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CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager

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TAX DEBATE LOOMS

By Charles V. Stanton

A showdown battle on tax policies is a possibility at the forthcoming session of the legislature, which will consider recommendations from an interim tax committee. These recommendations would widen the powers of the State Tax Commission in the field of county assessments. They also could shift still more of the tax load to real estate.

Nine bills have been prepared for introduction in the legislature, according to Oregon Voter, which lists the proposals as follows:

- Assessments to be made on true cash value.
- Methods of appraisal of timber and timber lands.
- Appraisal of industrial property by the State Tax Commission.
- Making experienced map draftsmen of the Tax Commission office available to county assessors.
- Requiring a session of the County Board of Equalization prior to assessment date to make recommendations to the assessor concerning valuation of property.
- Setting qualifications for deputy assessors.
- Permitting optional average inventories of merchandise.
- Limiting bonding powers to a 1952 basis.
- Permitting appeal from jeopardy assessments.

Cash Values Debated

The State Tax Commission has complained for many years about lack of true cash valuations on property.

Each county has an assessor. No assessor has a "true yardstick of value," says Senator Howard Belton, chairman of the interim committee. Consequently there is no uniformity of assessment between counties.

The State Tax Commission has responsibility for appraising utilities and certain industrial properties. It must ascertain the ratio of county assessment to true cash value, appraise utilities at their cash value, then arrive at a percentage figure balancing the utility assessment with the assessment on real property.

Real estate at present is estimated to have a 30 per cent inflationary value, the committee reports. Therefore it is construed to have an assessment value of 70 per cent of the actual market value. Inventories of merchandise, livestock and some personal property, however, are given a 100 per cent evaluation of true market price. Equalization would require elimination of this differential, which would shift more load to real estate.

There is much criticism from some county sources concerning the alleged pressure from the State Tax Commission to set the rates on true cash values. Exercise of commission authority is claimed to be in conflict with home rule. On the other hand, it is held that uniformity in assessments is imperative, and that the commission's authority extends only to assessments and not to levies.

It also is pointed out that many deputy assessors are political appointees and have no real knowledge qualifying them as appraisers. The legislature will be given a recommendation that appraisers be required to pass examinations given by a state authority.

Bond Status Affected

Changing all property assessments to full cash value could upset the state's bond structure. Taxing bodies, such as cities, school districts, and others, now are limited to certain percentages of the assessed valuations of those districts as limits to bonded indebtedness. If valuations were to be boosted by evaluating all property at its real market value, bond limits would be doubled or tripled. To prevent automatic ballooning of bond limitations, it is proposed that the base existing in 1952 be given permanent status.

Entering into legislative consideration of tax problems, the Oregon Voter relates, will be recommendations from the Taxation Committee of the Oregon Association of Counties, supplementing those of the interim tax committee.

One of these recommendations will be a relaxing of building standards exacted of local school districts as a condition of aid from basic school funds. Another will favor contributions by municipal utilities to local taxing bodies, the Association holding that public utilities should contribute to the cost of local government as do private utilities.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — When you have a new baby in the house, the veteran parents among your friends are always warning:

"Yes, they're wonderful when they're helpless and completely dependent on you. But wait until they learn to walk. Then you'll never know a moment's peace. They just become little terrors."

Well, Tracy Ann, who came to our house to live when she was five weeks old, has not passed her 17-month birthday. She walks and climbs like crazy, trying each hour to explore and absorb all the wonders and knowledge in the whole wide world. And while life with her is admittedly less peaceful, it grows more wonderful each passing golden day.

Nothing makes a grownup appreciate the commonplace miracles of our daily lives—miracles to which time has dulled us—than to watch a child discover them one by one.

Take a simple thing like shadows, for example. The morning Tracy discovered she could wave her hands in the bright sunlight and make moving shadows on the wall she went wild with excitement. When the sun went behind a cloud and the shadows ceased, she complained bitterly. What had gone wrong in the world?

She can imitate a lamb, a dog, a cow, and an Indian princess—this last she does by patting her lips and letting out war whoops. But her actual vocabulary consists of four words—mama, dada, pa-pa, and no.

Although Frances and I have avoided saying "no" to her as much as possible, she picked up

the word (we like to think) from her little friends in the playground for small fry in our apartment development, a playground which the young mothers generally refer to as "the snake pit."

"No! No! No! No!" she says, striding about like a Hollywood producer. And like a Hollywood producer she often says "no" when she really means "yes."

Some parents lament that a child is impossible in the "no" stage, but I just think it's funny. To take her mind off this word I keep asking her if she can't say something really important like "Mississippi."

The other morning, sneaking in to her room to kiss her goodnight, I found her sitting up sleepily in bed saying, "No! No! Pizza pie! No! Pizza pie!"

