

# The News-Review

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CHARLES V. STANTON, Editor and Manager  
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## STATE TAX PROBLEMS

Oregon Statesman, Salem

Hindsight is always so much clearer than foresight. When the 1955 Legislative Assembly was sitting, one of its most difficult problems was balancing the budget for the next biennium. Income tax receipts had been declining; the old war and postwar surplus was wearing thin. Projection had to be made for two years ahead both for expenditures and on revenues. Since our state tax structure is geared so close to current business levels it will reflect tremors in employment (payrolls) and in business (profits). For weeks, tax committees wrestled with the problem of providing enough revenues. Various schemes were offered. The old sales tax idea was brought out again, and as usual, kicked around. Based on estimates of revenues offered by the state tax commission, which must be conservative on the side of financial safety, the assembly finally voted a 45 per cent surtax and cigaret tax. Again, as usual, the cigaret tax was suspended by a referendum.

When tax-paying time rolled round and the 45 per cent surtax bite took effect, complaints were many and loud. Democrats who had been members of the legislature were quick to capitalize on the complaining, though they had been most adamant against a sales tax and had insisted on adding the burden to income taxpayers. When, a few days ago, it was revealed that revenue receipts are running higher than was anticipated and the carryover from last biennium exceeded estimates, Democratic hindsight was given full play. "See how the wicked Republicans struck the poor taxpayers" was the lament.

### Big Surplus Estimated

The recent report is that the state's surplus will be around \$21 million at the end of the biennium, perhaps more. The tax commission is being razed for being poor estimators. Closer guessing would have permitted a reduction in the surtax. But let us take a look at history, using our hindsight for the whole post-war period. We find that for nearly every one of the postwar years, fund balances available for state use exceeded the \$21 million now estimated. They were hailed as a boon, giving the state a comfortable cushion for the next year or next biennium.

Fund designations vary somewhat during the period. But lumping together the residues in the general fund miscellaneous receipts and the property tax reduction account (income tax surplus), and the corporation excise tax account (surplus) and the item of "governor's recommendation" (levied but not spent) in several years — in other words the sums available for legislative appropriations — we find these surpluses as of June 30 in each of the years names:

1945	\$17,846,462
1946	15,990,461
1947	22,838,655
1948	31,449,927
1949	54,028,626
1950	47,275,023
1951	41,454,674
1952	44,006,503
1953	44,357,622
1954	30,549,158
1955	12,662,124

Odd-numbered years are the ends of the biennium.

### Surpluses Aid Emergencies

It has been these comfortable surpluses which have enabled the state to get along through the postwar period, adding more services, erecting more buildings, paying higher salaries — and doing all this without levying a sales tax. It was not until the surplus dwindled to \$12 million in 1955 that a real scramble was necessary to supplement revenue sources. We greatly prefer carrying a surplus than, like Washington, to be carrying a deficit of more than twice that, which our sister state has done since an ill-advised, expensive pension plan was voted by the people.

Oregon puts too much dependence on its property tax for local purposes and its income — corporation tax for state purposes. As a result, the tax structure is somewhat distorted, especially since the 45 per cent surtax was applied. An interim committee created by the last legislature is making a study of our tax system and will present recommendations to the legislature in 1957. Meantime, voters ought to approve the pending amendment giving more power to the legislature in tax matters.

## Bruce Biassat

The dismay being voiced in some quarters over postponement of Prime Minister Nehru's visit to America could be premature, if not wholly unwarranted. Nehru wants to talk intimately and at length with President Eisenhower. He believes the President is thoroughly dedicated to peace, and wishes to link himself with this effort as it applies to Asia. No doubt, too, some progress might be made by the two men in narrowing the gap which exists between America and India. The differences are of many kinds, but some of those relating to issues in the Far East — like Red China's ambitions toward Formosa — might be reduced in frank personal talks. But the fact that the conversations will now be delayed is hardly ruinous to Nehru's purpose, or to Eisenhower's in inviting the Indian leader. The clear intent is to arrange the meeting at some future date. It was Nehru's own thought that postponement was advisable in the light of the President's health.

It would be different if some emergency confronted Asia today, but it does not. Red China is not making important new threats against Formosa or even the coastal islands of Matsui and Quemoy. Though true relations in Korea are not good, evidence of plans for a new Red attack southward does not exist. In INDOCHINA, President Dien appears to have consolidated his position steadily in the free areas. Despite the fact he is ignoring truce terms which originally called for all-Indochina elections this summer, no sign has developed of a fresh menace from the Communist North.

