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## TAX EQUITY FOR MILLS

By Charles V. Stanton

A change in Oregon's assessment laws, to permit an optional average of merchandise inventories, is proposed by the Interim Tax Committee, of which Senator Howard Belmont is chairman. The proposal has been given approval by the State Association of County Assessors.

The timber industry would be the chief beneficiary of the new law, inasmuch as it is now penalized because of assessments on cold decks.

The average mill usually has its cold deck at maximum volume on January 1, the date upon which assessments currently are fixed. Mills build up their log supplies during the summer and fall months, endeavoring to accumulate sufficient volume to carry operations through the winter months when logging is impossible because of weather.

Merchandise inventories must be reported as of January 1. Thus the mill successful in building up its supply of logs to furnish winter employment is penalized in the matter of taxes.

The timber industry is unfairly treated in this situation, particularly when compared with retail trade.

Merchandising establishments, which also are assessed on inventories on hand January 1, usually have reduced their stocks by that date to the lowest point for the entire year.

### Would Permit Average

Thus while business houses are taxed on minimum inventory, sawmills pay on maximum inventory.

The proposed change would permit an "optional average." Mills would be allowed to average their log supply for the year and to use this average as a base for assessment rather than the maximum accumulation on hand as of January 1. The same privilege, of course, would extend to all types of business and industry, provided monthly inventory records were maintained and made available to assessors. It would be optional with the establishment whether it used the old or new system. The law is expected, if passed, to contain provisions that one or the other methods be elected and prohibiting change from one year to the next to suit the particular condition in which the taxpayer might find himself.

Experience in the State of Washington, where the optional average inventory method now is used, is that few inventory owners, aside from timber operators, use the option, according to a report in *Oregon Voter* which outlines recommendations of the interim committee in its current issue.

The committee, however, recognizes the existing injustice to the timber industry and proposes correction.

### Percentages Fixed

Assessments on cold decks at Douglas County mills, as elsewhere throughout the state, are fixed at 30 per cent of current estimated cash value. This is the same ratio applied to real estate.

Average mill logs are appraised at \$40 per thousand in cold decks and thus are assessed at the rate of \$12 per thousand. Peeler logs are appraised at \$60 per thousand and assessed at \$18.

It is understandable that a log deck scaling into the millions of feet — one of the largest in Douglas County containing about 40 million board feet — represents a tax liability to the operator.

The cold deck, however, is a boon to the community, inasmuch as it represents winter employment for mill workers and continued payrolls to support local economy.

The change in the law, it is believed, will encourage the industry to build up maximum cold decks. This will, in turn, produce more employment in winter and spring months.

## Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — How does the average American housewife spend her time?

These golden hours of the busiest if not the highest century of the civilization — how does she use them? At last I am able to give a positive, burning feminine answer.

During my recent visit to Belgium my friend, Reiman (Pat) Morin, a Pulitzer Prize winner and one of the ablest reporters of our time, did me a great personal favor by filling the space it is my duty to occupy.

He made the mistake — darned if I didn't forget to warn him against it — of praising women. Nothing gets a man in more trouble than complimenting the ladies. They are so suspicious!

While boasting of the feminine sex's greater longevity and durability, Pat made the offhand observation that, after all, "the average housewife doesn't have to exert herself in the pursuit of her daily chores."

This has resulted so far in 18 million letters denouncing Pat — and not a single one to thank him for all the kind things he said about womenkind.

So be it. Such is the fate of any man who praises woman yet tries to point out the porpoises in her proud flesh.

Woman Takes Over  
Purely on the grounds of eloquence we yield the rostrum of reply to Mrs. Vera Jungert, of Clarkston, Wash., who says she is an average housewife, "mother of three children, and keeper of a husband, all of whom are average, too."

Take the platform, Mrs. Jungert: "Here is this man who tells us what a soft life we lead washing clothes . . . getting meals . . . doing dishes . . . sewing rips and tears and buttons . . ."

"Patching cuts and bruises . . . buying groceries without spending any money . . . scrubbing floors . . . waxing furniture . . . taking care of pets the children bring home and then forget to feed . . . ironing clothes . . . pressing Father's

pants . . . doing Papa's book work (as the average husband isn't flush enough to hire a secretary) . . . having babies every year or two . . ."

