

The News-Review

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NEW SALES TAX PROPOSAL

By Charles V. Stanton

A proposal recently offered by State Senator Walter Pearson, former state treasurer, that an educational sales tax be considered in Oregon has caused widespread speculation. The proposal received particular attention in editorial comment because Sen. Pearson is a Democrat, a recognized leader in the Democratic party in Oregon, while the party and its leaders have in the past vigorously opposed any form of the sales tax.

A spokesman for organized labor immediately voiced opposition to Pearson's proposal, but Democratic leaders and editors with Democratic leanings have been noticeably noncommittal.

Pearson voiced his proposal at a meeting of the legislative tax interim committee of which he is a member. He suggested first his "consolidated" income tax program, which he has advocated for a number of years—a system in which everyone having an income would pay some tax, although the amount might be very small in the case of low incomes. The levy would be on gross income, income without exemptions. Rates would be graduated. Everyone with income would pay something.

School Tax Offered

If the consolidated income tax system is objectionable, Pearson said, it might be well to consider an "educational tax," a sales tax for school purposes only, with compensating offset for income and property taxes.

This proposal, coming from a person high in the ranks of the Democratic party, traditionally opposed to the sales tax, proved to be a shocker.

At Coos Bay, *The World*, formerly the *Coos Bay Times*, which editorially endorses the program of the Democratic Party, said that Pearson is not likely to have made his proposal "without long consideration of the consequences and without some consultation with other Democratic leaders in both the legislative and executive departments." There is speculation, inevitably, whether Democratic leaders are accepting the inevitability of a sales tax to meet Oregon's revenue needs.

It was not surprising to have a representative of organized labor speak in opposition. Organized labor has been a consistent opponent of a sales tax. Once committed to a policy, labor leadership doesn't change easily. But it is quite evident, I believe, that the rank and file of labor is moving rapidly away from the prejudiced attitude held for so long.

A significant statement appeared in an advertisement in this newspaper recently. The advertisement was by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and told of the activities of one of its employees, a man and his family teaching folk dancing to the people of his community.

The advertisement described this man as being "typical of today's forest industry people." It continued, "most are permanent homeowners and taxpayers who make valuable social and economic contributions to this area."

Conditions Changing

That statement points up, I believe, the changing condition causing a great many laboring people to alter their opinions about the sales tax.

Labor's opposition came about originally because a large majority of the membership was transient. In the early days of the lumber industry the policy was cut and get out. But that has changed. The industry now is permanent. Another thing was that in earlier days the working man's economic position was such that he didn't own anything of great value. Today he is apt to have a good home, car, and in more cases than not, some stocks, bonds and insurance. Taxes are taking a heavy slice of his income. He knows in a general way that a lot of taxable wealth in Oregon is escaping taxation, and that, if taxes could be equalized, he would pay only his share. That point is brought out by *Oregon Voter* which reports that:

Taxes in Oregon are paid on less than half (\$1,244,000,000) of the reportable income of \$2,700,000,000. Of total reportable income 18.3 per cent is free of taxes because of personal exemptions; 10.9 per cent because of dependency credits. Federal income tax offset frees 12 per cent; standard offset 2.4 per cent and miscellaneous deductions about 6.6 per cent. In other words, 49.8 per cent of reportable income pays all the income taxes and 50.2 per cent of reportable income pays nothing.

Our farm population also was strongly opposed to a sales tax, and formed a political alliance with organized labor to fight that form of taxation. But in late years this solid prejudice has shown signs of cracking up as numerous grange organizations have passed resolutions favoring the sales tax. As the burden of property taxes becomes higher, and as agricultural incomes go up, the farmer finds that organizational prejudice is proving personally expensive.

It is too early to tell what will come of Sen. Pearson's proposals. But the conjecture is proving very interesting.

—Bruce Biossat—

When even the beginnings of freedom come to another nation on the earth, it is an event to be hailed by all who prize liberty for themselves. In that spirit, Venezuela's overthrow of the Jimenez dictatorship is warmly welcomed everywhere in the free world.

Freedom becomes more secure as it expands its borders, and suffers as they contract.

It will be no small advance if free men can now find at their side a nation so well fortified in resources and a people so full of the promise of growth and development.

LIVING ALMOST within the shadow of the United States, the Venezuelans know that the virtues of freedom are no false legend. Moreover, it is clear now that the urge to be free burned within them even while they endured the whip-lash rule of the dictator.

