

ASSESSOR MAKES PROPOSAL

By Charles V. Stanton

A proposal that real property be relieved of the operational cost of schools has been made by Ray J. Schumacher, Jackson County assessor. His ideas have been quite widely presented. They doubtless will come up for much discussion during the next few months.

The operational cost of schools, Schumacher contends, accounts for the big share of the tax dollar. He would continue the responsibility of real property for the capital investment of school districts but would have the cost of operation raised from some other source.

Among the new laws he proposes is a statute limiting school tax on property to bonding issues only. He would establish a millage limitation for all taxing districts. (The State of Washington has such a limitation.) He would enact a sales tax from which would be paid the operational cost of schools. If the sales tax didn't raise enough money, he would have the additional amount needed paid out of the state's general fund. The operational school tax, as he proposes it, would be administered at the state level, and would be allocated to school districts on a school child unit, based on the class of the district. The departure from the present system of budgeting, he contends, would be a challenge to school administrators to "work within the level of comparable costs."

"Enactment of these laws," says Schumacher, "would cut the school tax on property to 'less than half,' the amount presently imposed."

Property Overburdened

It is the contention of the Jackson County Assessor that real property is overburdened with taxation. Reappraisals have been made, and will be made, he says, in an effort to secure better equalization of the tax. But reappraisals do "not eliminate the burden of taxation when most taxing districts are faced with increased costs and wanted services."

The greater share of the tax dollar, he asserts, is spent for school operation, adding that "Most taxpayers agree that this is an essential service and few would sacrifice this for lower taxation."

People, he contends, are becoming resistant to property taxation. Thus a new tax base is essential. Separating the cost of capital investment from the cost of operation, according to his beliefs, would take something like 50 mill off real property.

He would substitute a sales tax for operational costs. "While these school taxes must still be paid," he says, "the payment would be less painful under the sales tax and income tax and would be more equitable."

"Also, I believe that the voters of Oregon would accept the sales tax if it was coupled with this positive property tax offset."

Adoption of such plan, in his opinion, would "place Oregon in a favorable position for industrial development."

New Tax System Needed

There is no question in my mind but that Oregon's present tax system, which places the whole tax burden on property and income, is a barrier to new industry and business.

The sales tax opponents contend that an income tax will do everything a sales tax will do.

But we still must face the practical viewpoint that the men who decide where an industry or business is to be located are men in what we might call the upper income group. They are not going to advocate location of an industry in an area where they personally must pay a high rate of taxation when they can go to a neighboring state where their own taxes will be less and the load will be more widely distributed.

We can cry all we please that this selfish attitude shouldn't prevail, but all our crying won't overcome the fact that no administrator in his right mind is going to advocate the establishment of a plant where his own personal tax is higher than elsewhere.

I would disagree with Schumacher, however, in one respect.

A sales tax, I believe, should not be enacted for one particular purpose.

It has long been my contention, and has previously been stated in this column, that we need an entirely new tax program — one that would put a limitation on the property tax, would give us a sales tax as an offset to both income and property taxes and would start income taxes at a higher level, to take care of the people in the low income group.

Such a program, in which the sales tax would be a part of the whole, rather than an added tax, would have public approval, I believe.

Lenten Devotions

Texts: Luke 21:29-32:46

We have in this portion of Scripture a prophecy foretold and a prophecy fulfilled. The Lord Jesus Christ, in this great prophetic chapter, has foretold the destruction of Jerusalem in the preceding verses, and then the transition to the portion that has to do with the Lord's return in glory takes place in the last of the 24th verse.

He begins to enumerate certain signs and evidences that will precede His coming. Then follows the illustration of the fig tree, that when it buds, it is evidence that summer is just around the corner, and that when we see predicted signs of our Lord's coming taking place, we know that His coming is nigh.

He further indicates that it will take place within a generation, that the same generation that will behold the signs will behold Christ's second coming.

A former prophecy in John 6:70-71 concerning Judas Iscariot, the one who would betray Christ, is partially fulfilled in the first six verses of the 22nd chapter, where Judas makes a contract with the chief priests and scribes to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew the future, for all things were known by Him, and He knew what was in the heart of

men, giving evidence of His deity. Thus, knowing the future and having predicted it, he proceeds to bring a warning to the disciples. The warning was for them to be on their guard, that these days should not come on any as a snare or a trap. He warns that our hearts must be kept above the grosser satisfactions of sense and appetite, and the less gross cares of life — being worried with the business of living.

