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"If here there is no vision, the people perish"
—Old Testament: Proverbs, xxix, 18.

Any Questions?—Yes

Today in Albany, Governor Dewey and his able Director of the Budget John E. Burton, will be explaining to New York State newspaper editors the intricacies of the new budget. It will be a big one, involving some \$900,000,000 and increased state taxes. Completing it for presentation to the Legislature on Tuesday, says Dewey, is the toughest job he ever had as Governor.

The Governor's annual press sessions on the budget are informal and off the record. They clear up cobwebs in editorial minds. At least some of the cobwebs in some of the minds. We have a few of our own that we wish Governor Dewey would clear for us today:

1. Before accepting the necessity of increasing state income taxes at a time when federal income taxes are also about to go up, has the state administration seriously considered ways and means of increasing state revenue by legalizing off-course betting? Is it not true that the returns available from state-operated betting establishments would equal or exceed the new revenue sought through increased income tax? Would it not be a fairer way to raise the money needed, taking the bookmaking income from a class of people who have long prospered at running an illegal and so non-taxpaying racket?

2. Nassau County has collected more than \$12,000,000 as its share of the tax on betting at Belmont race track. Three-quarters of this is being put to good use by doubling the size of Meadowbrook Hospital, adding 17 new buildings and 369 more hospital beds. So the gambling at Belmont is benefiting the entire community.

But counties, too, have their budgetary problems. Wouldn't it be sensible to make similar support of the community obtainable from Nassau's other big racetrack at Westbury, Roosevelt Raceway?

This week in the Legislature Rene A. Carreau, Nassau Democrat, sounded off again for support of a proposed bill that would give Nassau a five per cent bite of the pari-mutuel machine take at the Raceway. In Westchester, the Mayor of Yonkers is yammering for such a tax bill on harness racing now that the Empire City track is going to the trotters. Well, why not?

3. The biggest item in the state budget is usually the sum required to take care of 100,000 mentally ill people. Under the Dewey administration the state has made remarkable progress in this department. Governor Dewey is proud of this record, and with good reason.

The Governor calls for more community effort in this direction to help with the state's good work. We think he is right to do so. As we pointed out to our readers last Saturday, the Governor of Illinois is of the same mind, that mental care should begin at home before mental sickness grows so severe as to require state commitment.

Governor Stevenson, however, is also trying to reduce the institutionalized population of Illinois by improving classification methods. He is going to weed out the aged, infirm and senile who do not need mental treatment, discharge them and return them to their own or foster homes. Might this not be a good thing to try in New York State, where the proportion of institutionalized mentally ill is greater than in Illinois?

These questions are by no means raised in criticism. They are just matters we should appreciate hearing Governor Dewey discuss before the newspaper editors of the state this afternoon. They are also matters of interest to the people who will have to pay the freight with income tax if he doesn't do something about them.

from our Mail Box

Aggressive?
Freeport — County Attorney Christ is quoted as saying in effect that the L.I.R.R. should not get an increased fare unless it can show that it is not making a profit. Can't Nassau be represented by a more aggressive viewpoint? The L.I.R.R. certainly is,—claiming that even with the increase there will be an annual deficit of millions.
—C. Freeman

Smucker Needs an Editor
Malverne—Mr. J. F. Colby's letter about the LIRR, published by you January 18th, should be a matter of concern to commuters. Apparently, this vitriolic outburst arises from only one year's experience of riding this imitation railroad. What will happen if and when he completes 22 years of it as I have? At this rate, he will end in a padded cell cutting paper locomotive out of Mr. Smucker's paid advertisements. As a part of his campaign to increase commuter fares, Smucker recently assured the Long Island peasants that the PRR does NOT milk the LIRR by charging excessive rates for rentals of terminal facilities, tunnels and equipment. It would be interesting if he were to set forth just how much those tunnels cost the PRR and how many dollars the LIRR has paid in aggregate rentals since. Smucker has been on this job almost a year but he has not yet solved the problem of late trains. In his continual hunt for publicity, he tacitly admits that he is quite smart, but he could be more so. For instance, the timetable states that my train should leave Malverne at 8:23 AM, which it often does. It also states unequivocally that it should arrive in Penn station at 9:02 AM, which it never does. I am reconciled to arrive by 9:15 and try not to be too much annoyed if it is after 9:20. The answer to this situation is so absurdly simple that even a railroad man should have enough brains to have thought of it. Speed up the trains? Don't be silly. Just change the timetables. Now if my timetable stated that my train is due in Penn station at 9:29-1/4 and I arrived at 9:15, I would have nothing but praise for this animated scrap heap. This rule, naturally, could not be applied in the case of a Montauk point local. There the timetable should read "The Spithall local is scheduled to leave Montauk Point at 7:15 AM and should arrive in Penn station the same day, weather permitting."
—O. A. Granlund

