

Letters

Position refined

I usually agree with Prof. Goldstein but his position as stated in *Letters* (4-14-76) needs some refinement. For example, arm's length pricing of goods sold abroad to subsidiaries at prices that avoid U.S. corporate profit taxes is a continuing problem. Also, a typical U.S. corporation producing or selling abroad pays a smaller percentage of the full U.S. corporate tax than a company in the same business and of the same size producing and selling only domestically.

The average state revenue department, much less the revenue staff of a less developed country, is unable to cope with the accounting systems used by corporations operating in a number of jurisdictions. Control over the movement of profits to safe havens and the allocation of expenses and profits between different nations in which operations take place are beyond the capability of the revenue people of a single small nation or even the United States.

The problem is serious. Maybe in the near future GATT (General Agreement on Taxes and Tariffs) will sponsor an international conference in this area similar to the current Tokyo Round on tariffs and trade controls.

R.W. Lindholm
Professor of Finance
Business Admin.

Attend to insights

Daniel Berrigan's April 14 talk underscored one of the few positive services (in my view) still performed by universities, viz., to provide forums once the media has moved on to new diversions. The address was a beautiful blend of piety and political awareness, of attentiveness to the call of the spirit and the needs of the body, of humour and profundity, of high learning and casual humanness. But the only true praise for the Berrigans among us is to attend to their insights and to seek means to nudge them toward fruition. It is in this spirit that I write.

In answering a question about the financing of the B-1 bomber, Berrigan observed that there was a time when the government needed our bodies and money to wage war. Now, however, the mechanization of destruction has advanced to the point where money alone suffices. Accordingly, Berrigan suggested that individuals refuse to pay the portion of their taxes devoted to weapons of war. Not, of course, a new idea but perhaps one whose time has come. It struck me that the proposal, adopted in the past by isolated individuals at great risk, could, at the present juncture, become a rallying point for citizens who for varying reasons and from varying perspectives are alarmed with the course their country is taking. What I want to do here is to relate the idea of large-scale, selective tax rebellions to some current movements and concerns, in the hope of stimulating further discussion and elaboration in the neighborhoods and institutions in which people live and work. So, in no particular order:

"No taxation without representation" would, *mutatis mutandis*, be a fitting bicentennial theme. The amount to be withheld should be determined by different groups in terms of what they deem proportional to "overkill" defense spending. As we learned from the American Revolution, personal economic interest and patriotism make a powerful combination.

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The interests of the poor, the unemployed, working people, teachers and students, indeed of most of us, is in more and better human services and less taxes.

People concerned with such issues as the B-1, Senate Bill 1, blundering bureaucracies, agribusiness and the like could surely agree to withhold support from a government which uses part of their taxes for policies they abhor.

Ecological groups would oppose military use of non-renewable resources.

The proposal could revitalize local institutions by giving them an important issue to confront. My own fantasy is a faculty meeting which instead of discussing successes and failures in getting government grants, decides what could be done with the money withheld — financial aid for students, visiting scholars and the like.

I could go on. But what do you think? Berrigan deserves more from us than a large and friendly audience.

Jerry Bass
visiting assistant professor
CSPA

Why discredit?

This letter is a short rejoinder to Candace Dempsey's comments on Kesey's recent thoughts on "kids and books."

When someone gives you advice, the question to ask is whether or not the advice is good — not whether or not the advice is incongruent with other or earlier pieces of advice. If you are moving in a direction and you are convinced the direction is good and a gesture of advice seems to be a counter to your momentum... then don't take the advice. Why spend your time and energy discrediting the author of the advice when, instead, you could be "having fun"?

Bryan Tippit
music

Not that creative

A recent *Emerald* story "quotes" me as saying "The Oregon Bottle Bill has replaced motherhood in Oregon."

The bottle bill is a creative piece of legislation, but it's inconceivable to call it that creative.

What I really said in discussing the great popularity of the bottle bill was "The phrase 'bottle bill' has replaced 'motherhood' in the Oregon politician's vocabulary."

Nancie Fadeley
State Representative,
District 42

Zoot, zoot

How about saying "zoot, zoot" to Steve Dodge's allegedly humorous column, "At large"?

Jean Shepherd
1010 High St.
Eugene, Oregon

Letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Because of space limitations, letters must be no more than 250 words, typed, triple-spaced, dated and signed with the person's major. No unsigned letters will be published. Longer opinion columns will be published whenever possible after being submitted to the editorial page editor. The limit on opinion columns is 800 words, using the same format as letters.

