

would have to be taken up by additional taxation. When this point is reached and its only 12 years from now, an additional nine points will have to be added to your tax bill.

One can hardly conceive of a condition where a paid employee of the borough, such as a policeman, would have the audacity and the boldness to publicly berate a councilman of the borough, simply because on Election Day he dared to state he was not in favor of the police pension fund. This councilman was the target for continued abuse and tirades by the same employee and from that point on was deliberately blacklisted by the department head of the police department. Just one example of how vicious the iron rule of the department head had become was shown in December of 1936, when three gold police badges were purchased, intended for each of the three members of the police committee. These were valued at \$30.00 or a cost of ten dollars each. Two of the members of the police committee received theirs but the councilman who dared voice his objection against the pension was ignored and never did get his badge.

To give some idea of the certainty and confidence this department head had for his power to "put it over," back in April of 1935, eight months before the question of the police pension was placed on the ballot for public approval in November, he was already collecting and having solicited contributions for this fund. He had contacted a group of professional collectors who were going to the various business houses, both in the neighboring municipalities and adjoining states, procuring funds for the Allendale police pension fund. These professional promoters and collectors, we understand, received thirty per cent of their take or in plain words thirty dollars out of every hundred collected.

The head of this department, in order to attempt to give the public something, and stop any criticism these collections might bring forth, published a pension fund blue book. In this book are the advertisements which were solicited and paid for under the guise of an Allendale Police Pension Fund. Mathematically checking the ads which fill twenty pages,

each page presumably valued at one hundred dollars per page, shows a net income of approximately two thousand dollars taken in on these advertisements. If the collectors received thirty per cent, then they procured six hundred dollars as their pay, this figure is unquestionably over-estimated because many of these ads were procured by the department head himself and it is not probable he would deduct thirty per cent for his own collections.

The promise of this department head was that the Allendale police pension fund would be given a thousand dollars, yet a check was deposited in the First National Bank of Allendale amounting to but seven hundred thirty-two dollars as the net proceeds from this campaign.

Admitting the fact that the blue book cost some money to print, there seems to be quite a margin of safety for, let's say incidentals, between the fourteen hundred dollars left over after the professional collectors had received their divvy and the seven hundred thirty-two dollars deposited. While we are speaking of this deposit let me say this check, upon presentation, immediately took flight and bounced so high it nearly knocked off the roof of the bank. After delay and confusion, it had to be made good by the professional collector who presented the original check. The second check also had an ailment and while it wasn't entirely bad, still was a little short, to the tune of two hundred thirty-five dollars, so the professional collector had to again be contacted in order to get the account straight. All of this check bouncing happened while the department head was away on a twenty-eight-day vacation in January of 1936, days coming to him from the previous year, as he explained it. The check bouncing incident caused him no end of displeasure and embarrassment upon his return.

The collector of the borough is the compulsory custodian of the police pension fund by state law. His information is that absolutely no funds collected for police pensions can be used for any purpose other than to pay a pension, not even can one purchase a book for the purpose of keeping the pension account, and charge

it to the pension fund. Admitting this to be the case, how in the name of common sense can this department head have collected and caused to be collected monies in the presumed amount of \$2,000.00 and only turn in \$732.00 for deposit. Up to this time a statement has never been rendered to the custodian of this fund, therefore there has been no way to check the actual amount of monies collected nor from what source the money may have been procured. The department head handled this collection scheme in its entirety, so much so that the other member of the department is as much in the dark as the public. Every other department in the municipality is checked and audited, yet not so a police department head who promotes a "get some money quick" scheme. While we are on this subject let's see from where the money was collected, eliminating Allendale because of actual interest. How about those who contributed outside our borough?

Here is a list of the towns solicited, as taken from the pension fund blue book: Southfields, Waldwick, Ramsey, Wyckoff, Liberty, Haverstraw, Ramapo, Aldrich, New York City, Saddle River, Suffern, Pearl River, Mahwah, Marlboro, Garfield, Monticello, Spring Valley, Newburg, Westwood, Pompton, Riverdale, Accord, Paramus, Hawthorne, Rochelle Park, Mountainville, Hohokus, New Hampton, Milton, Monsey, Jeffersonville, Passaic, Sloatsburg, Ridgewood, Middletown, Binghamton, Deposit, Cottekill, Hamilton, Bovina Center, New Platz, Callicoon, Oneonta, Goshen, Clintondale, Hackensack, Fairlawn, Paterson, Kingston, Chester, Clifton, Waldon, Tuxedo, Little Ferry, West Norwood, Blauvelt, Passaic, Montvale, Narrowsburg, Florida, Parksville, Midland Park, Tallman and West New York.

Placing yourself in the position of a business firm, say a trucking concern having headquarters up in Chester, N. Y., why should they contribute to the Allendale police pension fund, a small borough in another state?

Just pause and consider that one and see if you can arrive at a satisfactory answer that doesn't disturb your conscience.

GEORGE M. WILSON.