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MENACE OF MANDATORY LAWS

Pointing out that more than 75 per cent of the expenditures of local government are imposed upon the people by the State mandatory laws, the New Jersey Taxpayers Association proposes that steps be taken to bring about “the repeal of such laws as are found to impose unfair restrictions and unnecessary tax burdens or in other ways limit the people of any local community in determining for themselves the type of government under which they wish to live, the number of employees they shall engage and the salaries they shall be paid for their services.”

This objective should be furthered to the full extent of municipal resources. As the association asserts, the State “has no moral right” to determine the precise scope of local expenditures. If home rule is to be something more than a pious hope, municipal sovereignty must prevail in connection with the formation of local budgets, governmental structure, personnel set-ups and salary schedules.

The towns and cities of New Jersey, many of which now stand at the brink of insolvency, cannot attain that degree of financial stability that is essential to sound fiscal procedure unless they are free to conduct their civic affairs in accordance with their own desires and their own ability to pay.

Mandatory expenditures, imposed in many instances by bureaucratic theorists, are gradually forcing New Jersey’s local governments into a condition of out-and-out bankruptcy. The time has come to call a halt on this dictatorial domination, and it is gratifying to observe that the New Jersey Taxpayers Association is taking up the cudgels for the hard-pressed communities which are being victimized by spending edicts in the determination of which they have no voice and from which they cannot escape without subjecting themselves to legal penalties imposed by State authority.

Trenton Times Editorial

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Page One is an enlarged version of this article.

For better or worse,
'Till death do you part



They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.

Andy Warhol