

THE Sandy Post



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Page 2 Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon May 1, 1969

Is Attending College a 'Right'?

A House subcommittee may have opened a whole can of worms last week when it voted to put a "lid" on enrollment in Oregon's colleges and universities.

Oregon youngsters traditionally have been afforded every opportunity to attend college. Entrance requirements to the state's four-year schools are much lower than those in nearby Washington and California.

An Oregon student need have only a 2.25 average (2.0 any quarter except fall quarter) to get into the school of his choice. State schools in Washington and California require 2.5 or higher.

The House subcommittee addressed itself not only to the matter of grade-point-averages but also to the number of out-of-state students going to school here. It voted to impose a 10 per cent limit on non-resident students entering as freshmen.

This limitation, if approved, would cut sharply into the swarms of California students who come north each fall. The University of Oregon, for instance, has had as high as 25 per cent of its freshman class from California.

The prospect of providing education for deserving Californians hardly enralls many Oregonians and the House subcommittee obviously agreed.

However, there are two sides to the coin. University attendance, in these latter years, has become to be regarded as a "right" rather than a privilege. Anyone who met minimal grade requirements was felt to have the right to a college education. The House action would seem to upset this concept.

Further, out-of-state students are felt most desirable by many universities. They add a breadth to the educational experience not possible if everyone comes from one parochial area. And particularly, we might add, to the OSU and Oregon athletic departments which always are loaded with California imports.

In the long run, especially in view of Oregon's burgeoning community college system, it would seem wise to upgrade the state's four-year schools. We think they should provide more quality and less quantity.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Though Oregon will go to the polls June 3rd to vote on a proposal to adopt a 3 per cent sales tax there has been no dialog concerning the sales tax proposal in the Sandy Post, though it has been mentioned.

Since I find the proposed sales tax an outrageous attempt to shift the burden of taxes to those least able to pay, I should like to offer a few thoughts for the negative.

The sales tax proposal does not propose to raise additional money for government use but simply to replace a portion of real estate tax money with sales tax money. The voter is well advised to review his situation with respect to the sales tax.

If the voter is a renter and does not own real estate he will be paying 3 per cent more for most items he buys and he will not receive a drop in any other taxes he pays.

If the voter is head of a family of four, earns \$8,000 per year and has a \$11,000 home he will get \$66 reduction in real estate tax and pay out approximately \$119 in sales tax. The sales tax will cost him \$53 per year.

If the voter is head of a four member family with \$10,000 per year income and has a \$24,000 home he will break even on what he gets deducted from his real estate tax and what his family will pay in sales taxes.

To sum up for home owners: you must own much above average in real estate to break even or gain by having a sales tax.

If most home owners and all renters are to lose money by adoption of a sales tax who gains?

The answer here is simple. Business and industry own 2/3 of all Oregon real estate. They would get 2/3 of the relief in real estate taxes provided by the sales tax. However they would pay only 1/3 of the \$100,000,000 to be collected by a sales tax. Business and industry would get \$72 million

relief from real estate taxes and pay out only \$28 million in sales taxes. Part of the sales tax "package" calls for increased corporation taxes amounting to \$6 million. A bit of arithmetic shows us that business and industry would pay \$38 million less in taxes if a sales tax were adopted. A public relations firm in Salem has already been hired and we can expect a clever and major attempt to convince us that the sales tax is good for us to pay.

Sales taxes would require hiring of a special office force in the Tax Commission at Salem. Part of this force would need automobiles to travel about and check on retail store accounting of the tax. Retailers would receive one dollar out of each hundred to collect the tax. Customers would always find that what they bought cost more when they came to pay for it so the sales tax was added. Practically every item of supplies bought by the schools would cost 3 per cent more which would have to be met with additional real estate tax money.

