

# The News-Review

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

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### SUITABLE SALES TAX

By Charles V. Stanton

Sales tax proposals are being bootled around by the Legislature. Aroused are arguments used in the past to bring about unfavorable votes at elections where the sales tax was an issue.

In my opinion the Legislature is either failing or refusing to submit the kind of sales tax proposal the public would approve and, at the same time, I question that leaders of organized labor are doing a good turn toward the workingman and toward the people of the lower income group when they sound off as spokesmen against the sales tax.

It is true that organized labor and the farm vote, in combination, have been responsible in former years for defeat of the sales tax measure. However, I question that the vote of either group was for the public benefit, or for the individuals influenced into opposition.

But, first, let's consider the existing legislative proposal to vote a sales tax for the purpose of financing more money for schools.

#### Tax Increase Disliked

It is my opinion that this same basis for a sales tax has been in large measure responsible for past defeats. The Legislature persistently submits a sales tax as a means of raising MORE money. Never, so long as I can remember, has a sales tax been submitted to the people of Oregon as a part of a tax readjustment in which the total would remain unchanged.

Always the taxpayer is asked to dig up more tax money. The Legislature holds out various sops, such as welfare, pensions, school benefits, etc., but in each case the proposed tax is an added tax, just as Sen. Pearson now proposes a sales tax to boost school support. A sales tax, in my opinion, should be for general purposes and not for a particular project.

If the Legislature would submit a sales tax as an OFFSET tax, keeping the total virtually unchanged, and would give the state's taxpayers a whole tax package, one in which everyone would pay something in the form of taxes, and in which the tax load was spread more evenly, I think the idea would get far better consideration than it has had in the past. I believe, however, that the temper of Oregon taxpayers is quite evident—they don't want more taxes.

It also is my belief that the leaders of organized labor who so vigorously oppose sales taxes are doing a disservice to the men and women they represent. I recognize that there are others who hold a contrary belief and that some people won't agree with me. But still I am of the opinion that the labor leader who speaks out so emotionally against a sales tax isn't putting reason behind his emotion.

#### Workers Own Property

There was a time when workers in the lumber industry were transitory. There also was a time when the worker often was an underprivileged individual. Consequently organized labor, representing a great many transitory workers and a number of people who owned little if any property, tried to keep its people off the tax rolls. They didn't pay property tax, they paid no sales tax, and the idea was to keep income tax impositions high enough that the person in the small income group wouldn't be hurt.

But more and more we have lowered the income tax. Today's worker is a substantial citizen. Except in few instances he gets a reasonable wage, lives in a good home, has modern appliances and enjoys a good standard of living. Furthermore, the workman today is not a transient. He is more or less permanently located. He owns property. He pays both a property tax and an income tax. Both taxes are becoming prohibitory.

Volney Martin, of the Building Trades Council, is quoted as saying that the sales tax would "make the workers pay taxes that should be paid by the rich."

The "soak the rich" program long has been exploited. In my mind it is doing a vast amount of damage to the workman. The manufacturer, the retailer, the industrialist, the so-called "rich man" of the emotional theory, is able to add his taxes into the price of what he sells. Usually he adds on a percentage, or mark-up, rather than dollars and cents. Thus the cost of living goes up and the workman, instead of soaking the rich, as he is being told he is doing by his leaders, is paying the tax by hidden method in his cost of living. Not only is he paying the tax, but he is adding somewhat to the profit of the man he seeks to exploit.

### Demos Lay Spending Plans To Bolster U. S. Economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Democratic Advisory Council proposes that Democratic leaders in Congress ignore President Eisenhower's economy drive and get busy with a spending program to boost the nation's economy.

"The Democratic party does not believe in spending for its own sake but we know that a nation which is doing too little is not spending too much," the council said.

Among other things, the advisory group advocated more aid to the unemployed and more aid to housing, slum clearance, school construction and economically distressed areas.

"Once more we are witnessing callous Republican indifference to the suffering and needs of people who, through no fault of their own, are unable to obtain jobs," the council said.

The 27-member group includes former President Truman, Adlai Stevenson and Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler.

Although the council statement didn't mention names, it clearly was an appeal to the party's congressional leaders, Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson and House Speaker Sam Rayburn, both Texas Democrats, to speed action on economic aid legislation when Congress returns from its Easter recess.

Meanwhile, a private study of federal budget prospects indicated

#### Federal Surplus Food For Welfare Planned

KLAMATH FALLS (AP)—Klamath County is considering use of federal surplus food in its welfare program.

