

AUGUST 23, 1942

FDR Again Asks For Income Limit

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22. — President Roosevelt today revived the fight for the \$25,000 ceiling on income embodied in his seven-point anti-inflation program.

FDR's dissatisfaction with the fate of this proposal and other phases of his "equality of sacrifice" plan was disclosed by James Patton, President of the Farmers Union, following a White House conference.

Patton said the president had authorized him to divulge the story of a recent dialogue with a wealthy Englishman visiting the White House. According to Patton, the President asked the visitor what his income was.

"One hundred thousand pounds (about \$500,000)," the Englishman replied.

"What is your net income after taxation?" FDR inquired.

"About \$22,000."

Patton emphasized that FDR had urged him to transmit this story to reporters at a press conference which the head of the Farmers Union held yesterday. Asked whether this tale signified FDR's dissatisfaction with the disposal of his anti-inflation program, Patton said:

"I definitely got that impression."

Simultaneously Patton declared that "the National Farmers Union has never favored the 110 percent of parity provision in the Price Control Act." He insisted, however, that FDR's anti-inflation program is "indivisible," adding:

"In the past three months the working people of this country, both farmers and wage earners, have noticed that the original administration tax bill has been turned into a sour caricature of the original. It will yield 2½ billion dollars less but soak the poor while sparing the rich.

"They have noticed too that war profits are rising to dizzy heights."

Patton called for enactment of a drastic tax program to equalize sacrifice and said, "It is no accident that this was made point one in FDR's program."

The Farmers Union, most liberal farm body, claims more than 100,000 members and has fought vigorously for an alliance of labor and farm organizations.

OldMagazineArticles.com