

BEN J. SALMON
Distributor "Progress and Poverty"

222 Guardian Trust Building
Phone Main 6926

OG 138971

DENVER, COLO. Nov. 16, 1917.

"Why in a land so
bountifully blessed,
with enough and more
than enough for all,
should there be such
inequality of condi-
tions -- such heaped
wealth interlocked
with such deep and
debasing want? Why,
amid such super-
abundance, should
strong men vainly
look for work? Why
should women faint
for hunger, and little
children spend the
evening of life in the
bread-mill of toil?"

—Henry George in
"Progress and
Poverty."

Dear Friend:

The quicker we win this war, the fewer lives will be lost and the lighter our financial burden.

I hope you will read the enclosed circular carefully -- before you read this letter.

Honesty impels me to state that I am a pacifist. For some months past I have openly advocated peace. Altho still a pacifist, I now see clearly the folly of talking peace at this time.

If the forces of the nation unite in demanding conscription of wealth, President Wilson can compel Congress to enact the necessary legislation.

Will you kindly show this letter and circular to a few friends, ask that they carefully peruse them? Try to collect a few dollars from each, endeavor to send a total of five or ten dollars to The National War Profits Tax League, 222 Guardian Trust Building, Denver, Colorado. You will receive a commensurate number of enclosed circulars for free distribution. If you can send five or ten dollars yourself, then re-sell the circulars after they arrive, you will expedite their circulation.

The reason we ask assistance in distributing these circulars: no capital back of us except a few dollars contributed by friends of the idea to get the movement started.

Unnecessary to state that when wealth-conscription is put into effect, you and I and the great mass of people will enjoy a just reduction in our share of the war burden. We now pay more than our share. Moreover, if wealth is conscripted -- just as the soldiers were -- the war will be won quickly.

I trust you will send an order the same day you receive this letter. We want to swarm President Wilson's office with requests per form on the last page of the circular, before Congress convenes a few weeks hence.

Sincerely yours,

Ben J. Salmon

Chairman Publicity Committee,
National War Profits Tax League.

BJS/CC

Feb. 16, 1918

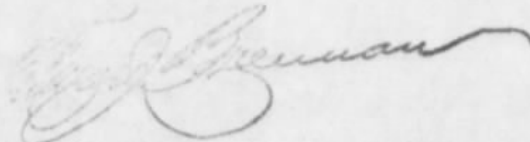
RE: BEN J. SALMON
Vic. Espionage Act.

MR. ROY O. SAMSON,
Postoffice Box 1491
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sir:

For your information and action deemed advisable, I am enclosing you herewith a pamphlet or publication entitled "Tax the Rich To Pay for the War", by the above mentioned Ben J. Salmon which is purported to have been issued or caused to be issued or published by the National War Profits Tax League, 303 Cooper Bldg., Denver, Colo.

Very truly yours,



Special Agent in Charge.

EJB/DD
CC to Chief.

CHAS. E. BRENNIMAN
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

138971
Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation
ROOMS 225-227-229 FEDERAL BUILDING
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

TELEPHONE CROCKETT 1371
MAIL ADDRESS P.O. BOX 506

CEB-DER

February 8, 1918.

A. Bruce Bielaski, Esq.,
Chief, Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

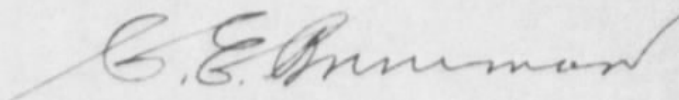
Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith a pamphlet headed
"Tax the Rich to Pay for the War," by Ben. J. Salmon.
This circular was forwarded to this office by Dr.
Ledbetter, of Yoakum, Texas, who states the following:

I am sending you enclosed
a circular that is being distribut-
ed pratty freely here in Yoakum by
some parties I have not been able
to find out who he is. After read-
ing it you can determine what action
if any to take

I have requested Dr. Ledbetter to endeavor
to find out, if possible, and inform me, who is circulat-
ing this literature in his vicinity.

Yours very truly,



Special Agent in Charge.

ABB-1

Enc.

CHAS. E. BRENNAN
~~ROBERT L. BARNES~~
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

138971
TELEPHONE: CROCKETT 1371
MAIL ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 808
FEB 24 1918
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
ROOMS 225-227-229 FEDERAL BUILDING
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Refer to initials
when replying
CEB/NLW

February 19, 1918.