Mrs. Julia Brown, Klamath said that with welfare funds running short, the county Welfare Commission decided to seek federal aid for the first time since the depression days before World War II.

The food would go to families on the county's general assistance program, mostly to those out of work and needing temporary assistance.

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Casual note from London:

The 10-year-old Prince of Wales (who if he lives and all goes well will someday be King of England) started his spring holiday in bed at Windsor Castle this week, awaiting what doctors thought would be an official diagnosis of CHICKEN-POX.

Hmmmmmmmm.

Chickentox is no respecter of persons. Like the rain, which falls alike on the just and the unjust, it comes to the highest and it comes to the lowest. None are immune who get a germ. Treat 'em all alike is the motto of chickentox.

I sometimes wonder if that isn't the best way. When you start coddling people, whether at the top or the bottom, you're apt to be letting yourself in for trouble.

Jumping from chickentox to taxes, here are some interesting figures:

A worker who earns \$4500 a year (about \$80 a week) has to labor one working day out of three just to pay his taxes. This adds up to seven days out of every 22 working days in a month just to meet tax obligations.

The tax bite, compared with other monthly expenses of the average worker with a wife and two children, goes something like this:

Taxes — 7 days  
Food — 4 1/2 days  
Housing — 4 days  
Clothing — 2 days  
Medical — 1 day  
Recreation — 1 day.

That adds up to 19 1/2 days. The other working days of the month can be budgeted to life savings, insurance policies and such other incidentals.

Why are taxes so high?

Well, one reason is that war—past, present (cold war) and future (defense)—cost a lot of money.

Another reason is that in these modern days, government—city, county, state and national—provides a lot of SERVICES for us. These services have to be paid for out of taxes, and taxes have to come out of the pockets of the people. There isn't anywhere else for them to come from.

That brings us around to the State of Oregon, whose Legislature is struggling with high welfare costs and a welfare fund that is running into the red. On that subject, Rep. George Annala, of Hood

River, made an interesting statement the other day. "Part of the welfare trouble," he said, "lies in the fact that Oregon is near the top in the nation in all the categories of public welfare, but Oregon is NOT near the top in average income."

Sen. Neuberger says Oregon individual incomes average \$1,914, which is 16th down from the top among the states. He adds that Oregon needs more manufacturing payrolls to bring up its average individual income.

That brings us to one of the most important problems facing this session of the Oregon Legislature.

How can we keep taxes in Oregon LOW ENOUGH to provide a tax climate that will be ATTRACTIVE to the new industries that we need?

#### Hal Boyle

### Oscarless Actor's Art Valued At Half Million

NEW YORK (AP)—Oscar Homolka, who once slept on cafe table tops, now has an art collection he values at \$500,000.

One of the greatest living character actors, a veteran of more than 200 plays and 80 films, his long career lacks one final crown—the Academy Award.

In the past Homolka has been nominated for the award. But Oscar is still Oscarless. It doesn't worry him.

"Sometimes perhaps the right year and the right picture will come along," he said cheerfully. "An Oscar is a fine thing to get. Let's face it—it's very good for business."

A crowded lifetime on two continents has left Homolka philosophic about fortune, good or bad. Now starring in the Broadway drama, "Rashomon," he started acting at 18 in his native Vienna for about \$9 a month.

"After I was paid for my first engagement," he recalled, "I had to decide whether I would eat or rent a room for the night."

Lived in Coffee House  
"I decided on eating, and I slept in the coffee house on a table. I lived like that for three months."

#### James Marlow

### Philosophy Of Deterrence Told Solons By General

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe and John stand up to each other, their fists clenched, ready for a brawl. Suddenly Joe says to John: "You fool around with me and I'll knock your brains out. I can do it."

If John believes him, he'll put his fists back in his pockets, and walk away with as much dignity as he has left.

But what happens if John doesn't believe Joe? There'll be an awful mess.

Recently, the United States played Joe to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's John. American military leaders—Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy and the Joint Chiefs of Staff—said this country has enough nuclear bombs and bombers to flatten the U.S.S.R. if it starts a war.

This must have been very reassuring to Americans. The important question is: does Khrushchev believe it? That question was raised by Gen. Thomas S. Power, commander of the Strategic Air Command's bombers which would have to do the flattening.

In 50 minutes of brilliant and unbroken testimony before a House appropriations subcommittee, Power summed up the whole problem of what he called the "philosophy of deterrence."

Soviet View Important  
"What we think of ourselves," Power said, "does not really

amount to anything so far as deterrence is concerned. It is only what Mr. Khrushchev thinks of our capabilities that is important from a deterrence point of view."

"Therefore, he must be made aware of our strength."

He pointed out: The one starting the next war—since it would be terribly swift with jets and missiles—would have an advantage. The reason: the one attacked would have only a brief warning at best before it could start retaliating.

Worse still, the country attacked would probably have much of its retaliatory power destroyed in the first onslaught.

Therefore, Power is banking a lot on keeping a number of manned bombers, equipped with bombs, in the air 24 hours a day so they could strike back instantly if the Soviet Union attacked. That initial Soviet attack might destroy a lot of American planes still on the ground.

But Khrushchev—if he knew a number of American bombers were in the air and could hit back at once—would think twice before pulling a trigger.

Bombers Dangerous  
He'd know those on-the-ready American bombers could do terrible damage to the Soviet Union even if the U.S.S.R. thereafter, because of its surprise attack, were able to go on and win the war.

But would suffering that terrible damage be, for Khrushchev, worth enduring in order to win the war? Power said only Khrushchev not the United States, could know the answer to that.

To complicate things, Power said, Khrushchev's idea of how much damage the Soviet Union could suffer might vary from week to week. That brings the story back to how much Khrushchev believes about American strength and how much he believes about Soviet strength.

Power said: "I think Mr. Khrushchev's Sputniks and scientists are telling him they are away ahead. I am sure his air defense command people are telling him they are the greatest."

"If there are any signs of weakness that came out of this country, I think this could become a very dangerous combination. So there is a danger of miscalculation."

Country Powerful  
"Deterrence is meaningless unless Mr. Khrushchev is impressed with our capability."

As of now, Power said, he thinks this country has so much power that Khrushchev can make no mistake about its adequacy. The general added:

"Our real mission, you might say, is to have that Soviet planner get up from his table every morning and turn to Mr. Khrushchev and shake his head and say, 'Today is not the day, comrade.'"

Then the general threw up the booker. He told the committee this country's deterrent power—power of such obvious strength that Khrushchev would be discouraged from starting a war—is deteriorating.

The reason: bombers getting on, solidie he asked for more, and more modern bombers, plus more intercontinental ballistic missiles. Power's command would also handle the missiles.

### Mistaken Identity Triggers Manhunt

SALEM (AP)—Salem and state police spent a hectic morning Monday in a manhunt for fugitive Richard Allen Hunt. They finally tracked down their man but found that it was a case of mistaken identity.

City police were alerted when a man answering Hunt's description drove into a service station and mentioned that he was heading for the Trailways bus depot to check on a bus out of town. Officers found no one answering Hunt's description at the depot.

Police then started an extensive search for the car that had been in the service station. The owner was located and questioned.

"Why, yes, it is my car," he said. He then explained that he had loaned it to a friend this morning. Sure enough, the friend fit Hunt's description, police said.

## Dry March Weather Adds To Rogue Water Shortage

MEDFORD (AP)—Dry March weather dims an already skimpy irrigation water picture for southern Oregon, it was reported here Monday at the annual water forecast meeting.

Farmers depending on natural stream flow may be especially hard hit. Farms irrigated by stored water should get by if good use is made of early season water to delay drawing on reservoirs.

Water contents of the mountain snow pack is only 39 per cent of normal, reported W. T. Frost, Oregon snow survey supervisor for the Soil Conservation Service and Oregon State College Agricultural Experiment Station, discussing the situation in the Medford-Grants Pass region.

Much of the present storage water was held over from last year. Farmers were asked to delay using this water as long as possible and farmers using natural stream flow were advised to use water whenever it is available.

Gene Winters, Jackson County extension agent, said farmers growing clover in the Medford and Talent area may start irrigating within the next 10 days or two weeks to take advantage of natural stream flow that is now being wasted.

#### Soils Need Water

Orchardists may also cash in on the tail end of the waste water period by finding soils that are drier than normal, said C. B. Cordy, county agent. Soils normally saturated this time of year have now aired out well and need irrigation earlier than usual, Cordy said.

### Portland Apprentice Bricklayer In Contest

EUGENE (AP)—Jim Farwell apprentice bricklayer from Portland, will represent Oregon in a Western regional bricklaying contest at San Francisco this summer.

He was the winner of the state bricklaying contest held in Eugene recently. He received \$25 cash and a four-foot mason's level, in addition to the chance to compete in the regional contest.

The contest was jointly sponsored by the Mason Contractors Assn. of America and the Brick Mason and Plasterers Union.

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