

The News-Review Editorial Page

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TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1963

Tax Load Broadened Somewhat By Plan

The formula for a new state personal income tax bill is still quite a way from being completed, but the proposal approved by the House Taxation Committee could very possibly be the basis for the final decision.

Of course a lot still depends on action on the reconsideration of the cigarette tax and anything the House might do in other tax bill considerations, such as capital gains. These decisions will have a big bearing on what changes the Senate makes — and it is almost certain to make some.

With no surplus to soften the blow and with demands from many quarters, such as education, for more money, the House's formula is not as crushing as at times it seemed it might be.

It broadens the tax base by bringing low incomes into the state income tax paying program. It's a pretty hefty boost in tax for the rest, too, as can be seen in the comparison of taxes under the proposed and present formula. The Associated Oregon Industries estimates only \$2 million will come from the present non-taxpayer.

But this was expected. If the base had not been broadened the middle and higher income brackets would have been hit even harder. The alternatives, except for perhaps the sales tax, could not possibly raise the \$35 million predicted under this formula.

The state Tax Commission has made a projection to compare the present with the proposed formulas. For the purpose it takes a family of four, using standard deductions.

The following figures in order are income, present tax and proposed new tax figure. With an income of \$4,000, present tax is about \$29, proposed tax \$40; \$5,000—\$58, \$81; \$7,000—\$129, \$176; \$8,000—\$172, \$230; \$9,000—\$220, \$284; \$10,000—\$270, \$339; \$12,500—\$407, \$498; \$15,500—\$622, \$665; \$25,000—\$1,196, \$1,409; \$50,000—\$2,489, \$3,284; \$100,000—\$4,266, \$7,034.

In the lower income brackets, a family of four with up to \$2,000 income now usually pays nothing in income taxes. Under the new bill, such a family with \$1,000 would pay \$10 and with \$2,000, about \$20.

The \$3,000 income for such a family now takes a tax of \$7, but under the proposed bill would pay \$23.

The proposed tax rates begin at 1 per cent on \$500, and go up to 6 per cent on \$14,000 and over. Anyone making less than \$500 pays no income tax.

The federal income tax deduction is eliminated, but practically all other deductions remain. The personal exemption is replaced by a \$22 tax credit.

This part of the proposed bill is good psychology because the rates appear to be lower than under the present state tax schedule. At present the rates are 3 per cent beginning at \$1,000 and up to 9½ per cent after \$16,000.

But the change of figures is deceiving. One unweighed figure is the federal income tax deduction. The other is the net receipts angle incorporated into the graduated tax.

Added to the graduated tax is 1 per cent of all income up to \$16,000 and 1½ per cent over \$16,000.

Here's how your tax would be figured, according to Oregon Voter, a weekly magazine devoted primarily to taxation.

1. List your total income and subtract allowable deductions.
2. Compute tax from your bracket rate as listed in regular tax form instruction.
3. From that sum subtract \$22 for each dependent.
4. In another operation, take a flat rate of 1 per cent (under \$16,000) or 1½ per cent (over \$16,000) of your income.
5. Add the two sums to get the total tax.

If the tax credit for exemptions totals more than the tax computed by the bracket, the taxpayer is not allowed to subtract the difference from the flat rate.

A NEW LEAF



News Analysis



Communism Slips In Venezuela Try

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
CARACAS, Venezuela — Communism is on the retreat in Venezuela.

This is important news. For if Communism were to take over Venezuela, Castro Cuba would have its oil problems solved and Soviet Russia would be relieved of a tremendous burden.

And if democracy were to fail in Venezuela, despite natural wealth which includes \$3 million a day from oil alone, then the prospects of the success for the goals for the Alliance for Progress would be dim indeed through the whole of South America.

Venezuela is not totally peaceful, for as the Communists and the Castroites have failed to gain a popular following they have turned to terrorism. Hand grenades explode in populous streets at night and Communist youths a battle police in gun fights in which at least 60 police or army guardsmen have been killed.

Firearms causing millions of dollars of damage have gutted properties owned by Sears Roebuck and Chico's Oil pipelines have been blown up.

Plots against American cigarette, automobile and film companies have been uncovered and thwarted.

But Venezuela's tough interior minister, Carlos Andres Perez, regards these as a dying gasp. They have not prevented an increasing return of foreign investment and not for more than a year have the communists been successful in staging street riots.

Today's story of Venezuela largely is the story of a stockily built man in horn-rimmed spectacles who sometimes goes under the nickname "Papa Pipa" — papa with the pipe.

He is President Romulo Betancourt, who took office Feb. 13, 1959, and who, in March, 1964, has the prospect of turning over his office for the first time in Venezuelan history to a peacefully elected successor.

Betancourt already has served in office longer than any of his elected predecessors.

Betancourt took office just as Venezuela was emerging from the dictatorship of Marcos Perez Jimenez. The country, with a population of only about 7½ million, was \$400 million in debt.