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Brennan?
file
Wh B

A. Bruce Bielaski, Esquire,
Chief, Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith, ^{*circulars*} circular entitled

"Tax the Rich to Pay for The War" by Ben J.

X Salmon. These circulars are being distributed
at many points throughout the state of Texas.
I believe that I have previously forwarded a
copy of this same circular to you.

Yours very truly,

C. E. Brennan

ABB-1.

Special Agent in Charge.

The columns of newspapers are filled with exultations of patriotism. All that is required to make these proclamations dynamic is a unified demand by the great mass of Americans that the profits of all businesses above \$5,000 per year be taxed 100 per cent to prosecute the war and to liquidate all war indebtedness. The "five-thousand" per annum will enable captains of industry to discharge personal obligations without serious inconvenience.

NECESSITY DEMANDS IT.

Right or wrong, we are at war. Newspapers have been suppressed, citizens jailed for asserting their constitutional rights of free speech, peaceful assemblages dispersed by the authorities, all in the name of "war necessity." Granted that these onslaughts against Democratic institutions were necessary in order to insure success for America, how much more necessary to conscript the wealth of the inordinately opulent that an ample supply of provisions for the army and navy may be procured!

If the exigencies of war demand that ordinary privileges of the people be denied, should not the rich be denied the use of surplus gold? Especially that surplus accruing as a sequence of war.

JUSTICE.

I know of a little orphan girl in Denver who works for \$7.00 a week. She was virtually compelled to purchase a \$50.00 liberty bond. Of course, our little friend could have declined, and suffer the loss of her position, but circumstances intervened; she needs the few dollars weekly to keep soul and body together. This case is only one of thousands proximately and remotely similar.

CAN THEY AFFORD IT?

The little girl could ill afford to contribute \$50.00. But she did it. Below is a list of only a few financiers who will be more greatly benefited by the present war than the little orphan girl:

Name.	Amount of Wealth.
John D. Rockefeller.....	\$500,000,000
Andrew Carnegie.....	300,000,000
William Rockefeller.....	200,000,000
Estate of Marshall Field.....	120,000,000
George F. Baker.....	100,000,000
Henry Phipps.....	100,000,000
Henry C. Frick.....	100,000,000
William A. Clark.....	80,000,000
Estate of J. P. Morgan.....	75,000,000
Estate of H. H. Harriman.....	68,000,000
Estate of Russell Sage.....	64,000,000

W. K. Vanderbilt	50,000,000
Estate of John S. Kennedy	65,000,000
Estate of John J. Astor	70,000,000
W. W. Astor	70,000,000
J. J. Hill	70,000,000
Isaac Stephenson	74,000,000
Jay Gould estate	70,000,000
Estate of Mrs. Hetty Green	60,000,000
Estate of Cornelius Vanderbilt	60,000,000
Estate of William Weightman	50,000,000
Estate of Ogden Goelet	60,000,000
W. I. Moore	50,000,000
Arthur C. James	50,000,000
Estate of Robert Goelet	60,000,000
Guggenheim estate	50,000,000
Thomas F. Ryan	50,000,000
Edward Morris	45,000,000
J. O. Armour	45,000,000

Why not take as much proportionally from these and other rich men as we did from the little orphan girl and her poor sisters? We leave the poor with less than enough to pay for a meagre living; would it be wrong to leave a rich man only \$5,000 per year, or should he have as much as his avaricious temperament craves?

SLACKERS, EVERY ONE OF THEM.

Tax the land slackers, the coal slackers, the food slackers, the munition slackers, the iron slackers, the oil slackers, the copper slackers, the lumber slackers, the clothing slackers. Tax 'em all, and tax them 100 per cent, just as we tax the poor man's life 100 per cent.

IT IS ONLY FAIR.

We have forced men to join the army, it is only fair that we compel wealth to back them up.

The multitudinous taxes levied upon men of ordinary means, and upon the poor, are hindering the success of our armies in the field. Until every dollar of surplus wealth in America is conscripted and expended we should not allow one penny of taxation to inhibit our chances of defeating the Kaiser! Every time we place burdens upon industry, we make it that much easier for the Kaiser to kill American boys at the front. This is the most despicable treachery imaginable. Sending a man out to stop bullets and then tying his hands so that he cannot defend himself. The vilest form of treason!

