

Plain and Simple

RICHARD Noyes acted in a long run on Broadway as one of the children in the cast of "Life With Father." When he outgrew the youthful role he turned away promptly from hopes of a further stage career and picked New Hampshire as the ideal place to begin his adult life in a small-town newspaper office.

He now manages not one but four weekly papers within a hundred-mile radius, and he says this keeps him too busy to do as effective an editorial job as he would like. He believes New Hampshire's climate is fertile for the land equity idea and says theirs is one state which has neither the income tax nor a sales tax.

A sample of the kind of editorial Richard Noyes writes in his Jaffrey, New Hampshire office of the Monadnock Ledger follows. It is called, "Plain and simple . . . an easy editorial to read."

Perhaps what we need is a balanced base of taxation. Maybe revenues should rise with the tide of economic growth.

Gross National Product is an economic term but it is not hard to understand. It is everything we produce in this country, everyone, all added together.

It was 284,599 million dollars in 1950.

It was 518,656 million dollars in 1960.

It was 681,207 million dollars in 1965.

The chances are it will be a trillion dollars in 1975.

There are more people at work in

the country every year, so the GNP ought to go up, but that is a small part of it.

The work force was 60 million in 1950.

The work force was 67 million in 1960.

The work force was 72 million in 1965.

While GNP was growing 140 percent (from 1950 to 1965) the work force was growing only 20 percent.

What all these figures mean, quite simply, is that America is producing more and more every year, partly because the country is getting bigger, but ever so much more because the country is getting smarter and better educated.

It is technology. Knowhow. Knowledge and productivity.

And some (although not all) of that we get in school.

The educators are talking about the growing property tax burden, and the need for a "broad base" tax to help schools.

Well, the property tax burden is not growing. It stays very much the same, and if anything is falling below what it should be.

The property tax is producing more and more money each year, because the base is growing. Like the GNP.

But the burden, or the rate, stays about the same.

The way to get more money for schools is to keep the tax base growing and plow a share of it back into more knowledge.

Simple, isn't it?

Why do you suppose so many well-educated people find it so hard to get that through their heads?

Professor and Mrs. Clyde Reeves wrote after a visit to Expo 67, recalling the banquet evening of the HGS in New York. "One seldom encounters such a wide diversified group — people from all levels mingling and accepting one another at 100 percent face value," he said. "You probably have the most democratized, and democratizing, organization in the world."