As the Betancourt government acted to pay off its debts and tighten credits, the economy fell into stagnation. Unemployment mounted and opposition rose from both right and left.

Venezuela today has \$700 million in foreign credits and its foreign debt has been reduced to \$160 million. The bolivar is among the soundest currencies in South America.

In Betancourt's four years, he has been the target of one assassination attempt and four major military revolts.

From the assassination attempt he still bears the scars on his face and hands.

Government efforts and encouraging facts and figures are one thing, but in Venezuela something else also is occurring that is among the most heartening in all of South America.

It is a phenomenon affecting the "barrios," the slum villages whose shacks crawl wretchedly up the sides of the hills surrounding Caracas.

One of these is the Altanista area. In the Altanista area is a little barrio called "La Linea" because a rail line once ran there.

Red Leadership Topped
It is noteworthy for the political change which has seized leadership from the Communists there and for an American girl named Winifred Marich, a blonde 25-year-old graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles who could be a beauty queen on any campus.

Winifred is a member of a unique organization called Accion en Venezuela, founded several years ago by another UCLA graduate, Joseph Blatchford, who now makes his headquarters in Caracas.

Accion en Venezuela pre-dated the U.S. Peace Corps and its members moved directly into the barrios.

Among the slum shacks and their dwellers, Winifred Marich has worked for the last year and a half.

Communist youths tore down a fence which had been erected to prevent children falling to their deaths down the precipitous hillsides.

Communist leaders campaigned vigorously against Accion en Venezuela.

But the Reds were fighting a losing battle.

Today, the man who threatened or endangered the tall, blonde girl from California would take his life in his hands from other villagers.

Adults are learning to read and write. Homes are being beautified. Trades are being taught. Dwellers of the barrio are building their own sewage system with supplies donated by the government.

The secret of making your wife listen to you to talk quietly to some other woman.

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THE LIGHTER SIDE:



C-C Chief Recaps Trials By Press

By DICK WEST
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Good solid citizen types who come here to fill high positions often go through a difficult period of adjustment.

Getting acclimated to life in the capital isn't easy under the best of conditions. For some, it is a series of traumatic experiences, not the least of which is meeting the Washington press corps.

Such was the case of Ladd Plumley, an estimable Worcester, Mass., insurance executive who has just completed a year of service here as president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Plumley's term of office expires this week and as a parting gesture he gave a lunch for a group of us newsmen who either had written something about his tenure or, as the invitation said, had "threatened to."

Most Pleasant Affair
It was a most pleasant affair and was capped off by a short speech by the host, entitled "Plumley's farewell to the troops."

As a sociological document, casting insight upon the tribulations of public figures, I think it ranks with another Plumley speech entitled "Cliches my grandfather taught me."

There are, Plumley told us, "two truly tense moments that come to all Chamber of Commerce presidents."

"The first is when he meets the press and tries to answer their questions as frankly as good taste and a decent sense of responsibility will permit."

"The second is when he tries to explain to his friends that he didn't really say it that way."

These denials, Plumley added, "take a little more skill" when the press conference is televised.

Recalls Debut
Plumley recalled that "I made my Washington debut early last year before the National Press Club, where I outlined the chamber's position on such non-controversial subjects as tax reduction, tax reform, foreign aid, medicare and federal aid to education."

"It was a memorable occasion," he said, and "I came away impressed by your grasp of public affairs."

What impressed him most, however, was a question about his haberdashery. A reporter noted that he was wearing a hard collar and asked if it were detachable.

"I assured him that it was, that I always wore hard, detachable collars, and that in Worcester they were considered most economical and not particularly newsworthy," Plumley said.

"That appeared to satisfy him but it left me permanently scarred—sort of choked by my own choker. To this day, I have not had the courage to wear a hard collar in public."

"In many ways, I regard this as the Washington press corps' number one accomplishment."

Today is Tuesday, April 30, the 120th day of 1963 with 245 more to follow.

The moon is at first quarter. The morning stars are Venus and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mercury and Mars.

Today in history:

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York City and was sworn in as the first President of the United States.

In 1812, Louisiana was admitted to the Union as the 18th state.

In 1930, fabled Casey Jones, the "Brave Engineer," was killed when his train collided with a freight train at Vaughn, Miss.

In 1945, Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler committed suicide in a bunker in Berlin.

A thought for the day—French said: "From the sublime to the ridiculous is but a step."

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The Almanac

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Reader Opinions

Reader Gives Helpful Tips On Military Life

To The Editor:

It is unfortunate in this enlightened day and age that all young men must face a tour of military service. What rubs is not the service but the fact that they have no choice in the matter.

Maybe some day in the future mankind will wake up to the fact that war never really settles anything. I hope so. But the fact remains that to keep our country free we do have an obligation to serve.

