

## CHIT/CHAT

The Food and Drug Administration is attempting to sweeten its ban on saccharin. As soon as it was found that some Canadian rats, after ingesting huge quantities of saccharin had apparently acquired cancer the FDA - America's Don Quixote - mounted on its charger ready to do battle with the windmills of businesses which dared to sell a substance so detrimental to the health of rats. But alas for the FDA. It received salty communications from millions of diabetics and others who could not stomach sugar and no honied words from the startled bureaucrats lessened their wrath.

Congress, ever alert to being on the side of a popular issue, and itself an authority on all kinds of artificial stimuli, has been casting a wary eye on the FDA, so the embattled red-tapists are now trying to sugar-coat the ban by promising to make saccharin available in drug stores. Presumably, if one purchases saccharin in pharmacies by means of a prescription, while one's disposition won't be any sweeter because of the increased cost, one should not fear any danger of cancer. It is not that any human has ever been known to have suffered this grave disease as a result of imbibing this artificial form of sugar, but rats have, so what is not good for rats is obviously not good for people.

The FDA's proposal may not meet with the people's approval, for while it is true that wealth distribution is the aim of the government, the people have a reluctance to seeing the pharmacists and physicians made wealthy at their expense. It is a truism that once a bureau is established its life is eternal. But isn't it possible if more bureaucracies would institute such brilliant rulings as the FDA did, that they

might be laughed out of existence? Is it too much to hope?

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A public spirited homeowner, energized by the President's speeches on the patriotic virtues of conserving energy went forth to do his bit by installing solar energy to heat the water in his home, only to meet his Waterloo at the hands of the tax assessor. While it would have taken him eight years to break even, nevertheless he contracted for the improvement until he discovered that it would add \$90 to his property tax levy. This was asking just a bit too much for patriotism, not to mention that the \$90 might have been more than it cost him to heat his water annually. He cancelled the contract and is now leading a fight to exempt such improvements from tax assessment valuations.

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If only the President would make more speeches on the duty of conserving the consumption of all goods, then the nation's homeowners might find themselves allied with the Georgists. As the homeowners strove to make the suggested improvements of the President, they would become so infuriated with the tax assessors as each improvement resulted in higher assessments, they might join in a fight to eliminate all taxes on improvements. If nothing else came of it, the heat generated in the fight, might easily be sufficient to heat the nation's homes, even without solar energy. Right on, Mr. President!

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Do you know which two documents have contributed heavily to our government? No, not the Constitution nor the Declaration of Independence: rather, Forms 1040 and 1040a!

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