

Federal, state, local taxes rise 17% during 1976-77

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal, state and local governments raised 17 percent more in taxes in the 1976-77 fiscal year than they did the year before, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

The \$61.5 billion increase in taxes was more than double the \$26.8 billion increase in 1975-76, the department said.

"The large increases reflected improved economic conditions and, to some degree, inflationary trends," the report on taxes said.

Most of the increases were in individual and corporate income taxes, it said.

At the end of the 1974-75 recession, more people had jobs and they were pushed into higher income brackets with a 6.6 percent inflation rate.

However, a report by the Tax Foundation, a nonprofit research group, showed that since 1977, states at least may have been cutting back on their taxes.

For the first time in four years, more states reduced taxes than increased them, the foundation said.

The foundation said Tuesday that taxpayers in 21 states will pay about \$2.5 billion less each year because of reductions in state income and sales levies. Eight states increased taxes - mostly on motor fuels - by a total of about \$200 million.

The Commerce Department report showed that governments collected a combined total of \$419.7 billion in taxes in the 1976-77 fiscal year. That meant the average adult and child paid \$1,907 in taxes.

The report covers all of the money taken in at all levels of government in the year ending Sept. 30, 1977, or, in some states, June 30, 1977.

Of the 419.7 billion, \$244 billion went to the federal government, \$101 billion to state governments and \$74.8 billion to local governments. That meant the average person paid \$1,907 in taxes during the fiscal year. However, in figuring average tax payments, the government counts all U. S. citizens, including children.

Governments collected 59.6 percent of their money from income taxes, 14.9 percent from property taxes, 20 percent from sales taxes, and the rest from

other sources.

Corporations shelled out 31.6 percent more in taxes, while the average citizen paid 19.1 percent more in income taxes. Property taxes went up 9.7 percent.

Administration economists have said they fear that too much of the nation's wealth is being

channeled through governments. They want to reduce the government's share of the gross national product from 22 percent to 21 percent.

The federal government expects to spend \$491.6 billion in the 1979 fiscal year after spending \$450.7 billion in 1978.

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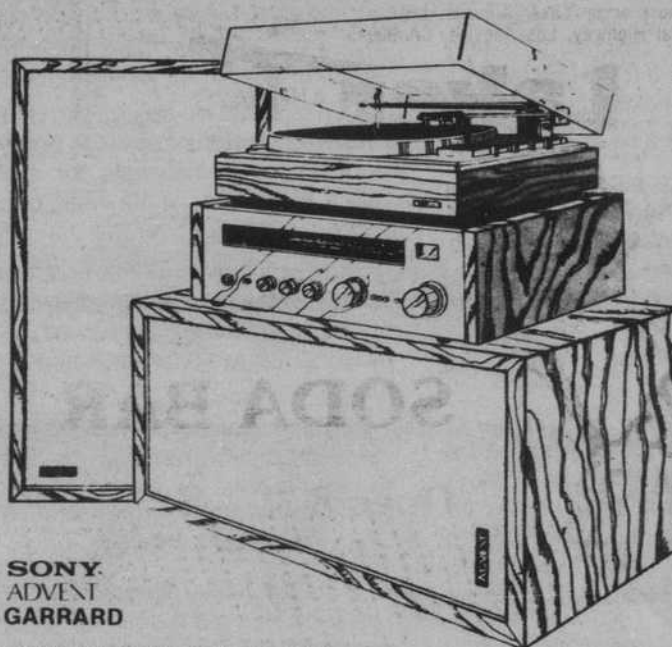
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Country turning to new paganism claims Mormon

PROVO, Utah (AP) — A new form of pagan imperialism is seeking to establish "irreligion" as the state religion in America, says Elder Neal A. Maxwell, an official of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

He told students at Brigham Young University that "this new irreligious imperialism seeks to disallow certain people's opinions simply because those opinions grow out of religious convictions."

Under sway of the new imperialism, he said "resistance to abortion will be seen as primitive. Concern over the institution of the family will be viewed as 'un-trendy' and unenlightened."

He said the new paganism uses the cultivated freedoms of western civilization to shrink religious freedom while rejecting the value essence of the Judeo-Christian heritage.