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Edward F. Lane Succeeds Miller As
President of Sanford Shrine Club

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# What Do You Know About the "Bonus"? 

The following letter was written to Chairman Green of the Ways and Means Committee, by John Thomas Taylor, Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Committee of the American Legion:
My Dear Judge:
In the newspapers of November 12th, there appears a letter to you from the Treasury Department, containing recommendations for proposed legislation dealing with suggested tax reductions, but which is in fact a personal and direct attack upon the Soldiers' Adjusted Compensation measure, which will, as heretofore, be considered by your Committee in the early days of the 6sth session of Congress.

This letter has brought to light the real issue, although this is not the issue which the Secretary intended to have raised when he made his letter public. That issue is simply this-

Shall twenty-two thousand millionaires, men who profited greatly out of the war, have their income taxes further reduced by $\$ 85,000,-$ 000 a year-or shall five million soldiers and their families be now paid the just debt owed them by the nation for five years?

This is the real issue which Mr. Mellon has brought up, although, in order to make the public agreeable to cutting sur taxes on net incomes between fifty thousand and one million a year, he has prepared a schedule which would also reduce the income tax of the average taxpayer.

Of course, Mr. Mellon knows that the Treasury Department does not enact income tax laws-this is the sole function of the congress, and is initiated by the great committee of which you are chairman. Of course you know-as Mr. Mellon' well catculated when he published his letter to -you-that pthe state ments he made are inaccurate, but were deliberately injected for the purpose of continuing his fight against the Soldiers' Adjusted Compensation Measure.

His statement that there can be no reduction in federal taxes if the Adjusted Compensation Bill becomes a law is absurd on the face of it, and on a parity with his miscalculations in government finances for three years. According to the figures prepared by the Treasury Department for the Senate Finance Committee, the Soldiers' Measure will cost \$202,000,000 for the first three-year period, or an average of slishtly more than $\$ 80,000,000$ a yeur.

Through his inaceurate and misteading: use of figures, Mr. Mellon has sought to make the public believe that the question up for consideration is whether fourteen million citizens may have their income taxes reduced, or whether the Soldiers' Adjusted Compensation can be paid. But out of his own mouth, and his own official statements, it is shown that these tax reductions which he schedules for the fourteen million taxpayers who are not millionaires, can be reduced exactly as he indicates, and the Acljusted Compensation Bill can be paid at the same time. The real nub of the situation is the $\$ 85,000,000$ a year which Mr. Mellon wants to again cut of the income taxes of the war millionaires, in addition to offering tax reductions to the averarge citizens.

The proposed cut of $\$ 85,000,000$ a year for the millionaiies will pay the Adjusted Compensation Bill year by year, although Mr. Mellon proposes tax reductions of $\$ 323,000,000$ a year, or four times the sum needed to pay it. You know this and Mr. Mellon knows it, so what can be his purnose in telling the public that $\$ 80$,000,000 a year in payments for Adjusted Compensation, will prevent tax reduction of $\$ 323$,000,000 a year, or four times that sum?

His purpose is of course apparent. He wants to again fool the people; he wants to get their backing, under misapprehension of the facts, for his plan to cut the big millionaires' taxes, so he is forced to include the little fellow in his tax reductions plans. Then, having included the little fellow, the ordinary taxpayer for once, he attempts to dcceive the little taxpayer, the ordinary citizen, into thinking that he will not get his taxes cut if the honest and square thing is done by the soldier.

Mr. Mellon has gotten the habit of allowing his zeal to overcome his mathematics when he issues statements opposing the Soldiers' Measure. His anxiety for the big financial interests and his desire to defeat Adjusted Compensation, has led him in the past to give the Congress and the President official statements, as a guide for their actions, concerning the country's financial condition, which he later had to admit, to say the least, were wholly inaccurate. However, he got them over as official statements at the time, and they did their work in spite of the fact that they misrepresented the situation.

It is umpromable for secretary to try to fool the nation into believing an untruththat $\$ 80,000,000$ taken from $\$ 32: 3,000,000$ leaves actually nothing at all. Yet, in his desire to defeat the Soldier Measure, he now attempts to again cleceive the people (for, of course, he is not trying to deceive you), and make them think that $\$ 80,000,000$ actually equals $\$ 323,-$ 000,000 instead of being only one-fourth of it.

Because of your long service on the Ways and Means Committee you, of course, recall some of these official miscalculations of Mr. Mellon, for their histery is officially recorded in The Congressional Record. Doubtless his error-or miscalculation, if you please-of $\$ 959,000,000$ which he made in estimating last year's fiscal operations, when he advised the President to veto our measure is still fresh in your memory. This may have seemed a small error to a man who thinks in billions, but it was officialty used as an argument for the veto of the Soldiers' bill. Mr. Mellon has been lucky, seemingly, to have his errors on the same side of the ledger with his sentimentsit might have been embat rassing had his error of $\$ 959,000,000$ been on the other side of the ledger, and to have thereby caused the President to sign the bill, instead of veto it.

