

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

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Vote referral means tax

From the Oregon Grange Bulletin:

It wasn't just the Halloween influence.

The biggest scare campaign in Oregon history is now underway throughout the state.

Property taxpayers are being stampeded into a corral from which, they're told, there's no escape. Either accept a sales tax, says the mandate, or face an escalating surge of confiscatory levies.

School teachers and other public employees are threatened with massive layoffs if the sales tax fails and the Son-Of-3 passes.

Businesses which have prospered well in Oregon for many generations (all through the years without a sales tax) are told now they must give all out support to the regressive levy or prepare either to shut down or move out.

All of this, of course, is pure balderdash. It's a frenzied effort to confuse, divide, and exploit the public by Big Business interests which have been trying for half a century to unload their tax responsibilities on the rest of us.

The sales tax is simply an added tax — a tax that will be added to what the property owner now pays. It is not, as its proponents claim, a substitute tax. Most taxpayers would end up paying more per capita tax than they now pay.

But not in all cases. Large property owners and the wealthy would enjoy a bonanza. Take, for example, the Oregonian.

Portland's monopoly newspaper, heavy with property holdings and affluence and the state's most frenzied sales tax advocate, would save thousands of dollars in property taxes. It wouldn't, however, have to pay one dime in sales tax. The tax responsibility it escapes would have to be shouldered by low-income and middleclass taxpayers.

The sales tax is a fraud foisted upon the people. It is a colossal tax shift designed solely for the benefit of big business and the wealthy. If not, why are the special interest groups willing to

spend one to three million dollars to get it passed?

School board and local government bodies are kidding nobody when they declare their neutrality under the guise of "just wanting to let the people vote on the issue."

Those who vote to refer are voting for the sales tax.

Make no mistake about it!

They know there's a million dollars waiting in the wings to confuse, mislead and divide. They know who the sales tax will benefit. They know who it will hurt. There can be no pious professions of neutrality.

Rural and less populated areas of the state will be hurt worst by enactment of the currently proposed measure. They will pay through the nose and reap none of the purported benefits. Only big urban centers like Portland would gain advantage, if any (and there, only bureaucratic tax-eating gluttons, the affluent, and corporate wealth.)

Grangers are urged to appear before their school boards and local government bodies to stress this fact. The sales tax is bad medicine for hundreds of Oregon communities and it must be made clear that those who vote, or have voted to refer, are voting for this discriminatory added tax.

The Oregon State Grange is not opposed to referring to the people a measure designed to relieve the property tax burden. Let it never be forgotten that it was the Grange which pioneered and brought about enactment of Oregon's precedent-setting Initiative, Referendum, and Recall law, foremost in the nation. What the Grange opposes vigorously, as stated by State Master Harris, is referral of sales tax to benefit Big Business as the only solution to the exclusion of all other alternatives. Why is it worth millions of dollars to special moneyed interests to cram a sales down the throats of Oregon citizens without consideration of any other solution?

This, as State Master Harris so forcefully asserts, "is Big Brotherism at its worst."

Don't postpone tax vote

From Associated Oregon Industries:

Associated Oregon Industries is supporting voter passage of the Legislature's revenue reform/spending limitation referendum.

AOI Chairman of the Board James L. Osborne of McMinnville said the position favoring the legislative plan was taken by the organization's executive board on the recommendation of its taxation committee.

"AOI sees the sales tax proposal that would fund property tax and income tax relief — along with the limitation on spending by state and local governments — as solid improvements in Oregon's economic climate," Osborn said.

"Approval by voters would do much to hasten recovery and maintain economic vitality in the future."

The statewide association of private employers traces its founding to the 1890s and has been representing business interests before the Legislature since the Thirties. It was an integral part of the coalition of varied interests working with the elements of the current Assembly during regular and special sessions this year to achieve passage of the revenue/spending limitation

package. Osborne added that AOI believes the compromise plan that finally emerged from the special session is not without flaws but the concept is sound.

"Inequities can and should be corrected statutorily by the Legislature in 1985," he said.

Specific areas of AOI concern involve application of the sales tax to wide-ranging services in addition to retail transactions, expansion of income tax relief in addition to property tax relief and the expense of collecting the tax by retailers and providers of taxed services.

"Nonetheless," Osborn said, "Oregon is long overdue for reformation of its revenue system and the package referred by the 62nd Legislative Assembly is a big step in the right direction."

The AOI leader said members are being urged to encourage units of local government throughout the state to expedite their ratification of the referendum for a decision by voters at the earliest opportunity.

"Postponing that final decision by voters only works against the ultimate economic well-being of our state and all of its residents," he concluded.



Letters to the editor

Parents important interest group

Wanted: one child, age 11, a sixth grader to attend Firwood School. Needed immediately!

For the lack of one child a decision was made on Oct. 31 by the Sandy Elementary School Board with consequences that will affect the lives of 59½ other children immediately for the current school year and undoubtedly for the remainder of those children's educational careers.

An emergency fund, that does have money for an additional teacher, is the problem. Since when are children not the basic concern of the educational system? Since when has it become more important for our educational tax dollars to be saved for emergency purposes more important than our children? I do appreciate the current financial crises and the need to be frugal with our money, but I cannot buy into the process of reasoning used by the school board to make their decision. Yes, it is true that the 10 percent of the sixth graders will "get by" (thank goodness my

daughter is in that category), and yes, it is true the bottom 10 percent will get help (they are receiving mandated government funding through special education programs); but my concern is for the lower end of the other 80 percent of those children. Neither natural ability nor government mandates will give them the time and attention they need in the last year of self-contained classroom experience with 30 children in a class. Therein lies our potential high school drop-outs!

