

Editorial Page

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Tax Vote Campaigns Start Fast

In most elections, the campaigns for and against men and issues are slow and ponderous in getting started. But there's an election Oct. 15 for which the campaigning preparations have moved like lightning.

It's the referendum vote on a \$60 million tax increase which was approved by the Oregon Legislature in its stormy 1963 session.

The most bewildered group involved in the campaign appears to be among those who put the tax package together, the legislators themselves.

They anticipated the strong possibilities of a referral and prepared for it by setting aside \$300,000 for a special election. But they began to breathe more easily when only one strong voice of opposition was raised. It was that of a weekly newspaper editor in Albany. He faced some tough odds in even getting petitions prepared. He suffered an illness which sidetracked him for a time as the deadline grew closer, and even he admits organization of the drive for the referral was poor.

With these elements against it, the likelihood of securing the 23,185 valid signatures in time to beat the deadline seemed slim.

It may have been slim, but Albany Editor J. Francis Howard showed up with more than 50,000 names. The vote was assured.

That sent legislators and state departments into a dither, but it spurred a lot of other people, particularly those involved in education, to some lightning-fast actions of their own. With the strong Oregon Congress of Parents and Teach-

ers leading the way, a committee designed to get a "yes" vote was formed a week ago. Now assignments have filtered down to the counties under the direction of this steering committee. Douglas County's committee was formed this week, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Willard Pease of Roseburg, a member of the Douglas County Council of PTAs.

Literature has already been rolled off the presses outlining the possible effects of the \$60 million being rejected by the voters. A speakers bureau has been set up—and the campaign is under way.

Then, the campaign really gets down to cases. The committee will conduct a vigorous drive designed to reach every voter on a face-to-face basis.

The whole campaign both for and against the referral is astonishing because it was mounted with such rapidity. Now let's hope the voters respond as quickly. Their job is to make every effort to become informed on the issue. It is only with information from both sides of the question that a reasonable decision can be made on whether or not the state will suffer by scrapping the \$60 million of the total \$404 million budget. From the rising sounds of battle, the voters won't have to go far to get the information they need. They should be literally bombarded with information.

With the time so short before the Oct. 15 election and the feelings so strong on both sides, some scare tactics and some distortions of facts are bound to creep in, so the problem for the voter won't be access to information. It is more likely to be sifting the wheat from the chaff to determine how his vote will benefit the state most.



Healthy Cynicism Develops In World

By ROBERT C. RUARK

A marvelous sort of cynicism is developing in the world in general, and like most cynicism, it has to do with money. It is healthy, at worst; at best, it might even put some old values back in perspective.

We are, for instance, not subsidizing Sukarno of Indonesia at the moment, because he is useless to us. This foresees an entire new attitude to the mangrove-swamp republics where the only thing the locals do competently is to breed more dependents. The world is too big to adopt in its entirety—vastly too huge to arrange, when we cannot even run our domestic affairs with any degree of competence.

Reward Offered

I was thinking here that the British are now offering 10 percent of the train-robbery loot to lucky finders of the scattered money, and that 250,000 pounds sterling were offered—TAX FREE—to squealers if they'd turn in the culprits.

That is how Britain once commanded the world, and the watchword is practicality. But the shocking thing to me is that the country itself admits the impossibility of a bureaucratic tax structure which makes money useless unless it has some sort of tax forgiveness.

In these days of unbalanced budgets and national debts so staggering they represent only deci-

mals; in these days of giving everybody—just plain strangers in mosquito paradises—other men's money; in these days of demanding a tithe from the taxpayer in which he has no conceivable possibility of personal gain, it is ruddy healthy to fetch the whole idea of welfare state back into focus.

'Don't Care'

It is possible that I represent a good section of the world when I say I couldn't care less how many Indians fight badly against how many Chinese, misusing arms bought by my tax money. Possibly I speak for a majority when I fail to worry about Buddhists setting themselves aflame because they don't like the way the Catholic dynasty in South-Viet Nam runs the show.

I am an excellent spender, but I do not know—or care about—the spelling of half the names I help to subsidize in their own private little foolish vendettas. (I still think that Khrushchev could improve on his spelling, and that naughty Viet Namese doll would make better fodder for Time magazine's pun writers if she called herself Susie Wong.)

Purely personally, I am fed to the eyes with being a big brother to the world that doesn't give a damn about us, on my time, my dough, and my two tired typing fingers. I would like somebody, for a change, to send me some tax-free money, because in a sad and silly way, I am underdeveloped, too. I am underdeveloped because I can't keep much of what I earn to feed the people for whom I am responsible. I am underdeveloped because I am wasting my natural assets, like an oil well, and nobody gives me a depletion allowance.

Worry Needed

What I want is for somebody

to worry about whether I will defect to the Communists, and pay me a salary for not defecting. The salary of course would be tax free, because I am underdeveloped. I want somebody to fret about my sinus trouble. If you want a really worthy cause, a committee to study the effect of airline food on the spleen would be worthy of subsidy.