You will recall another statement made by Mr, Mellon in this connection, which also proved to be inaccurate. He officially advised your committee, in the winter of 1921-22, against favorably reporting the bill, gving as the chief reason for his official advice, that the fiscal year would end with a deficit. Your committee must have had a hunch about the inaccuracy of Mr. Mellon's mathematics-for you reported the bill favorably, and a few months later, the year 1922 ended with a surplus of more than $\$ 300,000,000$. Mr. Mellon's error in this case alone would have met the first three this case alone would have m
year's payments of your bill.

Again, when he advised the President to veto your bill, he said that the fiscal year 1924 would end with a deficit. He now states that it will end with a surplus of three hundred millions, for the purpose of cutting the taxes of millionaires. You may not realize it, but the official records of Congress show that in the past two years, Mr. Mellon's official miscalculations concerning government finances total a greater sum than the entire amount the Adjusted Compensation Bill would cost if paid out in a lump sum. The records of Congress show that these official miscalculations were made in statements opposing the Soldiers' Measure.

It is really unfortunate that a high government official, occupying the position as head of the government's financial administration, will deliberately and officially, supply inaccurate and misleading statements to the Congress for its official use in drafting legislation.

In the past four years every possible bugaboo has been raised by the administration leaders to frighten Congress into the belief that the financial condition of the country was such that it could not carry out the expressed mandate of the people and settle in an honor"able way the debt admitted!y and justly due the ex-service men. Time after time these figments of imagination have been destroyed by the actual conditions subsequently shown by the official facts. Mr. Mellon realizes that his inaccurate predictions of national poverty are no longel taken seriously by the country-they have been disproved too often.

Now being convinced that the public can no longer be deceived by such hallucinations, this new bait is thrown out that "there can be no reduction in taxes if the Soldiers' Adjusted Compensation Bill becomes a law."

We, of course, know that you will not be deceived by this false propaganda. The members of your committee know the actual facts in the case and are firmly convinced that the caluse of the soldier is a just one. Your committee believes in the Soldiers' Measure, as it has been reported favorably three times, and passed by the House.

Notwithstanding this attempt to mislead you and the members of your committee, the American Legion understands and has full confidence that the bill will be reported promptly by your committes, and enacted into law during the early days of the coming session. From the beginning this has been inevitable legislation.

Very truly yours,
JOHN THOMAS TAYLOR,
Vice Chairman,
National Legislative Committee.

## In The World Of Sports

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## CLEANING UP ATHLETICS

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A. Gear-Gut Question Some time ago William Jennings Bryan announced that
he would be a candidate for delegate to the Democratic con-
vention, stating at the time that he expected to make a thor-
ough canvass of the state, mect the people, and tell them
where he stands with rererence to the big issues of the day
Later Mr. Bryan gave an intervicw to the Associated
Press, stating that, if elected, he would present the name of
Dr. A. A, Muphre, president of he University of Floridn,
in nomination for president of the United States. By doing
his Mr. Bryan simply told the voters that if they elected
him he would not only present Dr. Murphree's name but
would work for his nomination and election. "there is a grave the danger that an expression of choice of the Democrats of Florida for the presidential nomination may be
thwarted. The very habit the Democrats have of making a thwarted. The very habit the Democrats have of making
cross before the name of William Jennangs Bryan may elect
him as delegate-at-large to the national convention." him as delegate-nt-large to the national convention.'
We cannot see how Editor Sparkman figures it Bryan has laid his cartls on the table. He has given his
promise that if elected he will nominate andl support Dr promise that if elected he will nominate and support Dr
Murphree. No one can deny Mr. Brynn's sincerity. No one can say that he has ever failed to keep his word. No Floridan
has ever questioned Dr. Murphree's fitness as a candidate. When the voter places nn " X " before Mr. Brynn's name,
he is simply endorsing Dr. Murphree, Florida's favorite son. he is simply endorsing Dr. Murphree, Florida's favorite son,
for president just the same as if he placed an "X" before
the name of Editnr" Sparkman, he would be endorsing Alabaman's favorite son, Mr. Underwood.
 understood. If the people do not trust Mr. Bryan and do not
want Dr. Murphree's name used, they will not vote for Mr. Bryan as a delegate. If they do not want Mr. Underwood as a candidate for the presidency they will no
Sparkman or any other "Underwood man."
Sparkman or any other "Underwood man."
Regardless of what nction the state Democratic execu-
tive committee takes in its Jacksonville meeting the ques tive committee takes in its Jachsonville meeting, the ques
tion will be clear cut. There is no use for any Florida edito or voter to "lie awake at night" and worry about the "will of In 1012 the interests in Florida used Underwood in an
effort to keep Woodrow Wilson from getting Florida's delegates. Today the Underwood people would again keep from
office any man of the Wilson stripe. The poople of Florida are intelligent enough to choose
for themselves. They are cloing some real thinking on the for themselves. They are coing some real thinking on the
issues of today. Certainly they can be trusted to make the
right decision.


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Charity Ball for Hospital, Feb. 15th.

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The new Douglas section offers a most interesting study to visitors. Here everything is new and in the making. You may watch th Douglas section grow from day to day and gain much that is inter nd profitable therefrom
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