Do They Shudder?
Mineola—Orchids to Miss Hickey, the teacher who tried to help a girl who couldn't turn to anyone else. A teacher's purpose is not only to teach the three R's but to try to guide her pupils in the way of life, which Miss Hickey has endeavored to do. But it seems to me that "the Influential Mother" didn't want anyone to aid her daughter. Your paper quoted the Mother as saying "this sort of thing is common to all adolescents." Her own daughter knew it wasn't either common or normal for a girl her age or she wouldn't have confided in Miss Hickey. Why didn't the girl confide in her parents? If she did, they couldn't have helped her very much. Aren't the girl and her parents close enough to discuss such things? Are these the kind of parents that do not dare to discuss sex problems with their children? Do they shudder when the girl asks a question concerning "the facts of life?" —Concerned

Happy Hunting Ground



Teddy, son of Butch, has joined his famous father in dog Heaven. Teddy was sent there because of a sweet tooth for sheep. Both father and son left an indelible impression on Glen Cove children, all of whom were their friends and playmates.

Let PROF. DO-IT

Professor Do-It will handle your problems for you. He will answer your questions and act as a go-between for you and public officials and public utilities. Send your questions to him. If your letter is not published you will get a private reply by enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Address him as Professor Do-It, Newsday.

Chinese Evergreen
Q—I have a Chinese evergreen which will not grow. As soon as a new leaf appears, an old one turns yellow and falls off. I have the plant in a glass vase, filled with water and plant food. It stands near a window but not in the direct sunlight. How can I make this plant grow? M.S., Unlondale.

A—Chinese evergreen, a popular houseplant of African origin, is often grown in water only; sometimes in potted soil or peat moss. It thrives best in a vase of soil mixture (one third sand, one third garden soil and one third compost) kept flooded by water. Charcoal may be added to keep the soil mixture sweet. This plant has no use for the direct rays of the sun and prospers in hallways and room corners where many other plants would fail. Stalks may be encouraged to grow in interesting and grotesque curves by placing them sideways in a bowl. The plants are slow growing but long lived.

School by Mail
Q—I am writing for information about a high school correspondence course. I was forced to leave school a year and a half before graduation. I would like very much to complete my high school education.
—H. M., Hempstead.

A.—We do not have information about correspondence courses. Before subscribing to such a course, we would advise you to visit Hempstead High nearby, or any other local high school, to learn if they will permit you to take regent examinations, after completing the course, for a regent diploma. You might investigate the high school equivalency diploma ex-

aminations too. Contact Frank Pill at Hempstead High for the date and place of the next examinations scheduled. If you pass the tests, you will receive a State high school equivalency diploma. Should you feel the need of preparation for the exams, high school courses can be taken evenings at Hempstead High School.

White Oak
Q.—Can you give me advice concerning a tree? There is a white oak on my property and every Spring, it acts as if it were drying out. But then the tree blooms and leaves appear. This year, I thought the tree would die as the leaves were completely dried. I contacted a tree expert and he informed me that Anthracnose was the cause of the trouble. He told me he would be back to treat it but he never came back. Can you tell me how to treat and feed the tree?—J. B., Elmont.

A.—The white oak, which is most adaptable, grows best in moist soil. Anthracnose or scorch caused by a fungus may cause partial or complete defoliation of White Oaks. Spray three times with bordeaux mixture, at two-week intervals, beginning when the leaves are half grown. Destroy all fallen leaves.

Thank You Note
We have received the following letter from a reader:
"I wish to thank you and your readers for all the calls I received for the puppies which I wanted to place in homes. Judging from the calls, there are many people who want puppies. It seems a shame more are not available."—Mrs. Pat Felice, Patchogue.