But mostly what I want is a tax-free deal for rating on my neighbor. If the British can take the heat off keeping money, in order to set a thief to catch a crook, I see no reason why we couldn't start some tax forgiveness in our own land. We try to pamper our criminals to preach on other criminals; isn't it about time a few God-fearing, honest citizens got a little protection from the fervid spenders of our substance?

Don't Forget

In the Lenten holidays one gives up things, as one gives to the local poor, as one gives up money to pay his taxes (and that check better not bounce. Bud, unless you're some Mr. Big and kind of forget that you owed the tab).

I am willing to give up the United Nations operation in the Congo. I will give up Mr. Nehru; in the same vein I will write off the Alianza para Progreso, and I will give up all the Kennedys, and I will certainly give up Chiang Kai-shek, and that goes for Madame Chiang as well. What I want is just to cut the luxuries, so I can do for my country what my country is supposed to do for me.

I forgot Africa. I will give most of it to the Russians, as a sure way of bankrupting that economy, and the Africans won't be any worse off. They will just have a little less for the politicians to steal under the Russian budget, and the golden beds will be made of brass. (Copyright, 1963 by United Feature Synd., Inc.)

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Washington

Over-riding solid Republican opposition, the House Ways and Means Committee approves an \$11 BILLION tax cut—the biggest tax cut in the nation's history.

Republican members lined up solidly against the measure after the committee rejected by a one-vote margin a GOP attempt to make the second stage of the tax cut—that applying to 1965 incomes—contingent upon President Kennedy HOLDING FEDERAL SPENDING to specified levels.

That is to say: The Republican members of the committee insisted that if we are going to CUT TAXES we must CUT SPENDING also.

The position of the Republican members of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee is based upon a statement issued the other day by Former President Eisenhower, in which he said: "Various members of Congress have asked my views on the proposed legislation to reduce taxes this year. These are my views: 'A tax cut is highly desirable but only if the persistent and frightening increase in federal expenditures is halted in its tracks. It is my position that any tax cut without firm HALTING of expenditure increases is unwise, undesirable and certain to damage our currency and the nation.'

"Before a tax cut can be justified, therefore, I believe there should be explicit executive assur-

ance of EXPENDITURE control. This assurance should be that, until a budgetary surplus has been achieved, future annual expenditures will not be permitted to rise above the already inflated level for this fiscal year of approximately \$98 BILLION.

What Ike is saying is this: Sure, taxes are TOO HIGH. They ought to be reduced. They are taking so much out of the pockets of the people that the people don't have enough left to spend for themselves to create a satisfactory level of prosperity.

But— If we cut taxes and GO ON SPENDING AS RECKLESSLY AS EVER, we'll wind up broke.

That's about the size of Ike's argument. To those of us who pay the taxes, it sounds like good common sense.

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The Editor's Corner

By Charles V. Stanton

Thorough Testing On Tap Prior To Vote Automation

Each election in the United States costs taxpayers more than \$50 million simply to count votes. That's why Howell Appling, Oregon's secretary of state, believes his near breakthrough in the technique of vote counting to be "the most significant development in election procedure in our history."

Appling recently directed the testing of vote-taking and vote-counting machinery and procedure at the State Fair.

By far the great majority of persons participating in the test expressed approval of the system.

The secretary of state plans to proceed with great caution in applying automation to the counting of votes.

"Fifteen years in the equipment business," he says, "tends to make me very cautious in the introduction of machinery. Consequently, we will thoroughly test all proposed machinery and procedures with which the counting of ballots is concerned. We don't want the public to become discouraged and reluctant. We'll use simulated elections until we are positive that all the bugs have been removed from the equipment and the technique."

Machine Used

Roughly the plan calls for a very simple card punching machine to be placed in each voting booth. This machine, Appling says, probably will cost not more than \$100. The voter will punch a card from a ballot much like that presently used. Cards will go to ballot boxes. Each county will have a computer. The county either can buy a computer, lease one from one of the major companies or rent one from some large office. There are plenty of the computers available, Appling reports.

"We're trying to avoid a large investment to the respective counties as would be the case if they had to buy, store and maintain the present type of voting machine. In this case they'll spend less than \$100 for each machine, plus the purchase cost of or the rental of a computer." Each large precinct would require two or three of the machines used by the voter.

In the 1960 elections Appling states, it cost the state of Oregon \$460,000 just to count votes. Twenty-seven thousand persons were employed on the counting boards alone. In addition, the respective counties had to pay canvassing boards to make the official count. This count then had to be certified to the secretary of state, who had to make up the final and official tabulation for Oregon as a whole, two weeks or more, after the election.

Cards Fed In

Under the plan now in mind, the ballot boxes would be sealed at the polls immediately after the closing hour. The boxes would be taken to a central place and opened under the eyes of an official board. The cards would be fed through the computer and official and complete precinct results would be available in a matter of minutes. There would be no monkeying around with incomplete returns.

By midnight, it is estimated, the secretary of state would have official and complete returns from all counties and would be able to announce the final vote.