Their first stirrings were put down. But they refused to be denied. A fresh revolt was sparked,

and broke its bounds. To Americans, who cherish the role of the press as one prime guardian of their liberties, it must seem especially fitting that the bloody civil street fighting which led directly to Jimenez' downfall was led by a Venezuelan newspaper reporter.

AS SO OFTEN in Latin American rebellions, a military junta is temporarily in command. It has made a good start by turning loose a thousand political prisoners, decreeing amnesty for exiles, and instituting other reforms.

Venezuela's bold thrust against tyranny will not be complete, however, until there are free elections and a new government thus chosen.

This part of the story is still to be told. But the opening chapters are greatly heartening. There cannot be much doubt that the vigorous and talented people of Venezuela wish with all their hearts to become enduring members of the family of free nations.

"Is It Contagious, Amigo?"



—Hal Boyle—

NEW YORK (AP) — Have you come down with the "winter willies?"

This is a seasonal complaint that right now numbers millions more victims than Asian flu, the rheumatic, and middle-aged athlete's foot.

It is an ailment caused by too much indoor living, too many cloudy days and too few sunny ones, too many frigid winds and too few warm ones, too many icicles on the trees and too few buds.

Man is homesick for summer, and aches for the sight of a rainbow. He is weary of snow. His spirit is as desolate as his garden. Everything is dull... duller... duller — one's job, one's mate, one's duty and, most of all, one's self.

Do you, too, suffer from cold weather boredom? Why, it is so needless. Anybody with a little gumption can make winter into one of the more rewarding periods of the year. All it takes is a little ingenuity, and bit of old hip-burrah!

Tips Offered

Here are a few tips on how to whip your "winter willies."

Learn to hibernate. If a bear and a woodchuck can chuckle away a winter in happy sleep, you can, too. Practice at the office as well as at home—the envy of your fellow workers. Don't worry about the boss. No boss has the heart to fire a man who's asleep. And when you wake up, come spring, you'll have plenty of strength to look for a new job.

Since you can't grow anything in your garden, why not grow something else? A beard, for example. No man who has both a

beard and a mirror is ever bored. Figure out new ways to save money. Instead of howling out your wife for her inability to stay within a budget, ask her, "Frankly, honey, don't you think I'd have gone further in life if I'd remained single?" Then you can turn off the furnace and cut down the heating bill. Her answer will warm up the house until the next October.

Different Kind of Party

Throw a different kind of party. Why not invite all the neighbors in for an old-fashioned popcorn ball and kitchen fudge fest? The neighbors may think you're crazy. But after they eat your popcorn fudge they won't. They'll be too sick at the stomach to think at all.

Change the world. Winter is the best time to write long indignant letters to your congressman about the global mess he is creating at the taxpayer's expense. This will transfer your boredom to him, but that's all right. He'll find a way to pass it on to someone else.

If, after conscientiously trying all these treatments, you are still swept by winter ennui and lassitude, there is only one thing left to do—catch a cold and then attempt to borrow money from your friends.

It is impossible to be bored if you are trying to sneeze and at the same time listen to a pal explain why he can't lend you \$500.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued from Page 1)

the current wave of juvenile delinquency.

One expert says commuting fathers (who live in the country and work in the Big Town) should spend more time at home.

Another expert advises "psychodrama" in which delinquents act out their "aggressions" for psychologists to analyze.

Others say TEAR DOWN THE SLUMS.

Timely question: Has anybody given any thought

Vets', Widows' Tax Exemptions Deadline Slated

Disabled war veterans and widows of veterans must apply for their state property tax exemptions by April 1, Vere A. McCarty, service division manager for the Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, said today.

Application for the tax exemption, which amounts to \$7,500 of the true cash value of the property, must be filed with the county assessor on or before April 1 of each year, McCarty said. Those entitled include:

1. War veterans with disabilities of 40 per cent or more as certified by the Veterans Administration or the Armed Forces, regardless of the amount of their income.

to a few old-fashioned sessions in the wood shed?

I reckon not.

That's too practical for this modern age.

Walter Reuther tells a congressional committee in Washington that today's wage levels have nothing to do with inflation—that the economy is in trouble only because purchasing power hasn't kept up with increased ability to produce. His idea is that all we need to do to keep prosperity rolling in high gear is to raise wages and cut prices.

Cynical thought:

I wonder if he ever tried to run a hamburger stand and make a living at it.

Let's close on a note of common sense.

Education Secretary Marion Folsom says the United States is at a serious disadvantage because practically all its citizens speak only English. He adds that Americans are weaker in the foreign language field than any other major people in the world.

