

THE TAX ON SPORTING GOODS IS UNJUST

An agitation was begun some time ago which has now reached National proportions urging the repeal of the 10% war tax on sporting goods, and practically every National Amateur Organization has gotten behind the movement and hundreds of thousands of individuals, also.

Peter P. Carney and Hugh Fullerton, two of the best known sports writers in the United States, have written quite a number of articles showing the unsoundness of the tax, how it prevents the play of the youth of America, and its future effect on the Nation. These writers now ask that every student of every institution become interested in this movement and urge for the repeal of the tax.

Everything you purchase to be used for any sport playing, whether it be a snow shoe, a tennis racquet, a golf ball, or a hunting jacket is taxed 10% before it leaves the manufacturing plant. The consumer pays this tax and some times more. You will note the unjustness of this tax when you note that automobiles, diamonds, etc., are only taxed 5%. We know automobiles and diamonds are luxuries but very few things in the line of sporting goods that boys use are luxuries.

The Government itself does not believe that sporting goods are luxuries, because during the war the soldiers got their sporting equipment first. They were necessities then. They are necessities now. They were taxed 3% during the war, That was all right. We know that the Government needs money and sportsmen are willing to pay taxes, but few of us believe that Uncle Sam should tax the kids to play. That is just what this tax amounts to.

Statistics of past years show that 70 per cent of the sporting goods manufactured were sold to boys and girls under the age of 18. Last year the figures were 73 per cent. This year sporting goods are a drug on the market. The boy isn't playing. He can't afford to.

It is up to every one of us to make a fight for the boy, for the future generation, because we are interested in the welfare of the nation even though the lawmakers cannot see the big idea. We believe that Congress thought it was soaking the professional ball player when it put on this tax. If they did they failed for the professional baseball leagues do not use more than one per cent of the sporting goods made and the ball players do not pay for any of this.

We ask you in behalf of the kids of the United States that you write your Congressman and Senator urging the immediate repeal of this tax. You can tell him in your own way just why the tax should be repealed. Write your letters today. Get your friends to write. If you are a member of an organization get the club to adopt resolutions on the tax and send them to Washington.

The Amateur Athletic Union, the United States Lawn Tennis Association, the Golf Association, the American Trapshooting Association, and many other organizations are very much interested in this campaign from the standpoint of the youth of America and it would be fine if you would cast your lot with theirs.