Through all these territories, through all South Asia, the struggle between East and West goes on, as does the Asian's fight for a better way of life. In these contexts we have been playing and must continue to play an important part. We must be willing to help peoples to find independence and strength, without dictating to them the terms on which they must live. We must fight communism by making Asiatic nations strong enough to push it aside for themselves. HOW THESE GOALS are to be won is indeed a fitting subject for close discussion between Eisenhower and Nehru. But the loss to be suffered through delay cannot be called critical or even decisive, either for Asia as a whole or for Indian-American relations in particular. We are not in a situation where every day that passes without these talks increases the peril for peace in Asia. We are so placed that it would be highly desirable to reinstate this meeting at the earliest moment suitable to both the President and Nehru. Presumably that is the intent of both principals. It seems almost to paint the present postponement as some kind of a calamity for world peace. July is not the only month out of 12 when Nehru will be able to fly to Washington. That's modern politics.

## Can't Say Much for His Form



Hal Boyle

LITIT, Pa. (AP) — The discovery of gold in California made some men millionaires. Under a simple marble slab here lies a famous man it ruined.

He was John Augustus Sutter, who once ruled a Western empire and was buried broken in spirit and pocketbook. Sutter, one of the greatest adventurers in the settlement of the West, lived grandly and died meanly.

The story of his success and downfall is one of the more fabulous epics of 19th century America.

In 1834 Sutter failed as a small businessman in Switzerland, largely because of his personal extravagance. To escape a debtor's prison he fled the country, leaving his wife and five small children behind.

Migrating to Westport, now Kansas City, Mo., he paired himself off as a former captain in the Swiss guards, and started another store. His taste for high living soon caught up with him. Facing another bankruptcy, he hitch-hiked to California.

Although he sprang from a peasant ancestry, Sutter had the airs of a court gentleman. He was gay, persuasive, inventive and charming.

His fictional tales of his past military exploits soon won him a grant of 49,000 acres of land from the Mexican governor at Monterey, on condition he fortify it and become a Mexican citizen.

In 1834 Sutter founded a community called New Switzerland on the present site of Sacramento. Other settlers had trouble with the fierce Indians. Not Sutter. A real wheeler and dealer, he made peace with them, soon had the warriors working in his fields.

In the next few years he doubled his holdings. His hospitality and benevolence were legendary. No stranger was turned away from his door. He often entertained as many as 200 at a meal.

"Almost every one of the many hundreds of immigrants to California before the gold rush," a historian wrote, "spent some time at Sutter's settlement, and the testimonies of his benevolence towards these pitiful wanderers are overwhelming."

Other historians also credit Sutter's liking for Americans with averting bloodshed in the entrance of California into the union.

Although he was deeply in debt, he was reckoned an immensely wealthy man when the greatest disaster of his life happened. While digging a new mill race his workmen discovered gold. His attempts to keep the new secret were futile.

The gold rush was on. Squatters overran his property. "My best days were just before the discovery of gold," Sutter mourned later. "Without the discovery, I would now be the richest man on the shores of the Pacific."

The U. S. Supreme Court held his title to 98,000 acres of land invalid. A great dreamer but a poor administrator, Sutter soon also lost the rest of his lands.

For some years California paid him a \$250 a month pension. But Sutter settled in this Pennsylvania Dutch community in 1871 and made periodic trips to Washington, D.C., in fruitless attempts to get Congress to pay him damages.

The handsome old man, a striking figure who wore mustaches and a white goatee, became almost a recluse in his last days. After Congress adjourned in 1880 without acting on his plea, Sutter died the next day, broken hearted. He and his wife are buried together in a small plot in the Moravian cemetery. His former home here is now a hardware store.

Periodic attempts by California to have his body returned there have always failed. A bill to allot \$50,000 to his descendants is now before Congress. But Sutter's case has been before the American Congress off and on ever since 1866 without any tangible results.

It was Sutter's fate that, once gold ruined him, money eluded him ever after.

### Drinking Drivers Cause 25 Deaths In Oregon

SALEM — Drinking drivers and pedestrians were involved in more than 47 per cent of the state's 125 fatal accidents during the first five months of 1956, state traffic safety officials reported Friday.