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INVESTIGATE
TOP SECRET
JAN 20 1976



HUMPHREYBIRD

opinion

Summing up the struggle

The last two terms have seen a lot of struggle on the UO campus. Hundreds of students have come out for militant demonstrations against the 12 per cent tuition hike planned for next fall. Thousands have signed petitions demanding an end to the attacks on our education. The Committee to Fight for the Right to an Education, initiated last fall by the Revolutionary Student Brigade, organized increasing numbers of students into action. Every step along the way we've been growing stronger and more united. On March 23, while all of us were off campus for spring break, the State Board of Higher Education met and pushed the hike through. So what's going on here? Who won and who lost? How do we sum up what's happened over the last few months?

One thing that's clear — we've been fighting a lot more than just a tuition hike. Students have been drawn into struggle against it because for most of us it represents a real attack. With dorm rates and health fees going up and higher costs for books, rent, food and all of the other things we need, a lot of us just plain can't afford to pay what amounts to a 25 per cent hike over the two years. The jobs we need to put us through are nowhere to be found and we don't have anything better to look forward to when we get out.

In our fight we are coming up against more than just a few bureaucrats or college administrators. We've been fighting the rich class of people who run the state board, the universities and the whole country. They're up to their necks in a profit crisis and they're desperately trying to shift the burden onto the backs of the people. They do that mainly by squeezing more profits out of working people. And they do it by trying to cutback spending on everything that isn't directly profitable to them: things like education, unemployment compensation, housing, welfare, etc. The shape of attacks yet to come around the country can be seen in New York City. There, the ruling class' schemes to "make-the-people-pay" for next year alone include dumping 40,000 more city workers, with seven city hospitals and more firehouses and schools to close, and 40,000 more students to be forced off the college rolls.

In fighting back we've joined with people who've been getting together all across the country. Like the 80,000 miners who wildcatted last fall demanding the right to strike. Or the 20,000 who walked out last month demanding decent benefits for workers disabled or killed because of the conditions in the mines. Or like the thousands in Hawaii, workers and students together, who have stood up to the island's big developers and land owners, refusing to let their homes be leveled to clear the way for highly profitable hotels. Like the workers in Washington state, employed and unemployed, whose unity and organization beat back an attempt to pass a bill that would have cut tens of thousands off unemployment insurance. And like the 10,000 students in New York and the 6,000 in New Jersey who demonstrated recently against massive budget cuts. In New Jersey last month 800 students stormed a board of regents meeting and won back the jobs of 65 out of 100 professors who were under the axe.

Standing together with others fighting back against this crisis to dump it back in the laps of the people who caused it is the only thing that's

going to get it off our backs. Some student "representatives" like ASUO Pres. Jim Bernau and the *Emerald* have been saying that the solution is to go to the state board with some "well researched proposals," so we can sit down together and work out some "reasonable" alternatives to the hike. What have their schemes amounted to? Every plan they've put forward has called either for cutbacks, or sticking the faculty and staff with the brunt of the attack! They're saying that all we can do is sit down with the board to help them plan some more "reasonable" ways to cut us back!

Well, the only solution that will ever sound "reasonable" to the state board and the class of business bosses they represent is one that takes it out of our hides or the hides of working people. This came out clearly when students from UO and Portland State University confronted the Finance Committee of the State Board in February, demanding an end to plans for the hike. They tried to tell us they represented all the people of Oregon. Board member Louis Perry, a banker who sits on the boards of Standard Insurance, U.S. Bank and others (including Tektronix, where 100 workers had just struck successfully against wage cuts) told us, "I'm not here representing any one corporation." "That's right!" someone yelled, "You represent a whole class of them!" With the temperature rising, board member Stub Steward, head of Bohemia Lumber, turned red and scurried out of the room muttering "It's too bad to be poor," under his breath. And their attempts to cover themselves and confuse us with bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo didn't get too far on the last day of winter term, either, when the chancellor and the vice-chancellor were dragged out into the light of day and confronted with the anger of a crowd of 200 students.

Maybe we weren't strong enough to beat back the attack at this point in time. That's not to say that the struggle against this hike is over. It's no accident they were forced to sneak it through the back door. Our strength was growing because we were getting together and aiming our fire against the people who are really behind the attacks on our education.

And we haven't seen the last of these attacks by any means — plans to cut back financial aid and federal grants are already on the drawing board for next year, and this isn't the last time they'll try to raise tuition. In other parts of the country where there's been some experience fighting these attacks, students have occupied buildings and organized strikes. Here, we will need to be developing whatever tactics we need to advance our struggle.

We're coming up against the whole capitalist system that puts the profits of a handful above the needs of the vast majority. And it's that understanding, along with the strength, unity and organization we've built in the course of this struggle, that will arm us to beat back the attacks we know will be coming down until we get rid of this rotten system once and for all.

Revolutionary Student Brigade
John Kaiser
John Lanier
Jane Loth