Our legislature has not given us alternatives. They have only offered the sales tax as a means of real estate tax reduction and with it the scheme of having most home owners pay more in sales taxes than the reduction to be received in real estate taxes. The legislature could have proposed a number of alternative ways to raise money and reduce real estate taxes. Among possibilities are these: A \$5,000 homestead exemption, replacement of the \$600 dependent exemption with a \$60 tax credit (as it is now the \$600 exemption is worth more in actual tax deduction to those of large income than to those of small), taxation of all income from capital gains which are presently taxed at 1/2 rate.

The last day to register is May 2. We then have a month to study the issue and prepare to vote on June 3. Armed with the facts and a sense of justice we will be able to resist the

coming snow job over the air and through our mailboxes.

Yours truly,
Wilbur Sulzbach
Sandy, Ore.



BETTY HARTMAN

MRS. Hartman, Sandy Post editor, will return next week after a week's sojourn in California at the WIBC bowling tournament. Pinch-hitters in the office for her and Jo Espersen hope they find everything in good order on their return.

Linfield Taps Richard Long

Richard R. Long, Rt. 3, Box 1358, Boring, is among students which Linfield College has accepted as a member of its freshman class of 1969. He is expected to enroll at Linfield in September.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

by KEN BATEMAN

When you think about it, there is nothing mysterious or complex about "human nature". Human nature is nothing other than human habits. Human nature is therefore changeable the same as human habits are changeable. Surprisingly, human nature is often mentioned to excuse personal offenses and misbehavior. It is equally surprising that the inherent goodness in man is seldom mentioned as human nature.

The human habits of love, tolerance and respect are certainly as much of human nature as the faults of greed, distrust and other obnoxious vices. Actually, when you look around, you see far more love, trust and selflessness than hate, distrust and selfishness. In these troublesome times in human relations, it is good to stress that bad habits can be changed to good habits if a will to do so exists. In short, "human nature" can be changed. Just change "human habits".

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I feel that it is my obligation as a voter, taxpayer, and teacher to express my views on the May budget election.

Three main options are open to the voters of the district: (1) to vote yes on the budget and thereby supporting the local district and its students; (2) to vote no, reasoning that the local school levy is either too low or too high; or (3) to vote no, protesting the raise in taxes on all levels, (federal, state, county, and city).

In consideration of the first two options, I find the following important points: (1) Our student enrollment this past year has grown 10% and we must plan on at least equal growth for next year; (2) Voters on February 4, 1969 gave ballot approval to the building of a vocational building, giving the school system a better balance between vocational and academic education; (3) the budget has been examined and the areas of duplication, waste, and low priority have been deleted.

This examination is done not by the school employees but by the voters representatives - the local school board and five freeholders of the district, and has been done on the basis of sound education and good

fiscal policy.

Because of the growth of the district, voter approval of the new program, and the examination of the budget by voter representatives, I feel that the budget is worthy of voter approval.

The third option (protesting the raise in taxes on all levels by voting down the local budget) appears to be a good idea, but in truth is an irresponsible and ineffective action.

The defeat of our school district's budget will do nothing to change the other taxes. It can spell disaster to the education of students in our district by creating sub-standard education. In the changing technological age we live in, a sound education is a necessity.

As a resident of the district, exercise your responsibility to vote.

Please vote thoughtfully, vote wisely.

Respectfully,
W. Fred Proett

To the Editor:

Are you as ignorant as I was of the fact that an opportunity of educational value lies within a few miles of your doorstep?

The surprise I received last week when on an errand at Welches, cannot be kept hidden, if I would have my way.

I am referring to the glass collections in the house of (is it Ruth or Anna) Welch. Rare pieces of great value and displayed in the entire house. But another outstanding educational collection which I urge Western civics, history or any culture-studying classes to see, is the "Museum of Dolls."

Hundreds of dolls in costume from the year 1400 to modern times, in all sizes and from all countries, are displayed. The entire Houses of England stand on their faultless dress; patriots of the United States and Europe awaits the visitor.

The hand-weaving demonstrated upon the entrance grounds is not to be ignored.

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Doris Johnson
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