W. K. Vanderbilt	50,000,000
Estate of John S. Kennedy	65,000,000
Estate of John J. Astor	70,000,000
W. W. Astor	70,000,000
J. J. Hill	70,000,000
Isaac Stephenson	74,000,000
Jay Gould estate	70,000,000
Estate of Mrs. Hetty Green	60,000,000
Estate of Cornelius Vanderbilt	60,000,000
Estate of William Weightman	50,000,000
Estate of Ogden Goelet	60,000,000
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THREATS ARE WORSE THAN USELESS.

Threatening to tax the rich will avail nothing. Suppose we merely threatened to conscript America's manhood?

Conscript the wealth of the nation, and if the rich man kicks, let him kick; we want to win this war.

WILL YOU HELP?

Please sign the letter to President Wilson printed below and mail as directed. When 2,000,000 of these signed letters are received, they will be forwarded to the President, and immediately after, a bill will be introduced in Congress providing for wealth conscription upon the basis stated. One of the Congressmen is waiting for the signal—2,000,000 signers—the news will be telegraphed to him and then the big drive in Congress will begin. Help expedite matters by signing and mailing the following letter **today**; don't mail direct to the President.

His Excellency, Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you, as commander in chief of the army and navy, apprise Congress of the necessity of taxing war profits and incomes. As a matter of justice towards those who are giving their lives to America, every income of every person and every business in the United States that exceeds \$5,000 annually should be conscripted by the government to pay current war expenses and to liquidate all indebtedness when hostilities cease. If this is done, the billions of dollars thus commandeered will obviate the necessity of burdening the already overburdened poor.

Yours for America and fair play,

Name and Address.....

City and State.....

Kindly tear off at dotted line on top of the letter to President Wilson and mail today to The National War Profits Tax League, care Ben J. Salmon, Chairman Publicity Committee, 303 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado. **Enclose a dime or a quarter to help us get more of these circulars distributed, thus hastening the completion of this undertaking. Your contribution will also help pay postage, etc., if it becomes necessary to communicate with you concerning the action of our Congressmen after the bill is introduced.**

Be sure to mail your letter to the collecting point—Denver, Colorado, room 303 Cooper Building. After 2,000,000 are received there, the entire allotment will be mailed to the President's office in Washington. If you and others whom this circular reaches will act without delay, this work will be completed by the end of February.



TAX THE RICH To Pay for The War

By Ben J. Salmon

We must make Democracy safe in America.

While President Wilson was leading the line of conscripted poor men's lives down Pennsylvania avenue, the Senate was voting 4 to 1 against the conscription of rich men's dollars. Is this Democracy?

SWAT THE CONSUMER.

The slogan of our lawmakers seems to be, "Swat the Consumer."

Incomes have been taxed only slightly. Approximately one billion dollars placed against this source of revenue. War profits taxed approximately the same amount. But the things we eat and wear, with a few amusements and luxuries thrown in, must pay approximately \$19,000,000,000. Nearly nineteen times as much as war profits or incomes. Nineteen thousand millions of dollars in taxes placed upon those least able to pay.

IS THIS A WAR FOR PROFIT?

War profits of a small group of big trusts amounted to \$4,000,000,000 in 1916. Last year, this year, and every year the landlords of America collect approximately \$6,000,000,000 for permitting us to live on God's earth. One year's legalized robbery: ten thousand millions of dollars! These are only partial enumerations of profiteering instances.

The poor man's life has been taxed 100 per cent. That is, he has been conscripted for the period of the war and, in many cases, for eternity. Why not make the rich man give everything above \$5,000 a year during the war in order to help conquer the Kaiser?

IS THEIR PATRIOTISM GENUINE?

Newspapers were largely instrumental in precipitating America's entrance into the conflict. If they are sincerely patriotic, they will gladly turn their profits over to Uncle Sam.

ARTHUR L. BARKEY
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

BELL PHONE, SENECA 1788
MAIL ADDRESS P. O. BOX 906

United States Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
402-404 FEDERAL BUILDING
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

February 7 1918

RECEIVED
FEB 9 1918
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A. Bruce Bielaski, Esquire,
Chief, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For your information I am enclosing herewith
copies of circulars which are being sent out by Wells-
Fargo Express from Denver, Colorado.