"Nursing the sick family . . . writing Hubby's letters for him . . . caring for the flowers and the lawn . . . defrosting or cleaning refrigerators, stoves, cupboards, drawers, closets . . . bathing and training babies . . . helping Junior with his schoolwork so he won't flunk this year . . ."

Grief With Children  
"Paying the bills . . . shopping for clothes . . . cleaning up the trail of trash the entire family leaves behind . . . getting up nights with children who don't wish to sleep . . . changing beds . . . washing windows . . . answering Junior's questions . . . refereeing and settling the differences between the children . . . watching them so they don't inscribe hieroglyphics on the walls with crayons, trim each other's eyelashes with scissors, or crack skulls with the frying pan . . ."

"Getting the family dressed, especially Father, who would be forced to stumble around naked if his clothes were not neatly laid out on the bed when he emerges from the bathtub . . . running children around to dental appointments, shots at the doctor's office, scout meetings, birthday parties . . . making costumes for school plays . . . polishing shoes . . . digging gum off the rug . . ."

"Cleaning the car . . . washing the clothes over when the clothesline that Papa never gets time to fix collapses again . . . cleaning up the mess when Junior leaves the door of the automatic washer open or Suzie drops a jar

## Uncle Gulliver's Travels



## Peter Edson

### In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

For that reason this dispatch from Hong Kong is interesting:

It is reported from Canton that farmers in the Yingtak district wrecked a market after the ration depot ran out of rice. (In red China farmers are forced to sell their whole crops to the government and then buy back their own rations by the day or week.)

In the ruckus following the wrecking of the market red soldiers killed six farmers and arrested 20 others.

That's how socialism works when it gets supreme power in its hands.

Stepping over from the serious to the comic (a wise philosopher once observed that the line separating the two is an extremely narrow one) the teletype reports this morning that a parrot that can speak seven languages has just been dropped from the Spanish national contest for talking birds. It seems that the parrot, in the course of its language researches, picked up a vocabulary not fit to be heard in public.

More proof that a LITTLE knowledge is a dangerous thing.

From the Salem Statesman: "The Statyon Mail and the McMinville News-Register gave the Statesman the merry Ha Ha on the subject of highways bypassing cities after the Statesman ran a picture and stories of diversion of traffic to the new No. 99 bypass with consequent falling off of business among establishments catering particularly to the motoring public."

"Well, the Statesman prints the news; but that doesn't mean we think the bypass entrances should be barricaded to force motorists through the heart of the city. Nor do the injured businessmen seek that. They DO think a change in the signs would be helpful to them and to those who are using Highway 99."

If what has happened generally over the country happens in Salem, these establishments catering particularly to the motoring public will simply pick up and move over to the new bypass highway—thus providing a new congested business district in a different place.

There are surely today also in the Soviet Union certain elements who are sincerely interested in an understanding and in a world peace," he said. "If these circles were to recognize that Austria is the bridge to peaceable cooperation among the nations, then we might also count on a change in Soviet policy in many other parts of the world."

The chancellor pointed out that his country is still under four-power occupation and added: "Although about one-third of our country is occupied by Soviet troops, Austria is nonetheless by tradition and history an integral part of the Western civilized world."

Raab spoke at Westminster College from the same platform where Winston Churchill, Britain's prime minister, gave his famous "iron curtain" speech eight years ago. In that speech Churchill made a plea for an Anglo-American alliance against Russia.

Raab, who is making a 14-day tour of the United States, conferred with President Eisenhower in Washington early last week on the Austrian situation.

Sec. Wilson To Ask \$35 Billion For Defense  
NEW YORK (AP) — Secretary of Defense Wilson says he wants a budget for the military of "something like \$35 billion dollars" in the fiscal year starting next July 1—a 5 billion dollar boost over this year's budget.

In an interview being published this week in *Fortune* magazine, the former General Motors head also says he lost more than a million dollars in selling his GM stock. He had to sell the stock to win Senate confirmation of his defense job in the spring of 1953.