These, He warns, could keep us from being concerned about, and prepared for Jesus' coming. The antidote to the danger of being concerned with the times and the world is to be alert to the thought of Jesus' coming, and to be in prayer that we might be able to escape the spirit of the age, so that when He comes, we may stand in His presence with joy and not in fear.

Guy R. Zehring, pastor First Conservative Baptist Church

FOE OF REDS DIES BALTIMORE (AP)—Herbert R. O'Connor, 63, twice governor of Maryland and an outspoken opponent of communism during his six years in the U.S. Senate, 1946-1952, died Friday. He was a Democrat.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

What's the big news today? I don't know. I think maybe it's the weather. As everybody knows, big news tends to involve the UNUSUAL— as when a man bites a dog. Normally, a big storm is a local show. The storm of the past few days appears to have been a national hook-up.

It took a swipe at EVERYBODY. Among other incidents of the storm, three Canadian Eskimos who are visiting in the East Coast area got snowed in in West Virginia!

Washington, the nation's capital city, got eight inches of wet snow. It snarled traffic to a standstill. It kept people from getting to work—which, in these days, is a TERRIBLE hardship. Especially in Washington. It blustered the hands of innumerable government workers who had to get out and shove the snow off their walks.

But— In Washington— There was an exception to the general suffering caused by the unseasonable storm. The exception was the august senate of the United States of America, whose members were required by the exigencies of what is known as a FILIBUSTER to be present and available in the senate chamber at ALL times—both day and night.

When came the storm— The members of the senate (excepting only those who were TALKING and who were compelled by the circumstances of the filibuster to be present and awake

James Marlow

Southern Politicos Will Scramble For Negro Vote

WASHINGTON (AP)— What happens to the white Southern politicians — now fighting civil rights legislation — when Negroes in the South finally are able to vote in large numbers?

There is only one realistic answer. They will do exactly what their opposite numbers now do. Like the politicians from Northern areas with big Negro voting populations, the Southern whites will scramble for the Negro vote.

It is no accident that in Congress many of the most active advocates of civil rights legislation come from Northern centers where there are heavy concentrations of Negro voters.

The old order of racial discrimination in the South will have to melt under pressure from both the rest of the nation and the rest of the world.

As time passes the Negro will hold the balance of political power in many areas of the South. No politician can ignore it or fight it.

The present Southern filibuster against civil rights, if it is not the last of its kind, may be close to the last, since more protection for Negroes and their rights is inevitable.

Bitterness Lacking The present filibuster seems to have little of the dead-end bitterness of other years when Southern members of Congress had real hope of blocking a civil rights bill with their delaying tactics.

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Women probably are more wide awake than men. Most men blink every three seconds, most women once every four seconds.

Old lady: Massachusetts once passed legislation making it illegal for anyone to lounge on the shelves of a bakery.

Your blood is not only thicker than water. It is six times thicker. Save Your Arm—Join Army

If you don't like saluting, join the Army and save your arm. The Army has only 11 officers out of every 100 military personnel. The comparable officer figure in the Air Force is 135.

What's-in-a-name dept.: Mrs. Henry Eggle owns a poultry farm at Kimberly, British Columbia.

Our quotable notables: France's Somerset Maugham. In France, a man who has ruined himself for a woman is generally regarded with sympathy and admiration; there is a feeling that it was worthwhile, and the man who has done it feels even a certain pride in the fact. In England he will be thought, and think himself, a damned fool!

Think Fast To Avoid Error It is wise to be wary of snap judgments. But, according to a study made by a team of psychologists, the longer it takes you to make a decision, the greater the chance you'll make a mistake.

and alert to head off any sudden shenanigans) were all curled up in their little coats as snug as a bug in a rug.

With the storm at its height, a little after midnight, there came a dramatic interruption of the filibustering process. Senator Morse of Oregon, strode majestically up to the senate clerk's desk and PLACED THEREON A CLOTURE PETITION. A cloture petition is a petition to choke off the talking. If enough senators sign it, the filibuster, under the senate rules, is BUSTED. He invited senators to walk up and sign it.

The incident so shocked Senator Thurston B. Morton of Kentucky that he grabbed up the petition, tore the paper to shreds and dropped the shreds into the waste basket.

How come his outburst? Well—

One supposes that the distinguished senator from Kentucky just couldn't see what an earth Senator Morse, the DISTINGUISHED HOLDER OF THE WORLD'S FILIBUSTERING TALKATHON RECORD, would be doing with a CLOTURE petition.

It so astounded him that he blew up—like the chameleon that was unexpectedly deposited upon a Scotch tartan.

