WAR TIME AND TAX RELIEF

Will wonders never cease? We have all been complaining about taxes, with no exceptions. And regardless of their nature, they are always severely criticized. And now we have Governor Lehman of New York springing a surprise that has been publicized throughout the country. He is reducing taxes—just think of it!

It is, indeed, amazing evidence of an official's efforts to lessen a serious burden. The Governor has submitted a budget for the coming fiscal year—at least five million less than the current year. In addition, he presented a further surprise to New York citizens by a 25-percent reduction in the New York State income tax.

Governor Lehman has been a business man. His banking experience has given him a clear understanding of financial problems. He has dealt with them personally and through the great financial institutions with which he has been connected. He is apparently desirous of encouraging the citizens of New York by endeavoring to lessen their financial troubles.

It was "taxation without representation" which was one of the main causes of our Revolutionary war. And at that time taxes were said to have been twenty-five cents per capita—they are now more than four hundred times that amount.

We complained most bitterly about taxes when we began to feel the reclamation efforts of the Administration during the recent depression. They have been continually rising ever since. And now, with war upon us, every possible means that can be adopted for raising money will be utilized by the government.

The governors and other officials throughout the United States should take due notice of Governor Lehman's efforts in this situation. Federal taxes are mounting at such a tremendous rate that any relief that can be secured from state taxes will be gratefully received.

Doubtless it will be difficult to make worthwhile reductions, but many peace-time expenses adopted for relief can now be eliminated altogether. Jobs are obtainable by everyone who is willing and able to work.

All our efforts, nationally and otherwise, should be devoted to the one purpose of saving our national life. The almighty dollar has been a gigantic force in this country. Its influence for selfish purposes exclusively, as evidenced in former years, should now take a back seat.

State and federal governments are heavily weighted with departments that are often overlapping. Thousands, perhaps millions of employees can be dismissed at this time through economical reorganizations. Savings of this character were planned in New York State, although they were mostly frustrated by political maneuvers. All overlapping and unnecessary bureaus should be discontinued. It is easily possible to have too much system in government or in business. Any activity in an organization which does not operate profitably, or does not furnish information which can be effectively used, should be eliminated.

Let us hope that Governor Lehman will receive the approval he so richly deserves for his effort to bring tax relief to the citizens of his state.