Combination of the drinking driver with excessive speed and some other basic driving error resulted in 25 deaths and 27 injuries during the period. Many borderline cases were also reported where drinking was suspected to be a factor, according to Capt. Walter Lansing, director of the Motor Vehicle Department's safety office.

### INVITES BIDS

PORTLAND — Bids were invited Friday by Army Engineers for repair of the north jets at the entrance to the Coquille River. The bids will be opened July 27.

## Services Told To Quit Squabble Over Defenses

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Appropriations Committee told the Defense Department today to quit intraservice "squabbling" over air defenses, commenting that "the taxpayer will be the principal loser in such a quarrel."

It directed the department to take "immediate steps" to have a committee of qualified independent experts evaluate the merits and potentialities of the Talos and Nike missiles as air defense weapons.

The Air Force has adopted a Navy-developed guided missile known as Talos; the Army calls its guided weapon Nike.

The committee's impatience over what it called duplication of effort and money in building guided missile installations was expressed in a report recommending \$1,555,535,425 in new appropriations for miscellaneous government agencies, the major bulk of it for military construction programs.

The committee also expressed dissatisfaction over the Defense Department's handling of the Distant Early Warning Line program.

In January of this year, it said, the Navy Department ordered a change in the program involving relocations. There were delays in seeking contracts, the committee said, and the Navy finally decided to use cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts.

Congress, it said, long has "decried the use" of this type of contract.

## Twining Reports U. S. Still Ahead Of Soviet Russia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Capitol Hill Democrats Friday held out for additional information before accepting the estimate of Gen. Nathan F. Twining that this country is ahead now and can stay ahead of Soviet Russia in the quality of its airpower.

Twining, the Air Force chief of staff, reported to President Eisenhower at Gettysburg, Pa., Thursday on his eight-day visit to Russia and then told newsmen "there is no question about" superior quality of U.S. airpower.

He attached carefully worded time qualifications on his appraisal, however. He said the United States has a "better Air Force" now, "should be able to remain ahead in the 'next few years'" and that the administration's military aviation programs are satisfactory "at this time."

Twining said also that Russia might surpass the United States by 1960 if this country "does not keep moving."

Gen. Twining's report sounds encouraging, said Sen. Saltonstall (R-Mass.), senior minority member of a five-man Senate subcommittee trying to judge the relative air strength of this country and the Soviets.

But Sen. Jackson (D-Wash) who has maintained that the administration is proceeding too slowly to build up long-range striking power, said he has some pointed questions to ask when Twining appears again before the airpower subcommittee.

## British Commonwealth Ministers End Session

LONDON (AP) — The conference of British Commonwealth prime ministers wound up Friday with a "peace and prosperity" program pegged on their determination to seek world disarmament and foster aid to the poorer nations of the world.

The premiers welcomed the new look in Soviet foreign relations and said a "progressive improvement" in relations between Russia and the West "would help to remove the fear of war and serve the interests of world peace."

In a final communique on their 10-day meeting in London, the nine prime ministers said the policies of all their nations will be devoted to preserving world peace.

## Reader Opinions

### Woman Reader Calls Fluoride Poisonous

ROSEBURG — May I commend Mrs. Paul B. Hult and Sally Lane for their fine letters, published recently in The News-Review? Their admonitions bring to mind the words "Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy." from Matthew 5:7. Also from Leviticus 24: 18 and 21, we have further advice. Just as "virtue brings its own reward," so does "man's inhumanity to man," bring its own returns.

Using a portion of Mrs. Hult's words, it is not only "the whole dog problem" in Douglas County that needs efficient, sensible and humane handling. We would do well to look to the question of fluoridating Roseburg's water supply, with a similar degree of concern and feeling for others.

Fluoride is a poison. Refer to your dictionary for the words, fluoride and hydrofluoric acid. People who are not in good health are so because their bodies are incapable of freeing themselves of poisons. These toxic condition often have come over a period of years. By trial and error, and usually the expenditure of hundreds of dollars, some people learn how to live so as not to be ailing citizens. President Eisenhower is beginning his "work and get well program" this week. It is to be hoped that he will be given every help, and the right to live as free from poisons as possible. In the words of Leviticus 25: 10, and those on our Liberty Bell, God needs to "proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

For those to whom radiant health comes and stays, there likewise has been observance of several prerequisites. "Health is a precious gift, received as a reward for effort." Hosea, in chapter 4, verse 6, says: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Complete knowledge is necessary. The following things, like a light in a dark room, prove invaluable, when used.