Tests have indicated the machine method to be 100 per cent accurate in counting, Appling reports. The only errors so far have been found in improperly cast ballots. For example, where the ballot may contain several names with instructions to vote for two, some people may vote for three, which causes the ballot to be thrown out.

Improvements Result

A few minor improvements already have resulted from tests

UNVEILS NEW AUTO

MODENA, Italy (UPI)—An experimental rear-engine sports car, the first in the history of the Alfa-Romeo automobile company, made its inaugural appearance recently.

The new car, tested by Italian racing driver Luigi Bertocco, reached a speed of 60 miles an hour. Alfa-Romeo officials said they had not yet decided whether to begin production of the model.

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THE LIGHTER SIDE:

Ambassador Pool Said Overstocked

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI) — With the test ban treaty, civil rights and all like that going on, you don't hear much about this, but there is a feeling among certain senators that the United States is becoming overstocked with roving ambassadors.

Some concern over the increase in the roving ambassador population was expressed at a recent hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This came as a surprise to me.

I can remember a time not many years back when the roving ambassador was, like the whooping crane, in danger of becoming extinct.

But now, thanks to the mobility of modern diplomacy, roving

ambassadors are plentiful again. Some say too plentiful.

Thus far, nobody has tried to organize a campaign to stamp out roving ambassadors. Nor has there been any talk of an open season to keep their numbers in check.

Nevertheless, the situation has reached the point where Sen. Frank Carlson, R-Kan., felt constrained to ask the State Department to take a census of our migratory diplomats.

By counting their legs and dividing by two, the department was able to ascertain that we now have eight roving ambassadors on the continent of Europe.

Carlson reported this finding at a hearing on the nomination of William Matson Roth to be deputy special representative for trade negotiations.

"I want to say I am very happy that we finally send somebody over there who is listed as a special representative," rather than as an ambassador, Carlson commented.

He added that in his opinion the skill of our negotiators is not necessarily enhanced by striped trousers.

But Sen. George D. Aiken, R-Vt., pointed out that there is a marked difference between a special representative and a roving ambassador.

The former wears a black tie and the latter a white tie, Aiken explained.

This brought from Sen. Frank J. Lausche, D-Ohio, an account of the time that he, as a newcomer to Washington, attended his first White House reception in formal dress.

As he was standing on the portico, Aiken came out, handed him a ticket and said "Car 67, please."

I gathered from this that the senators fear our roving ambassadors might be mistaken for parking attendants. Or, worse yet, for senators.

Lightning Hits B.C. Fuel Barge

VANCOUVER, B.C. (UPI)—A barge laden with fuel oil was exploded by lightning at Bull Harbor on Vancouver Island Friday and residents of the community were waiting tensely for the fire to burn itself out before it reached storage tanks on shore.

The community has no fire-fighting equipment and the nearest fire department is a three-hour boat ride away at Port Hardy, B.C.

But a spokesman for the Royal Canadian Air Force Rescue Coordination Center here said that at present there was no danger of the fire spreading to the tanks, which are located above the harbor and which contain 50,000 gallons of diesel oil and other fuel.

The spokesman said a valve on the pipeline leading from the tanks down to the water had been shut off and "we're hoping that will do the trick."

The Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Saturday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 1963 with 108 to follow.

The moon is approaching new phase.

The morning star is Jupiter.

The evening stars are Saturn, Mars and Jupiter.

On this day in history:

In 1778, Benjamin Franklin was sent to France to negotiate a treaty to end the American Revolutionary War.

In 1847, the U. S. Army occupied Mexico City.

In 1901, President William McKinley died from wounds suffered eight days earlier at the hands of an assassin.

In 1923, Louis Firpo knocked Jack Dempsey out of the ring in the first round but was defeated by the Heavyweight Champion of the World in the second round.

A thought for the day — Alexandre Dumas the elder, the French author, said: "All human wisdom is summed up in two words: wait and hope."

In Days Gone By

Taken from the files of the News-Review

40 YEARS AGO Sept. 14, 1923

The first meeting of the proposed order of Umpqua Chiefs' will be held at the office of A. T. Lawrence tonight at 7 o'clock. This organization is a booster order patterned after the Rosarians, Cavemen, Pirates and other such organizations which are working for the good of their communities.

The purpose of the order will be to work for the best interests of the Umpqua Valley and to advertise the advantages of this section of the state in every possible manner, and at the same time to provide fun for all of the members and the public in general.

25 YEARS AGO Sept. 14, 1938

The Riddle Valley Canning Co. has completed shipment of its first 50 cases of petite prunes. L. A. Smith, manager, announced today.

10 YEARS AGO Sept. 14, 1953

Sunday night's hardtop auto races at the Roseburg Speedway produced one of the roughest nights of racing ever witnessed on the local track. Pile-ups occurred more often than not, to the excitement of the large crowd in attendance.

LITTLE LIZ



The most embarrassing thing in the world is watching the boss do something you said couldn't be done.

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