Puzzled, I stood there for a moment until it dawned on me that she is slipping up on "Mississippi" by way of "pizza pie."

It is almost frightening to see the speed with which a child's personality develops, forming swiftly into a pattern that will probably last a lifetime. Already we know that Tracy is intelligent but stubborn, that physical punishment has no effect upon her but that she is kind, has a strong

Just Simmering



Peter Edson

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Noel and Herta Field disappeared behind the Iron Curtain in May, 1949. They had been doing Unitarian relief work in Geneva. First Noel, then his wife, went quietly to Prague and didn't come back.

The Alger Hiss case was then a major sensation in the United States. Whittaker Chambers, who put the finger on Hiss as a Communist agent, declares in his book, "Witness," that:

"I infer they (the Fields) had knowledge about Alger Hiss and others that made it inadvisable to leave them in any part of the United States or Europe where American officials could reach them."

Chambers also revealed how Alger Hiss and Hede Massing, ex-wife of Communist agent Gerhard Eisler, had tried to recruit Noel Field into their respective Communist apparatuses in Washington.

HEDE MASSING HERSELF, in her book "This Deception" and in testimony before Congressional committees, has revealed that Field was actually in her cell to furnish U. S. government information on Russia to the USSR.

Noel Field, after graduation from Harvard, joined the State Department in 1926. His resigned ten years later to work for the League of Nations in Geneva.

Whittaker Chambers has written that Gen. Walter Krivitsky, one-time chief of Soviet intelligence in Europe, declared that Field really went to Geneva to work for him, using his League of Nations job and later his work for Unitarian relief as a convenient cover.

This is the substance of evidence to support the charge that Field was not an American spy against the Communists, as they charge, but a Communist spy.

HOWEVER, HEDE MASSING, in her book, suggests the possibility that Field broke with the Communists when he left Washington.

sense of duty and a deep need for loving approval.

She dislikes sudden noises, but will go up and throw her small arms fearfully around the neck of the biggest, loudest barking dog. She loves colorful flowers but has learned to pet them, not destroy them. She is passionately fond of all animals and birds, and breaks into a crooning love chant when she sees them.

When in moments of childish rebellion against going to bed she has struck out at her mother, we have found the best way to deal with the situation is to tell her quietly, "Tracy, don't hurt mommy." Her eyes swim with instant tears. But personal pain she bears with almost stoic fortitude. When she fell and scraped her shin and saw her own blood for the first time, she came and showed the wound to Frances, but never cried at all.

The only thing she is afraid of is the vacuum cleaner. When Frances is doing the rug, Tracy has the idea that the cleaner is some kind of dragon attacking her mother. She stands there letting out yelps of dismay until the dragon is banished again to the closet.

"If that doesn't show this child is smart, I don't know what would," says Frances, who doesn't like the vacuum cleaner any more than Tracy does.

No child her age ever tried harder to learn the arts of a housewife. Tracy wants to help her mother cook, serve meals, do the dishes and darn stockings.

When I come home and call out, "Where're my slippers?", Tracy runs and fetches them. Then she takes my shoes, grumbling at their weight, and gallops into my room and puts them neatly under a chair.

Somewhere in America there is a runny-nosed, dirty-cheeked little boy growing up. I wonder what kind of a man he will be. For here I am spending the best years of my life, training a perfect little wife for him. I hope the scoundrel, whoever he is, will have the common decency to come to me 20 years or so from now and say, "Thanks, dad."

Whatever the facts of this great mystery, the U. S. Departments of State and Justice say there are no outstanding charges against the Fields.

U. S. Minister Christian Ravdall, in Hungary, has given an impression of indifference whether the freed Noel and Herta Field return to the United States or not.

U. S. passports issued to the Fields have, of course, expired. New passports could be issued by any U. S. consulate on their application.

THEY COULD OF COURSE, be brought back, in custody, if there were any charges outstanding against them. The statute of limitations would have run out on most matters. But on espionage cases, there is no time limit. Any number of such cases might be reopened if the Fields choose to tell all they know.

The State Department says it is ready to admit the Fields if they want to return to the United States.

It would be interesting if the socialists in Britain would adopt a platform promising flatly that if returned to power they would do away with all this bad weather and see to it that in the future there would be always just the right amount of sun and the right amount of rain and never a surplus of either.

They couldn't DELIVER IT, of course, even if they PROMISED it, and they know it. So they aren't going to tackle it. But at least it would be an interesting illustration of the fundamental fact that promise - everything politicians CAN'T DO EVERYTHING.

When you come right down to it, a politician or a political party can no more deliver SOMETHING FOR NOTHING to all his constituents than he can deliver weather that is perfect for everybody.

Unfortunately for us, we keep hoping the politicians CAN do it.