Very truly yours,

Arthur L. Barkey

Special Agent.

AIB-D
ABB-1
cc-1
c-Denver

over

AHP:MPH

February 20, 1918.

Roy O. Samson, Esq.,

Box 1491,

Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:-

The Solicitor for the Post Office Department reports that Ben J. Salmon is sending out a pamphlet entitled "Tax the Rich to Pay for the War," which has been held non-mailable.

Please bring this to the attention of the United States Attorney, and also make arrangements to be advised should efforts be made to send this pamphlet through other means of communication.

Very truly yours,

Chief.

-COPY-

W. C. DAVISON, G.S.-T.

General Executive Board

WALTER AINS
Am. Federation of Labor Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS

F. J. SAVAGE
1 Herbert Street
Everett, Mass.

Department of the

WM. HANNON
2940 16th Street
San Francisco, Cal.

GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

American Federation of Labor Building
Washington, D. C.

G. T. NICHOLSON
Am. Federation of Labor Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Feb. 5, 1916.

J. J. KEEPLER
110 Nassau Street,
New York, N. Y.

B-D

Postoffice Department,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:-

I am in receipt of a number of complaints in regard to the enclosed circular, originating from G. M. Clark, #303 Coyce Building, Denver, Colorado, and which is being expressed to a number of our secretaries, express charges to be collected. These circulars are not being sent as a result of requests from our secretaries, and it appears to me that it is something that might be of interest to the Postoffice Department in breaking up schemes of this kind.

Thanking you in advance for giving this matter your attention, I remain,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. C. Davison
G. S. T.

ELD-300 - File 50205

February 14, 1916.

Mr. E. C. Davison,
General Secretary-Treasurer,
International Association of Machinists,
American Federation of Labor Building,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing copy of a leaflet entitled TAX THE RICH TO PAY FOR THE WAR by Ben J. Salmon, and stating that you are in receipt of a number of complaints in regard to the forwarding by express, charges to be collected, of copies of this pamphlet from G. H. Clark, 305 Coyne Building, Denver, Colorado, to Secretaries of your Association.

I beg to thank you for bringing this matter to my attention, and to advise you that the pamphlet named has heretofore been under consideration by this Department, and has been found to be non-mailable under the Espionage Act, and that the Postmaster at Denver, Colorado, was advised of this fact under date of December 21, 1915.

Respectfully,

(Signed) W. H. LAMAR
Solicitor.

In answering this letter
please refer to initials.
ELD-333 - File 50206

138971

✓

382
JH
88

Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Washington

RECEIVED
FEB 16 1916
Bureau of Investigation
February 14, 1916.

Handwritten:
F. W. ...
2/20/16
map

Mr. A. B. Bielaski,
Chief, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Attention Mr. Pike.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to hand you herewith for such action
as you may deem fit copy of a letter of the 8th
instant addressed to this Department by Mr. E. C.
Davison, General Secretary-Treasurer of the
International Association of Machinists, Washing-
ton, D. C., and a copy of my reply thereto,
together with a copy of the pamphlet referred to
therein entitled "TAX THE RICH TO PAY FOR THE WAR."

Very truly yours,

W. A. Lamm
Solicitor.

Enc.

13

These same newspapers were largely instrumental in precipitating America's entrance into the conflict. If they are sincerely patriotic, they will gladly turn their profits over to Uncle Sam.

The columns of newspapers are filled with exultations of patriotism. All that is required to make these proclamations dynamic is a unified demand by the great mass of Americans that the profits of all businesses above \$5,000 per year be taxed 100 per cent to prosecute the war and to liquidate all war indebtedness. The "five-thousand" per annum will enable captains of industry to discharge personal obligations without serious inconvenience.

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If the exigencies of war demand that ordinary privileges of the people be denied, should not the rich be denied the use of surplus gold? Especially that surplus accruing as a sequence of war.

JUSTICE.

Americans despise the very name "autocracy," and we deplore the misery that autocratic rule entails. I know of a little orphan girl in Denver who works for \$7.00 a week. She was virtually compelled to purchase a \$50.00 liberty bond. This savors too much of autocracy, especially when her immensely wealthy sisters escape practically free. Of course, our little friend could have declined, and suffer the loss of her position, but circumstances intervened; she needs the few dollars weekly to keep soul and body together. This case is only one of thousands proximately and remotely similar.

