to distinguish between land and capital, and assume that true private property could in no way be commonly beneficial to all mankind; and capitalists, by failing to make such distinctions, fall into a similar ditch by perpetrating conditions which doom true private property? What else could happen under a practising economic philosophy based on what's mine is mine, and what's ours is mine too?

REVOLUTION OR TAXATION

Throughout history abusive land ownership has always led to revolution, according to James Michener. In France there was a revolution with great loss of life, while in England the change-over was effected with "marvelous simplicity." Huge land holdings were dissolved with high taxes and no bloodshed. "In the Western United States the cattlemen started to protect their immoral holdings with gunfire, but in time the common sense of the townspeople, applied through taxation, defeated them. No nation can avoid land reform. All it can do is determine the course it will take: bloody revolution or taxation." This is from a dialogue on page 843 of his new book *Hawaii*. Stanley Epstein of New York City noticed it: