

# The News-Review

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EDITORIAL PAGE

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## DIRECT TAXES

By Charles V. Stanton

Politicians who would make us believe they are all for the "little guy," some labor leaders who loudly proclaim their sympathy for the wage earner, and numerous other people in a position to argue the matter, proclaim that a sales tax, a gross income tax, etc., hits the person on low income. They vigorously endorse the "soak the rich" program, contending that thereby the "little guy" escapes taxation—at least a part of the tax load—and that the major share of the burden is borne by the person with the big income.

Perhaps I am mistaken, but it seems to me that the argument is entirely erroneous, that those who so loudly proclaim their sympathy for the "little guy" actually are doing him a disservice, that a spreading of the tax load would be beneficial for all, and that setting taxes up for what they are, rather than trying to hide them, would be productive of a higher degree of government economy.

When we come down to it, who pays the taxes? We have listened long to the demagogic cry "soak the rich," but are the "rich" actually being "soaked?" Doesn't the tax, after all, come back eventually on the "little guy?" Doesn't he have to pay not only the tax but also the "rich" man's profit? But, by the same token, isn't he lulled into a belief that someone else pays the taxes and that he is getting by cheaply, simply because the tax is hidden from him?

### Taxes Passed On

The federal and state governments adopted withholding taxes. An employee's income tax come out of his pay check. When the tax was adopted the employee immediately demanded an increase in his take-home pay. So, the employer had to pay the employee's tax and at the same time increase the employee's wages. But the employer also raised the price of his goods or services. Not only did he add the actual cents necessary to meet the increased tax and wage cost, but he made his addition by percentage rather than by cents. Thus the cost of living went up and the consumer had to pay the withholding tax, a subterfuge for a sales tax, in every article he purchased. But, because he thought the employer was footing the bill, he wasn't, and isn't, a bit concerned. But every time he demands more wages to meet a growing cost of living, the employer is forced to up his prices. And, because the employer makes his increases on a percentage mark-up rather than actual dollars and cents, the cost of living goes up faster than the rise in wages.

The withholding tax is nothing but a hidden sales tax. Because it is a hidden tax, few taxpayers complain. If the employee had to dig up hard cash with which to pay his taxes, he would be complaining bitterly about government spending. Yet his withholding tax actually is a hidden sales tax. He is paying not only the tax on merchandise and service but also profit for the "rich" he would "soak."

### Would Force Economy

If we had a sales tax, it wouldn't be popular. It would be paid grudgingly, but of necessity. People don't like taxes, particularly taxes they pay directly. Hidden taxes are accepted because they aren't recognized. But, if people had to dig up sales taxes, they would insist that our spending programs, federal and state, be kept to the lowest possible figure. We wouldn't have all this exploitation of honest workmen, all too often for the sake of the underserving.

Personally I don't believe in an earmarked sales tax. If the proposal by Sen. Pearson comes before the voters, I probably will oppose it. I will oppose it, not because I am against a sales tax, but because he would specify how the money was to be spent, earmarking a part of it for schools, rather than using it as an offset. I would gladly support a sales tax properly presented—one included as a part of a tax package, with offsetting reductions, particularly on low incomes and property. It should be an offsetting tax, not an additional tax.

But the argument that the "little guy" is being protected is, in my opinion, purely demagogic. It is political propaganda. People, I believe, are being misled. Taxes should be labeled for what they are. They shouldn't be hidden under other names. The "little guy," as I understand it, isn't escaping taxes. He only thinks he is. He is being told he isn't taxed by politicians and some labor leaders but, actually, he is paying more than he'd pay if we had a direct, rather than indirect, tax.

### Hal Boyle

## He Opened His Mail Again

NEW YORK (AP)—Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:

One reason the average motorist sees red: He spends 30 hours a year merely waiting for traffic lights to change.

If you plan to visit Mars this year, take along your own jug. All the water vapor on that dry planet equals no more than could be found in a box of earthly air two feet wide, two feet long and 10 feet deep.

Only one man in every seven and one woman in five have read the Bible all the way through.

A news item mentions that ju-jitsu classes are now open to children, too. "Of course, you can go to the movies tonight, junior—if you'll just let daddy out of this headlock!"

In Greenwich Village now a beard is known as "a Castro cut." Survival hint to bridegrooms: You can make charred pieces of toast at least partially more edible by rubbing them together briskly—when your bride isn't looking.

Our quotable notables: "Traditions are like lamp posts," said Viscount Halifax. "wise men use them to guide their paths. Drunkards use them to support their instability."

America's best seller is still the comic book.

The U.S. Defense Department is

one of the world's wealthiest landowners. It now controls real estate valued at 25 billion dollars. Living in the past: "Remember when," asks comic George De Witt, "it cost more to run an automobile than to park it?"

California is famous for its movie star divorces, but there's a brighter side. It leads the other states in marriages.

If there is a difference between the figures and the written amount on a check, the written amount is the one recognized by the bank.

Karl Wilhelm, a German statesman, composed a 100-line poem in honor of his wife every day for 44 years.

It was Eugene O'Neill who observed, "Our lives are merely strange dark interludes in the electrical display of God the Father!"

### Additional Judges OK'd

SALEM (AP)—The Joint Ways and Means Committee Monday approved legislation providing an additional circuit court judge in Marion County and two more in Multnomah County.

### MOTHERS TO BE HONORED

CORVALLIS (AP)—The 36th annual Mothers Weekend at Oregon State College will be held May 1-3.

## In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

What of the news today? It's a mishmash. But it falls into an interesting pattern?

There's a shake-up in Red China. Mao Tse-tung is relinquishing the presidency. He's STEPPING UP to the chairmanship of the Chinese communist party.

Well informed correspondents say he's relinquishing the presidency to free himself for his MORE IMPORTANT DUTIES as chairman of the Chinese communist party.

Why is that disturbing? It's like this:

Too much power held in too few hands too long is always dangerous. The objective of the communist party EVERYWHERE—wherever it operates, in Russia, in China, wherever it gets into power—is to hold ALL POWER in the hands of the leaders of the communist party. Forever, if possible.

That's dangerous.

In Washington, a house subcommittee took a small step that "could" lead to legislation to discourage congressional NEPOTISM (nepotism is the practice of surrounding yourself with relatives who are paid out of the public purse.)

The subcommittee went behind closed doors to hear three Republicans plus resolutions which would require house members to name publicly any relatives on their payroll and announce when they hired kinfolk in the future.

The dispatches report that there is "little reason to believe that any nepotism reform legislation is considered necessary."

With one IF, that is true. The IF is this:

If the people who do the voting would read all the factual reports appearing in the press—which includes the newspapers, the magazines, the radio and television—draw accurate conclusions from the FACTS disclosed, and then VOTE AGAINST THE PRACTICERS OF

NEPOTISM when next they came up for election, nepotism would come to a sudden stop. It would come to a sudden stop because the politicians DROPT THINGS QUICK when they don't pay off in votes.

When you come right down to it, whatever is really wrong with government in our great and still FREE country tracks back to indifference, carelessness or laziness on the part of the voters.

We have LAW enough on the books to cure anything that needs curing if only the voters would STUDY THE ISSUES carefully enough and then VOTE OUT OF OFFICE the people who are doing things that are wrong.

PLANES DRIVEN OFF TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Four Egyptian fighter planes strayed over Israel today but were driven off by Israeli fighters.

### James Marlow

## Ministers Try To Agree On West's Summit Stand

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's no soothing syrup in the events ahead. The thing to look for is whether Nikita Khrushchev can do the Western Allies any more damage than he's already done.

With no more expense than the wind it took for some speeches and statements he split the Allies a bit on how to handle his demands for a "free" West Berlin, a peace treaty with the two Germans, and a few other things.

The Allied reaction ranged from don't-budge-an-inch stand of France and Germany and the stern American hold-the-fort attitude to the flexibility advocated by Britain.

Today the four Allies' foreign ministers—including Secretary of State Christian A. Herter—gather in Paris to decide how they

will answer the Soviets when they meet with them May 11 in Geneva. The Geneva session is supposed to be preliminary to a summit meeting.

No doubt the Allies in Paris this week will iron out their differences—so far as is visible, anyway—if for no other reason than because they have to.

Differences Can't Show They can't afford to be obviously divided when they sit down with the Soviets in May. It would not only mean a Khrushchev victory but might cause an irreparable split among the Allies.

It's quite likely the Allies will come out of their Geneva talks in good shape—in the sense of being lined up together on whatever answers they have for the Soviets.

The real test of their solidarity will come at the summit. The unpredictable Khrushchev may have already conjured up summit proposals intended not to get solutions but to split the Allies wide open.

A great many explanations have been offered as to why Khrushchev last November first made his demands.

For instance, it has been suggested that he wanted to distract the West while communism was taking over Iraq in the Middle East; that he somehow hoped to neutralize West Germany and thus clinch his rip, without worry, on the satellites.

All these things may have been in his thinking but it's possible he also thought something like this: Khrushchev's "Thought"

"I can't lose by making demands. If I don't get any place, I won't be worse off than I am now. But maybe I can find some weak spots in the Western alliance, create differences, weaken it a bit."

One of the weak spots, of course, is a natural human desire among West Europeans to avoid a crisis which might lead to war with the Soviet Union which seems at the moment capable of blasting Western Europe off the map with missiles.

It is also natural that the various groups of West Europeans would vary—as they seem to be doing—in their reaction to Soviet demands and pressure.

No wonder, then, that the West, including the United States, has been on the defensive in this situation with Khrushchev. It has not once sought to take the initiative away from him.

It has sought, instead, how to answer him. He may be able to do damage at the summit if—in order to split the Allies—he makes concessions to one of the Allies that seem repulsive to another.

Collegians Applaud Prof. Harry Truman

NEW YORK (AP)—Professor (for the time being) Harry S. Truman gave his students some pointers about the presidency spiced with a few laughs.

The Columbia University audience, behaving not at all like a college class, gave him a big round of applause.

"It's always nice," the former president said, "to have a satisfied group of customers when you get through."

In the first of a series of three addresses, inaugurating the university's William Radner lectures on public law and government, Truman told 1,200 students and faculty members he was "proud to be a politician."

"A politician understands people," he said. "He's got to understand the country."

He added that "when a good politician dies he becomes a statesman. I want to continue as a politician for a long time."

### Peter Edson

## It's Shocking -- Spacemen Outhit Baseball Opener

WASHINGTON (NEA)—A piece in this space the other day was all wet. It was to the effect that a richer, fuller life lay ahead for all.

Actually, things are going to the dogs, fast. As proof thereof, your attention is called to the opening of the major league baseball season in Washington the other day.

Was the President of the United States there to throw out the first ball?

He was not. He was in Augusta, Ga., playing golf. That's where he was.

He sent his vice president to make the first wild pitch—unthinkable.

AND DO YOU KNOW what else happened on opening day?

The National Aeronautics and Space Agency—NASA, for short—called a press conference right at "play ball" time.

The nerve of them.

All they wanted to do was introduce the seven young men who have been selected for training to make the first manned flights into space—two years hence.

But there were more reporters, photographers, newsgirls, TV camera and radio sawkers at this press conference than there were at the ball park. Over 100. And there were more women reporters at this spacious event, too.

WHAT THIS WOULD seem to indicate is that ball players are no longer the glamour boys—the number one heroes that they used to be.

This is serious and sad. The nine of the diamond and outfield have been replaced by the seven of the capsule and outer space.

What did these seven have that baseball players haven't got? The spacemen weren't big and brawny like ball players. They weren't handsome like movie stars, either.

They were nice looking enough guys, all right—lean and clean-cut, all but one crew-cut, and of average height. But they all had I.Q.'s of over 130. To a ball player that would be like having a batting average over .400.

AS FURTHER EVIDENCE that things are not what they used to be, Washington's Touchdown Club—whose members are sporting fans—held their annual welcome-home luncheon for the Washington ball club the day before the opener.

But were ball players the only attraction? Not on your life. They

Coquille Woman Killed In Blaze

COQUILLE (AP)—Flames raced through a house near here Monday and killed a 65-year-old woman, Mrs. C. S. Danielson.

Hours after the fire erupted, police sifted through the ruins and found the woman's body.

Mrs. Danielson's husband told police he and his wife were awakened by a noise in the house. Opening a door, a cloud of smoke puffed in on them, he said.

Police said Danielson smashed out a window but then was unable to find his wife in the smoke-filled room.

Mrs. Danielson apparently had gone into an adjoining room to try and save some valuables, police said.

## Reader Opinions

### Danger Of Unemployment Forecast In Automation

To The Editor—We read so often here of late about automation. Let us look back for a while to what has already happened, and forward to what is going to happen.

It hasn't been very far back to the time that it took about 10 to 15 men to run a threshing machine. Now one man can do the job that 10 to 15 men did do. The same goes for the hay harvest. And so the press says that in December 1958 General Motors and Ford built nearly 60,000 more cars than they did in the same month of 1957 with 33,400 less men, and that Boeing Airplane Co., with four punched tape-controlled machines, each run by one man and a helper, did the work of 48 riveters, and that Philco Corp., with two men and two automated machines, are doing the work that 40 women did do, and that is only a few things happening to labor today.

I have put in more than 50 years of hard labor myself. We have children and grandchildren in the labor field. I have belonged to a union for a good number of years. If automation keeps on spreading as it has it will only be 10 more years until at least five men out of every 10 will be out of work.

An article in the April 27 issue of U.S. and World News Report asks if the United States will price itself out of the market. The heading is on page 24. On page 115 of the same issue there is an article "What American Labor Seeks for America." And on page 119 a Gallup poll on the Right to Work law.

These articles make the cold chills roll up my back. Before 10 years there will be plenty more with the same trouble.

And, speaking of glasses, labor had better begin looking for some other kind, some they can read the handwriting on the wall with, for it is already there.

A. A. Helm  
Rt. 1, Box 130  
Oakland, Ore.

### Board Of Education Should Get Reports

To The Editor: The news story in last night's News-Review, stating that the John Paul Jones Associates had recommended the appointment of a business manager for School District No. 4, Douglas County, leads me to write this letter.

That recommendation happens to coincide with one that the Evaluation Committee made. There is, however, one grave difference between the two recommendations. Some people believe that the running of a school district should be vested in the Board of Education.

I happen to be among that group. Others feel that the responsibility for the district should rest solely in the superintendent, with the school directors rounding out an honorable career of public service through election to that very important post.

Believing as I do, I feel that one of the great virtues of having a business manager in School District No. 4 would be to have him report directly to the Board of Education and not to the superintendent.

This is a very important difference which I believe your readers will appreciate.

H. E. Schmeer  
P. O. Box 1161  
Roseburg, Ore.

### The Cartoonist Says:

"Oh Boy! An Old Abandoned Gold Mine!"



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