SHUCKS! Let's get our hands out of the rosy clouds and get down to facts. Here is an interesting fact reported by the teletype:

Lumber is no longer the KEY industry in the Portland area. An industrial survey shows that the metals industry is now the top employer in Oregon's one BIG city, Stanford Research Institute reports that of some 594 new manufacturing firms launched in Portland since 1947, 123 were in the metals industry. Following the metals industry in importance are machinery plants. Finished lumber products and furniture hold down third place in the picture.

Lumber has been a declining factor in Portland area business in recent years as nearby timber supplies dwindled. Two big Portland lumber mills shut down this past year.

Scary? Not at all. As rough lumber has declined in importance in the Portland area it has been REPLACED by other industry—and Portland is now more prosperous than ever.

What of lumber in the rest of Oregon—which is now the nation's top lumber state?

The rest of Oregon must begin to think in terms of FIBER and the multitudinous things that can be made of it, rather than in terms of rough boards.

A decade and a half ago the state of Washington yielded first place in rough lumber production to the state of Oregon.

Washington, thinking in terms of fiber and not of rough boards, IS NOW FAR MORE SOLIDLY PROSPEROUS THAN OREGON.

OREGON CITY (AP) — A circuit court has upheld a State Board of Agriculture ruling against Elmer Deetz, the Canby farmer who led the successful referendum attack on the state milk control law.

Deetz appealed the board's denial of a grade A license. The denial was on the ground that his dairy did not meet certain sanitation specifications. Circuit Judge P. K. Hammond upheld the board's

Assistant Veterinarian To Study Sheep Disease Appointment of an assistant state veterinarian on sheep disease work in Oregon has been announced.

Dr. Gus Cholas was selected by the Oregon State Department of Agriculture. He recently joined the department. Announcement of the filling of the position was made by Dr. K. J. Peterson, state veterinarian with the department.

Dr. Cholas came to Oregon from Western Colorado where he had been in private practice. Earlier he had practiced in Nebraska. He is a graduate of the Colorado A&M veterinary school.

Circuit Court Upholds Ruling Against Deetz

OREGON CITY (AP) — A circuit court has upheld a State Board of Agriculture ruling against Elmer Deetz, the Canby farmer who led the successful referendum attack on the state milk control law.

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Highway Building Program Cut Back To 24 Billion

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Gen. Lucius D. Clay said Tuesday a federal program for a national highways system has been cut from a proposed 50 billion dollars to an estimated 24 billion dollars, which would be financed by revenue bonds over a 30 year period.

Clay, chairman of the President's advisory committee on a national highway program, told the American Municipal Assn. Tuesday two substantial changes from the original proposal to the conference of governors at Bolton's Landing, N. Y., last July had been made.

The first was the cut in the cost of the program, Clay said the 50 billion dollar figure "desirable but not entirely practical."

The second was in the method of financing—from "a pay as you go basis to a pay as you use basis."

The new thinking, Clay said, is that a separate commission would be set up to issue revenue bonds under its own name. These would be secured by revenues from the federal tax on gasoline and other petroleum products.

Clay said this tax brings in a billion dollars a year and the federal government under the proposed program would allocate 350 million dollars a year to the state for construction of primary and secondary roads. He said the remainder of the funds, which he anticipates will increase over the years because of heavier gas and petroleum consumption, would support the revenue bond issue over a 30-year period, figured on a 3 per cent interest rate.

This represents a much more workable program than any proposed "pay-as-you-go" policy which would be based on current revenues," Clay added.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Message By
Roseburg Ministerial Assn.

Today's Text

Psalm 51

In the interest of focusing the attention of the people of Douglas County on certain select passages of scripture from now until Christmas, the Roseburg Ministerial Association presents a series of brief devotional messages highlighting the daily scriptural passages. These scripture portions have been chosen for world-wide reading during the pre-Christmas period by the American Bible Society. Today's message, based on Psalm 51, is presented by the Rev. Kenneth D. Dooley, pastor of the North Roseburg Church, president of the Ministerial Association.

Most people know something about the great sin of David's life having heard of David and Bathsheba, but probably a fewer number are familiar with the picture of David with broken heart and humbled spirit confessing his sin and imploring a God of mercy for forgiveness. This is the theme of Psalm 51. The writer of most of the Psalms, records here his own earnest prayer of penitence.

The heart broken appeal of this passage rings a familiar note. Herein is reflected the desperate need of many today. Yet there is hope! The God to whom David addresses his prayer is a God of loving kindness and tender mercy. A broken and a contrite heart, He will not despise.

As we look forward during this season to another commemoration of the birth of the Christ who came to be the supreme demonstration of God's love and concern for men, we are reminded of the angel's declaration to Joseph, "thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

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