What he means is this: How are we going to run the world if we can't tell the people in foreign countries how we want to run it?

Egypt, Syria Merger May Become Reality

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Informal sources said this week the coming proclamation of "The United Arab State" of Egypt and Syria would be followed immediately by a transitional regime to conduct the actual merging of the two countries.

The two powers already have approved the final merger plan. The Syrian Cabinet gave final approval Tuesday.

There is general conviction here the proclamation will be issued in Cairo over the weekend.

Syrian President Shukri Kuwailah is expected to fly to Cairo for the event with a huge entourage, including Parliament Speaker Akram Hourani, Premier Sabri Assali, Cabinet ministers and Parliament members.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

WHY FRIEND WON'T VOTE

Salem Capital Journal

A friend of ours, fed up with seeing pictures of governors giving official blessings to Tomato Juice Week Queens and proclaiming a day for crab grass growers or still manufacturers, says that this spring he'll vote for any candidate who'll promise to proclaim and bless nothing.

We're sure he can just skip the polls, because this is one of those pesky duties no governor can shirk.

The first reason is that it's more trouble to argue about them than it is to write the appropriate name into a standard form and pause momentarily for a picture with Miss Swine Grower.

Second, the wrath of an organization scorned by a governor is something to behold, and third, it gets his name and face into a few publications—something to consider on even-numbered years.

This is a task governors turn over to their assistants. And assistants, when they're new, usually try to fight it, trimming down the number to nil. They're soon bruised, battered and spending all their time answering phone calls from irate executive secretaries.

The result is that things by mid-term usually simmer down to 50 to 75 proclamations a year. Another 200 or more requests are made, but they're weeded out because they're from national, not state organizations, or for some other reason.

We'd be inclined to vote for a candidate who promises not to make speeches, but that's too much to ask, too. Governors have scurried around making speeches while their assistants do the work since Charlemagne invented politics. Governor Holmes gets 150 or so invitations a month and accepts perhaps forty. He has nine scheduled this week, for instance, and that is normal for him and his predecessors.

Looking at it cynically, maybe it is a good idea to vote for the man of eloquence, the indefatigable proclaimer, and the smiling blesser. That's how our "chief executives" spend much of their time because that's the way the vocal voters want it.

FREIGHT RATE HASSLE

Oregon Statesman

Governor Holmes protests to the Interstate Commerce Commission the rate schedules filed by western railroads. He notes they call for increases of 10 per cent on log hauling and two per cent on lumber and lumber products. No increases are proposed on rates on railroads serving the South. This will work to the competitive disadvantage of western forest products industries.

The reason for the discrimination lies in this fact: The Interstate Commerce Commission, when it granted a limited percentage increase last fall, told the carriers not to come back with blanket increase requests, but to be selective. Under that instruction the carriers individually or by groups prepared selective increases which they have submitted to the commission. The Southern railroad, however, has dragged its feet on rate increases, refusing to put into effect all those authorized last year. Its management explained that it feared the increases would drive more freight business to competing trucks and barges. Apparently Southern has declined to ask for rate boosts on logs and lumber, while the western roads have. Whether the ICC will try to even up the charges we cannot say. The western roads, however, may find if the increases are granted that their loss of patronage, especially the long-haul on lumber, will cancel out any advantage from the higher rates. Then they may start to chisel on their own rate structure.

ASKS FOR COMPACT

SALEM (AP) — Gov. Robert D. Holmes said this week he would ask the Western Governors Conference to form a compact to fight rates which discriminate against the West.

Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Dieffenbacher, D.D.

(Written for NEA Service)

Loudspeakers are used all over America to make sounds heard above the hubbub of normal talk. Music comes forth from these instruments here and there to furnish a calming background for a physical or mental activity.

Many of these sound amplifiers are used to make announcements which need to be heard over wide areas. Some are used to balance the sound of the voice through a large auditorium so the speaker is not required to strain his voice. We have learned to listen casually to these canned voices without being disturbed, yet gaining benefit from them.

God's message is everywhere. Why cannot we learn to listen to it all the time with the same acceptance which we give to the electronically broadcast voice? God can be heard effectively at all hours of the day and in every location if we only listen. We must not turn deaf ears to His guidance and His love.

MUST PAY LICENSES

SALEM (AP) — Professional engineers have to pay license fees imposed by cities and counties. Atty. Gen. Robert V. Thornton ruled this week.

The state Board of Engineering Examiners asked for the opinion after Thornton ruled that real estate brokers and salesmen didn't have to pay local fees.

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