Wilson said present military policy with the increased budget would "be just about right" to keep this country strong.

FATHER ALSO DIES  
WASHINGTON (AP) — A Clinton Md. father whose family was wiped out in the crash of a jet fighter in their back yard in October died Sunday after he seemed to have been on the road to recovery.

John W. Vaughn Jr., 23, suffered second and third degree burns from the exploding jet fuel and rockets that killed his wife and two small children Oct. 12.

## Automobile Output Sets 15-Month Mark; Postwar Record Posted By Ford Co.

By Harry Elliott News Service

Production hit a 15-month high in mid-November, with Ford setting a postwar record. U. S. car makers produced 127,640 units the third week of this month, Automotive News estimates. The Thanksgiving holiday caused totals to drop this week.

So far this year, Chevrolet has produced 1,217,300 cars while Ford has made 1,207,200. Last year at this time Chevrolet was also leading, but by a much higher margin. The Big Three accounted for 96.9 per cent of the cars built.

New Models Continue To Appear  
The new Oldsmobiles feature "flying colors" styling, more horsepower, redesigned grille, headlights and tail-lights and sweep-cut front fenders.

A lower and sportier series has been added to the 1955 Mercury line. The wheelbase has been increased and horsepower upped. Styling changes include the wrap-around windshield, grille, rear fenders, tail-lights and hooded headlights.

Cadillacs have gone to 250 horsepower. The Eldorado convertible has jumped to the horsepower lead with 270.

American Motors Corporation is out to make its Rambler the fourth basic volume car in the low price field. George Romney, president, told Western Nash dealers while in San Francisco last week for the showing of the new Rambler series. Both Nash and Hudson dealers will handle the cars.

With General Motors, Ford and Chrysler making their lower-priced cars bigger and heavier, a golden opportunity for the more maneuverable car has been created, Romney said.

No outside help will be needed, the American Motors chief said, to

help the company capture a bigger portion of the auto industry's market next year. Major steps for strengthening manufacturing, marketing and financial position in the field have been completed, he said. American Motors Corporation was formed earlier this year when Nash and Hudson merged.

Optimism Expressed  
Wall Street shares the automobile industry's bright outlook for 1955. All indications point to a record year for factory production, sales promotion and organization, and automobile advertising.

Consensus of factory opinion is that next year's production will run about 5 to 8 per cent higher than this year's, with most companies having already announced plans for increasing output.

California has been pointed out as a particularly bright spot for the car manufacturers.

More Freight Rate Changes  
With Chrysler's announcement of revised freight charges, only the "Little Three" and independent truck makers are left to make freight adjustments. Spokesmen for these say their companies are studying the situation and announcements are expected soon.

Chrysler's action will affect points over 1,250 to 1,300 miles away from Detroit.

CSAA Membership Increases  
The California State Automobile Association now has 300,000 members. This is a 50 per cent increase in the last six years. The California association is one of the four largest motor clubs affiliated with the American Automobile Association.

Formed in 1900, the association endeavors to provide continuing impetus for better and safer highways and to do those beneficial things for auto owners which they could not accomplish alone.

Commercial Vehicles Increasing  
The Automobile Manufacturers Association reports that the nation's commercial motor vehicle fleet is now 10 million strong. Production last year was over 1,200,000 trucks. The record year was 1951, with 1,417,000 units.

Trucks account for 17 per cent of all registered vehicles, 18 per cent of all special vehicle taxes, and 22 per cent of all special vehicle taxes.

DETROIT Notes  
For the first time, one corporation has captured more than half of all new car sales. General Motors, according to Automotive News, has 52.3 per cent of total new car sales in the third quarter of this year. All GM cars except Pontiac showed sales gains.

Exclusive manufacturing and sales rights for a new type of heavy-duty vehicle have been acquired by American Motors Corporation. The "Mighty Mite," as the new vehicle is called, is lighter than the war-time jeep. It will be manufactured by Hudson Special Products Division. — Federal Motor Truck Company will resume production of heavy-duty trucks and specialized vehicles.

