revenue problem at all levels of government: "In recent years one popular way of imagining ourselves out of this problem has been to assume that the increase in revenues resulting from the growth of the economy will outstrip government expenditures."

Only one figure need be cited to explode this theory, Congressman Mills insists; total public debt has increased steadily from $38.7 billions in 1932 to $333 billions at the end of 1958.

During the same period, gross national product has increased from $56 billion a year to the present $450 billion.

During the last quarter-century our gross national product has been multiplied by 8 but total governmental expenditures have been multiplied by 10.

Learning to Say "No!"

Only effective public disciplines can stop this headlong rush toward inflation, national bankruptcy, and chaos.

Obviously, we are all in for some stern local budgets.

Somehow, we must devise, at every level of government, a system of buying only what we can afford.

Economists have recognized since history began that there is no end of human wants. Only the disciplines of civilization can hold public spending within the limits of community resources. Taxpayers are now aware that many of the welfare-state luxuries devised during the last quarter-century are still carried on the cuff of the public debt.

True, some one group in every community regards each program of public service as indispensable to human felicity. Public belt-tightening means simply that each community must somehow arrive at a solid public judgment on what the local treasury can afford. Tested by this standard, every program must have a controlling *relative* importance. And that is where the public belt-tightening must begin – at the first program, or extravagance, the community decides it cannot afford.

There is an ancient adage in political science which teaches that any government big enough to give the folks everything they want is big enough to take away everything they've got.

Local budgets are more than a fiscal problem, more than an economic issue. Balanced budgets today are a *moral* issue of the first order. • • •

TAX DECALOGUE FOR THE WELFARE STATE

I ONE GOLDEN RULE LEADS ALL THE REST:
THE TAX THAT YIELDS THE MOST IS BEST.

II LET RACKING TAXES BE REPEALED,
SAVE THOSE OF SURE AND STABLE YIELD.

III DIVERSIFY YOUR SOURCES; WHEN
THE GOOSE IS NAKED PLUCK THE HEN.

IV DESIGN YOUR TAX WITH SNARES AND COILS
TO CATCH EVADERS IN YOUR TOILS.

V MAKE TAXES CERTAIN; LEAVE NO SCOPE
FOR ARGUMENT OR FOOLISH HOPE.

VI BE FAIR TO ALL; FROM SAINT OR SOT
COLLECT NO MORE THAN HE HAS GOT.

VII LET PAYMENTS BE CONVENIENT; WHEN
A MAN HAS MONEY, CATCH HIM THEN.

VIII USE HIDDEN TAXES; PEOPLE FRET
WHEN THEY TOO PLAINLY SEE YOUR NET.

IX ALLOW APPEALS FROM THOSE WHO BALK;
BUT TAKE THE TAX BEFORE THE SQUAWK.

X SEND TAX COLLECTORS OUT IN PAIRS;
AND KEEP A TRAINING CAMP FOR SPARES.

H. P. B. JENKINS
Economist at Fayetteville, Arkansas