Generous usage of cold, pure water. A wholesome, balanced diet. Possible, proper usage of yeast, salt and oil, and daily calisthenics.

Adequate rest. Clean habits. Fresh air. Mental and emotional processes inclined toward faith, happiness and integrity.

When a small vote was cast in favor of fluoridation, we were advised in advance that election returns would not be binding. Many people have little information, with which to guide their opinions. Our doctors, to whom we go after illness strikes; have made their wishes known. Ought we not have the wisdom to keep Roseburg's water supply as pure as possible, even if only for the sake of our babies, small children, the elderly and the sick? With this list I should include all who have allergies. We are not any of us so healthy but what we could be better. Improved health will not come by using generously watered down another poison to our bodies. There are those people for whom even distilled water is recommended, but water containing minerals is best for most people.

I wish to thank councilmen James Knudtson, Ken Ellison, George Luoma, Rudie Ritzman and William Adair for those opinions, as expressed at the City Council meeting on June 25. It would be pleasing to see a unanimous vote rejecting fluoride at a future meeting. Some people have the degree of health that permits their rejecting poisons after consumption; others do not. We have seen the truth of this with regard to using coffee.

I wish to thank all who have helped me acquire these facts. Quoting Edwin Markham: "We all are blind until we see that in the human plan it does not make the man. Why build these cities glorious if man unbuilds good? In vain we build the world unless the builder also grows."

Mrs. J. Gillis Carlson  
Roseburg

### Church Related Colleges Acquire Some New Allies

NEW YORK (AP) — Church related colleges, which often have had a tough time keeping their doors open, Friday got some new allies.

A group of church going business and educators and other professional leaders announced they are launching a program to pump more life—and money—into church-linked colleges.

They formed a new "National Committee of Churchmen for Church Colleges," with Milburn P. Akers, executive editor of the Chicago Sun-Times, as national chairman.

Twenty-five leading churchmen, including industrial, educational, labor and other leaders, are founding members of the new committee.

### Canada Gives Up Idea Of Columbia Diversion

VANCOUVER, B.C. (AP) — The Vancouver Herald says the British Columbia proposal to divert the upper Columbia River into the Fraser for a giant hydroelectric system in the province has been abandoned.

The newspaper reports that Premier Bennett has expressed opposition to the long-discussed plan.

The plan was advanced after United States-Canadian differences arose over what benefits Canadians should receive for dams north of the border which, because of their water storage, would increase power production at American dams downstream. The Herald also reported the proposed Mica Creek Dam on the upper Columbia may ensure success of an aluminum industry in the Kootenays.

### Roseburg Reader Says Dog Investigation Due

ROSEBURG — If, as Judge Hill stated in the paper, that he has received several complaints on the ceived several complaints on the inhuman way animals are being murdered and if Mrs. Hult is brave enough to make an issue of this terrible thing, I think the public should stand behind her and find out the truth. For the sake of the animals as well as the accused persons. And if this way is used to destroy these animals, it is murder. Isn't it enough that these helpless animals have been abused, kicked around, hungry and unwanted without making their last few moments on earth an agony? And if these charges are true, there isn't enough words to express my contempt and loathing.

Why, if Judge Hill appoints the members, does he not have jurisdiction over them? If not he, who does?

If there is no dog pound, what is the "Dog Pound" sign doing on Jackson St. in large letters.

We pay for our dog license which I assume in turn pays the dog catcher's salary. So if they destroy these dogs without giving us a chance to claim them, then they are destroying public property. Isn't that against the law?

If these charges are true, how many people are wondering if their lost or strayed pets have found their way into this chamber of horrors?

I realize there must be some sort of control. But not this way. So, I for one, vote for a complete investigation of these charges. To either clear or condemn the persons charged. I think every one would feel better.

M. Kent  
Roseburg  
(Editor's Note: The dog pound Mr. Kent cites is the Roseburg city pound. It is not under the jurisdiction of the county. The county has no pound.)