Charges that auto manufacturers are neglecting safety factors, which were made by a Colorado surgeon, were denied by safety engineers throughout the auto industry. The auto engineers say the industry gives much attention to the problem and can point to real signs of progress. According to them, deaths per 100 million vehicle miles are less today than at any time in the history of the auto industry. — At the celebration attendant to GM's production of its 50 millionth car (a golden Chevrolet), Harlow H. Curtice, president, revealed that GM does business with 21,074 suppliers throughout the U.S. They are located in every state of the union, range in size from small shops with no more than a dozen employees in the steel, rubber and chemical industries. About 50 per cent of every dollar GM takes in from the sale of its products goes to them in payment for materials, parts, components or services.

## Wind-Driven Generators May Bolster Power

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Power Commission official said Monday that wind-driven generators may be called upon to bolster hydroelectric plants in drought periods hoping to save costs or steam powered generators.

Claudio E. Bennett, head of the commission's electric resources and requirements division, said studies and experiments by a former commission engineer had resulted in a design for a 7,500 kilowatt windmill generator with an original cost comparable to a steam plant and whose operating costs would be much less.

He said such generators might well be the answer to rising fuel costs of steam generators and problems created by prolonged droughts, which deplete storage reservoirs.

Bennett said that since the idea of using windmills to run pumps and other machinery is ages old, no private industry should be expected to bear the expense of developing a wind-driven electric generator, only to have competitors reap the benefits. He said his agency, therefore, is advocating a federally-financed pilot plant for the benefit of all.

Bennett said no specific area for such a plant is under discussion and that at best it is a long-range proposal.

Bennett said since the Power Commission is merely a regulatory body it does not have authority to construct the suggested pilot plant. He said the Interior Department had expressed interest in the idea and might be the department to undertake construction if the experiment finally was approved.

Thomas determined through his research that while there are extreme fluctuations in rainfall and stream flow, winds vary little over the course of a year.

China Reds Feed Spies Poison Pills To Insure Return  
TAIPEH, Formosa (AP) — Frogmen sent out by the Chinese Reds to spy on the Nationalists are forced to swallow delayed action poison pills as a fatal warning not to desert, the Nationalist Defense Ministry claims.

The ministry said the pills prove fatal unless certain secret antidotes, available only if the underwater agents return to their base, are administered within 24 hours.

A Frogman captured on the offshore island of Matsuo on Nov. 19 gave the Nationalists this information, the ministry claimed.

The prisoner said he would die unless he returned to his base and took the antidotes awaiting him. And sure enough, the ministry said, he died 24 hours after setting out on his mission.

The Communists use Frogmen for sneak visits to offshore islands where they try to kidnap Nationalist soldiers for intelligence-gathering purposes.

QUITANDINHA, Brazil (AP) — A Chilean plan for an inter-American bank to foster economic development apparently died Monday. The United States and Latin American countries ended their feud over the plan with neither side changing its basic position.

Although the two had quarreled bitterly Saturday at the Inter-American Economic Conference here, they made up Monday. This ended the worst breach since the conference of 21 American republics opened Nov. 20.

Healing the breach appeared to have made unnecessary Brazil's planned intervention with a compromise plan for the bank.

Andrew Overby, U. S. assistant secretary of the Treasury, said Washington's unwillingness to participate in the proposed bank did not mean the United States is not interested in Latin America's economic development.

"We must abstain from participation in such a project," he said, "because we sincerely believe existing agencies to which we contributed are adequate to meet the need for the economic development of Latin America. Should that not prove true, then we are willing to consider some other plan."

FATHER ALSO DIES  
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## Committee Would Change Basic School Formula

SALEM (AP) — The Citizens Committee on the Basic School Fund decided Monday it wants to change the formula under which the \$33,000,000 a year in state school funds is allotted to the school districts. The committee is advisory to the State Board of Education, which will submit its recommendations to the Legislature.

The next item on the committee's agenda was consideration of several proposals to change the distribution formula.

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Metsker Douglas County Ownership Atlas has now been completely revised. Many changes in the last thirteen years in ownership, new plans, recent surveys, roads, highways, creeks etc. As good an atlas as can possibly be made. Available only from Chas. F. Metsker, temporarily located at the Rose Hotel, Roseburg. Leave word for him to contact you.

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