

FORMER SENATOR GLENN ADVOCATES SIX-COUNTY PLAN

These times of stress are characterized by deficits, difficulty in collecting taxes, and confiscation of property by excessive taxation, in many counties and municipalities of Illinois and the other states of the union.

But it seems that little thought is being centered on reduction of governmental expenditures. Former United States Senator Otis F. Glenn, of Lake Forest, in an address recently before the Chicago Real Estate Board, proposed "The Six-County Plan for Illinois" as a step in the right direction to reducing these costs. The high lights of his speech are reported in the following paragraphs of this article.

For many years there has been a constant and vigorous drive from many quarters to add to the functions of government, local, state and national.

Groups of enthusiasts, each influenced, cajoled, persuaded, with a separate hobby, have convinced, intimidated or persuaded the legislators and the Congress to take on more duties and responsibilities, add more boards, commissions, and employees and levy more taxes.

Today a financially prostrate American citizenship finds that it is compelled to pay one-third of its entire income for the expense of maintaining its governmental bodies.

Has the time not come when we must begin to reform the system that imposes such a load?

In my opinion there is too much government, too many governing bodies, too many units for administering our affairs. I believe we must consolidate, merge, reduce and in many instances abolish these units. With reduction in number will come immediate reduction in taxation and that means substantial and immediate financial relief and improved business and profits.

In Illinois we have 17,136 local government units. In Illinois the average area per unit of local government, given in hundreds of square miles, is 3.23.

The average population per unit of local government (in thousands) for Illinois is 440.16.

Bertie County, North Carolina; Wayne County, Pennsylvania; and Ogle County, Illinois, are comparable in area and population but while the North Carolina County is divided into 26 separate districts which levy taxes and furnish government service, the Pennsylvania county has 83 such districts, and under our laws the Illinois county reveals in 235 tax raising and tax spending bodies!

The ten far western states from Montana on the northeast to California on the southwest have twenty times the area of Illinois but only 15,494 minor political subdivisions as compared with our 17,136.

Boone County, Ill., is practically identical in size and population with Watauga County, North Carolina, but while the Carolina county is able to survive with 9 taxing units, the Illinois county is blessed with 89 separate tax levying and collecting divisions.

There are more than 40,000 school trustees or directors in Illinois and the system is full of inefficiency and waste.

In Winnebago County (one of our best and most progressive counties with Rockford as its county seat) there are 77 one-room school districts, each with three directors; there is an average enrollment of 13 pupils per teacher, ranging from 3 pupils to 31 pupils. Does this not spell inefficiency and waste?

Within a distance of three miles on a well maintained highway three of these schools are located with less than ten pupils per teacher.

Enough figures have been given to justify the statement that we have too much local government in Illinois—that it could be reduced without detriment to the public service and that the reduction and simplification of the governmental machinery in our state is most desirable and most necessary.

Almost the whole effort is to tax more—when it should be to spend less.

The cost of government must be substantially reduced before sound and permanent prosperity can come.

We must be prepared for changes in our plans and methods of government if we hope for reduction in its cost. Local taxes—that is to say township, village, school district and county levies—make up the greater part of the tax burden. In taxation economy should begin at home. Criticism of Congress and the Legislature for extravagance often is warranted, but if those who voice it would pay more attention to their local taxation problems they would find a more fertile field and obtain more substantial results.

Constructive thinking—concrete proposals for reduction of local taxes are necessary—yes, vital.

It is refreshing to find that serious thought is being given to the problem of reducing the number of tax-raising and tax-spending units in Illinois.

I do not pretend to pass upon the details of the six county plan—nor

do I understand that there is any definite proposal that the plan for reducing the number of counties in Illinois is definitely fixed upon the basis that there be not more or less than six counties.

The suggestions of six counties is made, which suggestion, of course, is open to debate and modification.

In my mind the important thing is the adoption of the principle of reducing the number of governmental subdivisions and reducing them very substantially and, indeed, drastically. I know of no better place to begin than with the county.

We have in Illinois 102 counties—necessary perhaps when they were organized—but so great a number not being necessary in view of the changed conditions of the times.

The 102 counties were laid out in pioneer days, the days of wilderness and swamps, of roads hub-deep in mire and mud, of circuit riding on horseback, by the preachers, the judges and the lawyers, when a ten mile trip to the court house meant two days going and returning, no telephones, no mail delivery, few newspapers, when court officers could cover less ground in a day than they now cover in an hour.

Small county units were then justified and helpful for the convenience of judges, the court attaches, the parties to litigation, to jurors, witnesses, sheriffs, tax collectors and all having to travel to transact business with the counties or the courts.

The automobile, the rural mail delivery, the telephone, the newspapers have changed this whole picture. Europe is closer to Chicago in time of travel today than St. Louis was when the present county set-up in Illinois was made.

Why should Illinois stand idly by penalizing her taxpayers by indifference and inaction, by a failure to give them the advantages of progress and invention? Every private industry, every well conducted business promptly realizes upon the advancement in modes of travel and of communication. All profit from it but the business of the public.

Mergers and consolidations in private business are carried out wherever it is apparent thereby that expenses can be reduced, efficiency maintained, profits helped or losses reduced, but the public business is conducted along the lines of seventy-five years ago.

Merger of counties would mean:

1. Fewer county officers, and less taxes to pay them.
2. Fewer jurors, and less taxes to pay them.
3. Less election expense, and less taxes to pay it.
4. Fewer courthouses. Fewer jails. Fewer almshouses, and less taxes to construct and maintain them.
5. More adequate provision, at

less expense, for the old and unfortunate, now cared for in county poorhouses, in some instances in a most deplorable manner.