It has been suggested by the Oct. 27 Sandy Post editorial that parents need to help school and become more involved, but in the Nov. 3 editorial, those same parents, the PTC are accused of being a "special interest group." Could we consider not belittling the most important "special interest group" in this community and give a little thanks for their willingness to come forth when a cause is apparent. Educationally speaking, that is where

"it's at!"

Lillias Crane
Sandy

Communists

"Your grandchildren will grow up under communism," Nikita Khrushchev shouted to the Americans in 1956. He also said Communists have no right to be mere onlookers.

Nikolai Lenin also stated some things that we really need to think about. He said, "Powerful organizations of non-communists can be created for communist purposes, particularly liberal minded ministers, professors and lecturers, as these men are at the present time the leaders of the masses." We think the letter in the Sandy Post on Oct. 27 by Teresa Shaw was very informative. She brought to our attention what the Department of Humanities is doing with our tax money. Her letter was not a "low blow" to our local library.

We are sorry to say that our Sandy community has

not been well represented at the series of lectures at Clackamas Community College. If so, the letter of the Nov. 3 issue of the Post, we feel would not have been written.

What we need to have is lectures and forums on America, our heritage and how our republic was formed and how it works. Far too many Americans are ignorant of these very basic facts about our own country. Instead, our tax dollars are being spent on such things as "Russia Awareness Week." Taxpayers paid \$11,000 for that.

We agree with U.S. Representative Denny Smith's recent decision calling for an audit of the Department of Humanities. Maybe this wasteful spending soon can be stopped.

In closing, we would like to quote Martin Niemöller, Protestant clergyman, "In Germany, the Nazis came for the Jew, I didn't speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't

a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I was a Protestant, so I didn't speak up. Then they came for me... by that time there was no one to speak up for anyone."

Matthew 5:3 says it well, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child, and they shall not escape."

Wake up, America.
Aaron and Vikki Ballou
Sandy

Spook Alley

Your article on Mt. Hood's "Spook Alley" was nice to see.

Patti Griffin and Lowell Njust and his wife, Sharon, are to be congratulated for their work on this fine job. The hundreds of youngsters would not have had a fun-filled Halloween if people like these didn't work so hard for the good of others.

We all say, "Thanks Patti, Lowell and Sharon."
Roy and Betty Bunting
Zig Zag

Personally speaking

Where have the brain cells gone?

The Internal Revenue Service must have a hand somewhere in the distribution of brain cells. Why else would they be divided so unequally?

There can be no question that some people have an inordinate share. Take William F. Buckley Jr. The weight of those extra brain cells is what causes his eyelids to droop when he says words like "perfunctorily."

Not all of those with an inordinate share of cells use them properly. Take William F. Buckley Jr. Why waste brain cells saying words like "perfunctorily?"

There have been questions raised as to whether people such as Buckley obtain their brain cells legally. Let's face it, a lot of people with a lot of money have a lot of brain cells.

While most investigative scientists are distracted testing athletes for steroid use, thousands of scholars are probably being injected daily with these illegally obtained brain cells.

If a brain cell black market exists, this would also explain those who have a lesser share. Certainly many would trade a few brain cells for wealth and power. It's at least a plausible explanation for some politicians holding their positions.

I am not going to say that all politicians are lacking in brain



by HANK EMRICH

cells, though it wouldn't hurt if somebody would say it.

The reason I will not is because of the old adage about people who live in glass houses not casting stones. Comme to think of it, anyone who would live in a glass house is probably missing a few brain cells themselves.

I would be the first to admit that I may not have as many brain cells as some other people. Actually my wife would be the first to admit I do not have as many brain cells as just about anybody.

I think she is confusing a lack of intelligence with absent-mindedness. Forgetting to pick

up the kids or a couple gallons of milk does not indicate stupidity. In fact there are times when forgetting to pick up the kids seems like a very wise decision.

If I could get away with forgetting to pick them up more often, I wouldn't have to get so many gallons of milk. The trick would be remembering to forget them at mealtime.

Not that I don't love my kids, it is just that they are the ones responsible for the drain on my brain cells. It is not easy coming up with names for five kids.

With that many children, keeping track of birthdays is no easy chore. The calendar begins to look like a monopoly board, only you lose real money when you land on their squares.

The secret to impressing kids with your knowledge is to try and keep the subject matter to what you know most and talk about things they cannot check up on.

One good way is to talk about the past. Unless they have tickets to the twilight zone, they have no way of knowing what was or wasn't. This is not a revolutionary idea. If all our parents had really walked 10 miles in the snow to school, every map of a city would have looked like a tinker toy with schools sticking out all around them connected only by ten-mile pathways.

Another way is to talk about places they have never been. Tell

them about the agricultural development of Grenada.

Even if they could, they wouldn't want to go there and check. Especially if you have a teenage son.

Inevitably the kids will always work around to their favorite form of entertainment.

Their favorite form of entertainment is watching me help with the homework. They all get together and start giggling, then they show up with 22 books and a towel for me to wipe the sweat from my brow.

It is almost a form of torture. The sixth grader will start at the lower end of the multiplication tables, then he will start going faster and faster as he progresses to the nines. Many times I have awakened at night screaming "Oh no, not the nines!"

My eighth grader will just hideously laugh as she watches me cut current events from the paper, knowing the box scores I haven't yet seen are on the back side of the picture she wants.

Worse yet is the freshman. He will hit me with a story problem just when I am at my lowest point.

"Hey Dad," he will say, "In a fifteen minute conversation with a first grader at the rate of 62 words a minute and six questions, how many brain cells does a 35-year-old man lose?"