One bright spot is that we at least do have a choice in the way we serve it. There are many ways to do so and, being in the National Guard, naturally I think that method is a good one. However I think some young men enter the service with a wrong attitude. If you would permit me to direct my comments to the young men of Douglas County it might go like this:

No matter what service you enter, it depends on YOU how far you will go. Believe me if you enter with a big chip on your shoulder, you will get exactly nowhere. In any service there will always be some one giving you orders. It may be some one you personally can't stand, but you must learn to respect his rank. Incidentally, that is true in anything else you do as well. Some one will always have authority over you and as soon as you learn to live with that fact and respect it, the smoother life will go.

I am not saying to be a defeatist, far from it. But a proper attitude toward authority will serve you well, and actually can be used to your own benefit. Some thoughts toward your military obligation now would be wise because the sooner you start the sooner it will be over and the longer you put it off the harder it will be to break away. You can't finish until you start. Most reserve obligations are short. If you sign up before you turn 18½, so the time to act is now.

This comment, naturally, is directed to young men. So far we can't enlist girls in the National Guard. It would make camp more fun though.

L. Richard A. Booth
Co. B 162nd Infantry
Oregon National Guard
The Armory, Roseburg

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145 S. E. Main St.
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WILDSTORM CITED

Willamette U. Report Blisters Civil Defense

By ZAN STARK

United Press International
SALEM (UPI) — A blistering review of Civil Defense performance during the Columbus Day storm is included in a study of community reaction to disaster released today by Willamette University.

The 86-page report, "Our Community in Disaster, October 12, 1962, Salem, Oregon," was prepared by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology of the university.

A summary of the state Civil Defense activity states "It was felt that because of the confusion within civil defense itself, it could not generate the confidence necessary to meet any crisis."

"Perhaps by even redefining the purpose of the organization to meet many different crises this confidence could be established."

"Questions arose concerning the Civil Defense generators. The state institutions were all in need of emergency power. Fairview had access to a generator furnished by Civil Defense but no one could operate it."

The report, in its 12-page section of conclusions and recommendations, notes:

"Many emergency agencies were caught without adequate provision for emergency lighting. Even operative flashlights and candles were lacking."

"In the state Civil Defense offices, a large number of gasoline lanterns were stored for such an occasion. But the gasoline to fill them cannot, according to safety ordinances of the city, be stored above ground within the city limits."

"Therefore, it was impossible to have them ready to use at a moment's notice, or even to fill them on short notice."

"An underground storage tank with a hand pump could solve this difficulty."

Communications Poor
The report noted "on the whole, the community functioned passably during this disaster."

"The most glaring deficiency was in communications. Great improvements need to be made."

The study suggests placing key telephone lines underground, providing auxiliary power for radio stations, and making battery powered transistor radio receivers "available in at least every block in cities, and every township or household in rural areas."

"Police services, fire protection, military support for these in emergencies, and ambulance services seem to have been fairly adequate and reflect their painful consideration of the possibility of emergencies."

"Hospitals were also on an emergency footing with little delay or difficulty, again because of planning and resources provided for ahead of time."

"State, county, and private institutions varied in their readiness to meet the emergency. 'Most did well with their available resources, but supplies of water and fuel for auxiliary power generators and for heat were small enough to threaten exhaustion if the emergency had lasted significantly longer.'"

Cooperation Lacking
The report notes "lack of cooperation and acceptance of the (Civil Defense) program was the rule rather than the exception."

"Altogether, Civil Defense seems to have played a very minor role in the crisis."

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"It's chief usefulness, perhaps, was in being a whipping-boy on which to blame all the lack of planning, preparation, and coordination which the entire community exhibited."

"It is a matter of dispute whether this was worth the cost of maintaining the organization."

Another significant point related in the report is that Civil Defense was one of 13 organizations telephoned by the weather bureau at 10 a.m. the day of the storm.

The weather bureau had mistakenly predicted "gusts up to 60 miles per hour or better... the winds reached 90 miles per hour."

The weather bureau reported later that "about 75 per cent (of the agencies called) apparently did not take the report seriously. It is expected that in many instances that persons answering the warning call did not relay the information beyond the person answering the phone."

"No reports were made from the weather bureau after the storm began until the following Sunday afternoon, due to the shortage of power."

40 YEARS AGO
April 30, 1923

An experiment in the culling of sheep for the purpose of breeding a better brand of wool producer, has been started at the R. B. Oliver place at Glendale.

G. Emerson, Corvallis, charged with the murder of George Marsh, Tacoma taxicab driver, was kept in the county jail overnight on his way back to answer for his alleged crime.

25 YEARS AGO
April 30, 1938

Postponement from May 18 to June 1 of the hearing by the district board of Army Engineers on the proposed canalization of the Umpqua River between Scottsburg and Roseburg was requested by the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce.

J. W. McFadden, Southern Pacific engineer, was seriously injured as he sat at the throttle of a locomotive entering Eugene. Youths hurled rocks into the cab, breaking his glasses and severely injuring an eye.