6. More efficient operation of county government.

7. More economical purchase of supplies by large quantity buying.

8. Millions of dollars saved annually to the tax payers of Illinois.

9. No sacrifices or loss to anybody except the loss of a large number of political positions and political patronage and some loss of local pride, as every county seat will feel that it should remain the county seat of the consolidated county.

That county consolidation will be very difficult to bring about is apparent. Local pride and the interests of ambitious office-seekers will both be serious obstacles which will be met by the proponents of such a plan. I cannot help but believe that within the next few years the absolute necessity for a reduction in taxation will be sufficient to overcome these two obstacles.

As an illustration of the savings that can be effected by a reduction in the number of officeholders, I may cite the fact that, under the administration of Governor Lowden, township tax collectors were abolished and county tax collectors substituted, thereby reducing the number of tax collectors in Illinois from approximately 1460 to 102. Senator Hicks calculates that such a reduction in that one important public service has already saved Winnebago County a million dollars.

It seems to me that if there is to be a county consolidation plan in Illinois, there is no good reason why the limits of Chicago and Cook County should not be identical and why provision should not be made for one rather than two governments for such area. I should think that either the city or the county government would be sufficient.

To my mind, the first step in the reduction of governmental units and officials should begin within the counties, with the school districts, road districts, park districts, and similar organizations. The number of supervisors could be changed, as it is now permissible under our statutes: substituting county commissioners three in number in each county; the school districts could be consolidated into one county unit as could the road districts and the park districts. This would very greatly reduce the number of tax levying and tax spending units within the county and might be a very powerful object lesson and influence leading to the broader application of the principle through the consolidation and merger of the counties of the state.

There are many other places in the state government where reductions could well be made. For instance, the number of members of the General Assembly could, in my judgment, be very substantially reduced from the more than 200 legislators to fourth of that number. This saving alone would run into many thousands of dollars annually.

The huge and ever-mounting burden of taxation is the constant companion of every administration, democratic or republican, in village, city, county, state and nation. It crushes enterprise, paralyzes hope, destroys ambition, confiscates property, strikes down capital and thereby causes unemployment.

It is a devastating burden and must be lessened.

high school and one director for the grade school will be elected. The third Tuesday is the village election.

Mrs. F. G. Piepenbrok will keep open house at the St. Paul's Evangelical parsonage in Deerfield on Tuesday afternoon, March 19, from 2 until 5 o'clock. A program of music, both vocal and instrumental, will be given at three o'clock. Members of Circle Three will assist in the entertainment. Musicians will be Mrs. Fred Sallach, vocalist; Rosemary Holm, violinist; Ethel Button, pianist. A white elephant sale will also be featured in connection with the reception. All women of the church are invited.

Mr. George T. Rogers will be a candidate for re-election to the Deerfield-Shields Board of Education at the election to be held on Saturday, April 13. Petitions in his behalf were filed with the secretary of the board of education this week. Mr. Rogers, who lives at 506 Walnut road, Lake Forest, is a member of the law firm, Tenney, Harding, Sherman, and Rogers, 120 South LaSalle street, Chicago, Illinois.

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The polls will be open from 12 noon to 7 p.m.

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The Sunday morning service is held at 11 o'clock, and the Wednesday evening meeting, which includes testimonies of Christian Science healing, is at 8 o'clock.

Sunday school is open to pupils up to the age of twenty years, and is held Sunday morning at 9:30. Subject for next Sunday's lesson sermon, "Substance."

A free public reading room is maintained by this church at 43 N. Sheridan Road, which is open daily from 9 o'clock in the morning to 6 in the evening. On Sunday the reading room is open from 2:30 to 5:30. Here the Bible and all authorized Christian Science literature may be read, borrowed, or purchased.

All are cordially invited to attend the services and make use of the reading room.

NEWS OF THE ARTISTS
by Diane Benedict

John Tasker Howard, conductor of the "America in Music" program, will present an anthology of lullabies on his program which will be heard Monday, March 18, over the NBC network at 10:15 p.m.

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continued from Orchestra Hall, Detroit, with Victor Kolar conducting. They will be broadcast each Sunday evening, over the coast-to-coast Columbia network, at 7 p.m.

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HOLES IN YOUR SHOES TO BE WHOLLY IN STEP WITH STYLE

by ZVELYN DANIELS
stylist for RED CROSS SHOES



SLITS—slashes—slots—that's the order of the day (as well as the night) shoes for spring. "The lines and the makin' are important, too—but look to the cut-outs and perforations to contribute their large bit to the shoes that take highest fashion honors.

Take a good look at the two Red Cross models pictured above—and you'll get a good idea of what to look for when you go to select your shoes for the new season just ahead. For your sports clothes and outdoor hours, your best choice will be the Cobbie Monk. The great open space cut-outs on the sides, the punched-up and down and all around—the high-cut pointed tongue—fairly about smartness. The Cobbie Monk is brown calf, also in white calf buck with tan calf trim. Proper and perfect for all informal affairs before and after six, is the Prom—a slim, slendering and ever-so-flattering pump. Here again perforations (square-cut you'll notice) lined up between rows of stitching, give the Prom first place in the style parade. The Prom comes in Clipper blue, also in black and white and brown baby calf.

Evelyn Daniels, stylist for Red Cross Shoes, will be glad to send you her special booklets telling what you can do to make your feet and legs have a lovely appearance. Write to her in care of The United States Shoe Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Deerfield Local and Personal

April is the month of elections. There will be high school and grade school elections the first Saturday in April, at which time two members of the Board of Education at the

Sustained Effort Is Important To The Success of a Good VEGETABLE or FLOWER GARDEN

The thing most necessary is a well fed and well balanced soil. We have all the ingredients that you need for this purpose.

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Sand
Neutralizers**

A full line of
commercial fertilizers

Let us help you with your soil problems

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artist

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urniture.
f Service
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