Hmmmmmmmm. Out here in Oregon, where we know our senator, we can understand. He just HAS to BE DIFFERENT. No matter what it costs.

patiently and gently. They have more than enough votes to ram through a civil rights bill of some kind.

All the Southerners can hope is that their filibuster may get them a milder bill than if they didn't fight at all.

Since whites still dominate Southern voting, all 18 filibustering Southerners know they must put up some kind of scrap if they hope to be re-elected when they run again.

But the Southern white front of discrimination, even though still sturdy and active, is crumbling under the impact of events in this country and overseas.

The Supreme Court, backed by the government and public opinion which has been antagonized by Southern extremists and lynchings, has led the way in forcing an end to discrimination.

Overseas, where colonialism has collapsed and one Negro nation after another is coming to life in Africa, racial barriers are breaking down fast.

It is particularly embarrassing to the American government which is appealing to backward people of all colors to keep away from communism, to have racial violence and discrimination in our own back yard.

Southern treatment of Negroes has given the Communist world free ammunition to use against us. All these things, plus up can't help but erode the resistance of Southern whites to more equal treatment for Negroes and make the white South self-conscious of its conduct.

Some Sage Advice Executive signs. On the desk of Irving J. Bottner, president of Esquire Shoe Polish: "When you throw mud at somebody, you're the one who's losing ground."

How to calm a child: An Australian physician says crying babies can be calmed by a quickly by an up-and-down motion, rather than either rocking or swinging them. (Just tie a rope under baby's arms, mother, and run her up and down like a yo-yo!)

Don't blame your head for your wrongs. About 35 per cent of headaches are caused by something being aches elsewhere in the body. (A fellow we know claims 98 per cent of his headaches stem from his wife's jawbone.)

It was Socrates who declared, "No evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death."

Roundabout Plea Frees Aviator WASHINGTON (AP)— Airlift magazine says a Southern Airways pilot—whom it did not identify—landed at Ben Epps Field, Athens, Ga., only to find the airplane's door stuck tight.

Unable to attract attention locally, the pilot sent a radio message to the Federal Aviation Agency station at Anderson, S.C.

The FAA in turn notified Southern's agent at Sylvania in Greenville, S.C., who sent a teletype message to Southern personnel at Athens asking them to let the pilot out of his plane.

BEAVER DAM

Klamath Falls Herald & News

The last issue of the game commission's bulletin carries a story on Oregon's beaver, the animal that was largely responsible for the early exploration of much of the American West.

There seems to be at least a growing belief that perhaps the beaver hasn't outlived his usefulness yet, despite the several thousand complaints that come in annually as a result of his dam building.

The beaver may have his bad points but he certainly has his good ones as well. Not the least of which is his good sense in building small dams up tributary waters and holding water for future use.

This is an elemental procedure that seems completely beyond the scope of today's planners and engineers. Even if we admit that some of our bigger dam projects have been strictly make-work undertakings for the glorification of some politician, it still seems as if the thing in general has settled down to a man vs. beaver battle.

Okay, say the engineers to the beaver, you can build a dam but I can build a bigger one. And so it goes. Bigger, wider, higher, more expensive.

Well, anyway, according to the story beavers that get in trouble down in the valleys are being live trapped and transported to the mountains where they can build the dams they want to. Until they are so busy building their little empire of mankind, that is.

What with water being the most valuable and sought after natural resource in the West today that sounds like good thinking. The beaver are happy. They work with out pay, there are no days off—well, maybe an occasional day off for and in the labor they help everything. Ponds are created that hold runoff in the spring. Fish can find homes there. Passing waterfowl find resting grounds, nest, too, in the stable ponds. Wildlife finds water as do ranging cattle.

I think it a splendid plan. I wish that more people could think like beavers do. Then maybe we could have more small dams and fewer big ones. The expensive ones that are built under the guise of "free public (power) guts to the people."

After all, if we are to believe all that we are told by the people who should know atomic power is only a minor nuisance at the best. Once the atomic plant comes into general use we will have no further use for our massive hydroelectric projects and the billions of dollars that have been poured into them will be as gone as granny's goose.

But the small dams at the heads of the streams will still be there to furnish ponds for fishing and pleasure, the rivers will still flow and I suppose that even in the atomic age people are going to go on drinking water. Nasty thought that it may be to many.

I hope the beaver are allowed to go on with their kind of country building and allowed to gain in numbers.

We gotta remember that now that we have perfected the hydrogen bomb these same beavers may be the only engineers left pretty quick. — By Bill Jenkins

PRaisEWORTH PRACTICE Bandon Western World The school house fire at Empire should alert all school authorities to the importance of fire drills.