### Encampment Secretaries Laud Roseburg Courtesy

ROSEBURG — The Veterans of Foreign Wars Encampment Committee wishes to thank the merchants and the City of Roseburg as a whole, for the wonderful courtesy and hospitality rendered during our encampment in Roseburg, the department offers payments to Walter Callahan, Encampment Secretary, Roseburg.

### Soil Bank Pay 60 Per Cent Of Support Prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department announced Friday that soil bank payments for reducing acreage of 1957-crop wheat will be 60 per cent of the price support rate for the crop.

The support rate will average \$2 a bushel nationally if growers approve rigid marketing quotas at a referendum to be held July 20.

Should quotas be rejected, the rate would average about \$1.21. Quotas would limit plantings to 55 million acres, but the soil bank program would be designed to reduce them still further.

Thus the soil bank rates would average \$1.20 a bushel should quotas be approved but only about 73 cents should they be rejected. The rates this year averaged \$1.20.

Under the soil bank program recently authorized by Congress, the department offers payments totaling up to \$1,200,000 a year to farmers for planting less than their acreage allotments of such surplus crops as cotton, wheat, corn, rice, tobacco and peanuts.

Rates for the other 1957 crops will be announced later.

The total amount of the payment to a farmer would be determined by multiplying the soil bank rate by the acreage yield figure set for his county.

The actual rate for wheat will be 60 per cent of the price support rate for the crop in the county where land is placed under the soil bank. Support rates vary by areas in relation to their nearness to central markets.

The department said it announced the wheat rate at this time in order to give farmers ample time to plan their operations.

### Oregon Had More Jobs, Jobseekers During June

SALEM (AP) — Oregon had more jobs and more jobseekers during June, reports from 26 local offices of State Unemployment Compensation Commission showed Friday.

Farm work and food processing provided jobs for thousands of workers during the month, but housewives, students and migrants entered the labor market to hold the jobseeker total about even.

Just over 18,000 persons were looking for work on July 1 compared with 22,400 a year ago. Most of the improvement was reported in the Portland metropolitan area, although gains were shown also at Klamath Falls, Medford and Eugene. Coastal points were down from last year, as were unemployment also declined in June. Payments to qualified claimants were \$50,478 compared with \$1,102,643 in May and \$790,199 for June 1955.

### OVERDOES INTENT

SALEM — When a bypass was completed around Salem it was expected motorists would go to the city in a hurry—but not this fast.

Bandon driver Glenn Herbert Brown was scheduled to appear in Jefferson justice court July 13 to face a reckless driving charge after State Patrolman Arthur L. Jinks said he was driving 110 miles an hour on the route.

## House Proposes Higher Military Projects Program

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Appropriations Committee Friday recommended a supplemental appropriation of \$1,398,450,000 for military construction projects in the year which began last Sunday.

The amount is 357 million dollars above the budget requests.

The recommended appropriation includes \$1,228,000,000 for the Air Force and \$165,000,000 for the Navy. Additionally, the committee proposed that the Navy get 235 million dollars and the Army 193 million dollars in transfers from previously appropriated funds.

The Coast Guard is allocated \$5,450,000 for Loran stations. Sums listed for the Pacific Northwest construction projects in the supplemental bill were:

ARMY  
Unatilla, Ore., Ordnance Depot, \$258,000; Ft. Lewis, \$3,357,000 for field forces facilities.

NAVY  
Seattle Supply Depot, \$199,000; Bangor, Wash., Ordnance Depot facilities, \$1,100,000; Seattle Naval Communication Station facilities, \$45,000.

AIR FORCE  
Air Defense Command—Geiger Base, Spokane, \$3,966,000; Greater Portland area, St. Paul, Ore., \$2,400,000; Klamath Falls Airport, \$1,025,000; McChord Base, Tacoma, \$762,000; Paine Base, Everett, \$1,887,000.

Air Materiel Command—Deep Creek, Spokane, \$96,000; Mukilteo, Wash., fuel storage station, \$4,000; Tacoma fuel storage, \$129,000.

Air Research and Development Command—National Reactor Test Station, Idaho Falls, \$11,415,000. Continental Air Command, Reserve—Paine Base, \$30,000. Strategic Air Command bases—Fairchild, Spokane, \$1,909,000; Mountain Home, Idaho, \$1,162,000. Tactical Air Command bases—Larson, Moses Lake, Wash., \$2,863,000.

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