A government, sponsoring methods of raising finances that weigh so heavily upon the poor and so lightly upon the rich is not sincere in its pretensions of Democracy.

We must buckle on our armor and sally forth to victory in the present campaign to squeeze every dollar of surplus wealth out of war; the present war, and future wars.

CAN THEY AFFORD IT?

The little girl could ill afford to contribute \$50.00. But she did it. Below is a list of only a few financiers who will be more greatly benefited by the present war than the little orphan girl:

Name.	Amount of Wealth.
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Thomas F. Ryan	50,000,000
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THREATS ARE WORSE THAN USELESS.

Threatening to tax the rich will avail nothing. Suppose we merely threatened to conscript America's manhood?

Conscript the wealth of the nation, and if the rich man kicks, let him kick; we want to win this war.

On innumerable occasions, President Wilson has proven himself the friend of the oppressed. He will help us force Congress to tax wealth if we do our share.

In this circular, the injustice of taxing the poor to finance this war has been stated mildly. The masses keenly feel the iniquity, language cannot adequately express the seething dissatisfaction that, unless remedial legislation is enacted, will inevitably manifest itself in tumultuous disapproval.

If this wrong is not righted, the American people will be justified in inaugurating a movement to repudiate all war debts.

WILL YOU HELP?

You surely will not be a slacker in this critical hour! Help agitate the taxation of war profits and incomes. Distribute some of these circulars. Address an envelope: "National War Profits Tax League, Room 222 Guardian Trust Building, Denver, Colorado;" enclose a dime or a quarter or a dollar; you will receive a commensurate number of these circulars for free distribution among friends. Your enclosure will pay for printing, postage, etc.

Somebody else paid to get this circular into your hands. Reciprocate by helping to reach others. At the very least, you can afford a dime's worth. You will save yourself many dollars in taxes, and justly so.

"Do your bit" and the irresistible influence of popular demand will cause Congress to make the rich "do their bit."

DO IT NOW.

After sending for some of these circulars, sign your name and address below, tear off at the marginal line, mail to the President. **NOW.**

His Excellency, Woodrow Wilson,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully urge that you, as commander in chief of the army and navy, apprise Congress of the necessity of taxing war profits and incomes. As a matter of justice towards those who are giving their lives to America, every income of every person and every business in the United States that exceeds \$5,000 annually should be conscripted by the government to pay current war expenses and to liquidate all indebtedness when hostilities cease. If this is done, the billions of dollars thus commandeered will obviate the necessity of burdening the already overburdened poor.

Yours for America and fair play.

Name and Address

City and State

(When you order more of these circulars, if you will enclose a note stating that you signed the above request and mailed it to the President, you will greatly facilitate the securing of your demand.

When two million of these requests have been sent to the President, we have the promise of a Representative in Congress that he will introduce a bill providing for conscription of wealth in accordance with the plan suggested in the form letter to President Wilson. Don't fail to let us know when you mail the above request to the President. We urge you to act quickly.



J. M. Clark - 303 Coyce Bldg
Hephner Col

TAX THE RICH To Pay for the War

By Ben. J. Salmon

We are told that we are at war "to make the world safe for Democracy."

While President Wilson was leading the line of conscripted poor men's lives down Pennsylvania avenue, the Senate was voting 4 to 1 against the conscription of rich men's dollars. Is this Democracy?

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The poor man's life has been taxed 100 per cent. That is, he has been conscripted for the period of the war and, in many cases, for eternity. Why not make the rich man give everything above \$5,000 a year during the war in order to help conquer the Kaiser?

We are told that wars are fought to protect the lives and wealth of a nation. Lives are being taken to defend life; why not make wealth defend wealth?

COMPETING WITH THE U. S. MINT.

Among other lucrative enterprises, the newspapers of this nation are making money so fast they almost rival the United States Mint.

*138971 Tax the Rich

I have just received word from one of the Congressmen that, just as quickly as two million of the requests on last page of circular are mailed to the President, he (the Congressman) will introduce a bill in Congress providing for conscription of wealth in accordance with the plan suggested in the form letter to President Wilson.

Ben J. Salmon
Nov. 16th.

OG 138971