SPRING SUGGESTS THE OUTDOORS Albany Democrat-Herald Approach of spring suggests outdoor recreation which, in Oregon, is associated with some of the state's abundant natural resources.

2 Nabbed After Robbery Of Bank SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—I'd been expecting a robbery which with this recent outbreak and I told me I was getting nervous if it ever happened," said bank manager Thomas Wiseman. "She remembered."

The robbery came Friday while the Wisemans were eating breakfast. Two armed men burst into the home. One held Mrs. Wiseman by the neck and the other pointed a gun at the bank manager.

FBI agents teamed with sheriff's officers to quickly wrap up the case in three hours. Two men are jailed today on bank robbery charges. They are Edwin Albaugh, 23, Arlington, Va., and Milton Jackson, 21, San Francisco.

Premier Of Israel Top War Criminal — Nasser DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—President Abdel Gamal Nasser of the United Arab Republic today blasted Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion as "the greatest war criminal of the 20th century" and warned the West against giving Israel arms.

Citing reports that France intended to send jet fighters to Israel and that Britain will send submarines, the Arab leader declared.

"This won't terrorize us, because we already know who are our enemies and because we are already preparing ourselves to face this aggression."

Editorial Comment

NEWSPAPER READING

GROWING FASTER Bend Bulletin

During the past three or four years we have heard several speakers deplore the fact that newspaper circulation is not increasing as fast as the national population. Matter of fact we've heard the story so often we sort of worried.

(Once we even thought of going into the diaper business, since that, at least, seemed to have a guaranteed market for years.) But the worries have vanished. The figures used by speakers turn out to be somewhat less than valid.

It is true that the national population is growing faster than the number of newspaper readers. But the last increase in population comes — of course — at an early age. We're home the paper's other night and asked our favorite two-year-old to read it. She tried, but the results were pretty horrible.

In other words, it's not surprising that the daily newspaper circulations have not grown as rapidly as the population because newborn babies don't immediately become readers.

A better yardstick to measure the vitality of daily newspapers is the increase of adult population — over 18 years of age. When this comparison is made, it becomes clear that the rate of newspaper circulation growth substantially exceeds the growth of the adult population.

(Since 1940, the number of U.S. adults increased 24 per cent. Newspaper circulation in that period increased 43 per cent. That, we feel, is a much better comparison.) We feel much better about the whole thing. On any given day, many a newspaper of persons now reads the radio, a magazine, or watch television.

There's apparently no need to further consider the diaper or baby food business.

DON'T CONFISCATE INCOME

Albany Democrat-Herald

Sales tax opponents rightly reason that the best and fairest tax is the income tax because it is based upon ability to pay. They can be conceded, Oregonians voted an income tax only after several refusals, finally acceding to the repeated appeals of proponents that the income tax is the fairest of all taxes; it begins with ability to pay and ends with inability to pay.

When the state income tax was ratified, however, the federal income tax was quite mild, so that the addition of the state levy imposed few if any hardships. Year by year the government has reached out after a bigger share of incomes.

In 1941, for example, a single person had an exemption of \$500 and married couples \$2,000. The single person with a taxable income of \$10,000 paid \$886 and a married man or couple \$528. Now the individual personal and dependent exemption is \$600, or \$1,200 for man and wife with no dependents. The single person now pays \$2,640 on \$10,000 of taxable income.

In 1940 the maximum tax was

79 per cent. on incomes of from \$5 million upward. Now anyone with a \$200,000 income pays \$156,280 plus 51 per cent of all taxable income above \$200,000.

Add to these the Oregon state income tax and local property taxes and you have a situation which closely approaches the intolerable. The increases during the 20-year period apply proportionately to incomes in the lower as well as the high brackets. Lowering of the exemption has brought under the federal tax millions of persons who in 1940 paid no tax at all to the federal government. Further income tax increases could become self-defeating by reaching the level of inability to pay—if not pay income tax at least to pay for other things, such as commodities, stocks and bonds, of which sales mean plant expansion and increase of employment.

Confiscation of incomes would prevent accumulations of capital and produce economic stagnation, setting the stage for government ownership of all instruments of production, the goal of Communism.

The alternatives are curtailment of governmental expenditures, state and local, or provision of relief through tapping other tax sources, or both. It is toward the end of gaining some relief that the sales tax is offered.

Admittedly it could provide more income tax for government spending but if properly safeguarded it could be made to accomplish its avowed purpose. It should be used only to pay for governmental services that cannot well be denied. If assured that this restraint would be attached to a sales levy measure Oregon voters might change their minds. At any rate the sales tax is an issue that appears certain of long life.

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