

## Remind Them of This...

By ELIZABETH DOTSON

"Yes, sir, that's why our taxes are so high!"

"No wonder state government costs are increasing!"

Generally when discussions are summarized with this dialogue it is some one person, some one group of persons, or some one cause which receives all of the blame for the increasing cost of state and local governments. There are a number of factors which taxpayers frequently fail to consider when discussing government expenditures.

### Enter the "Horseless Carriage"

Suppose Henry Ford hadn't been so anxious to produce his "horseless carriage" and had left it to a later generation to enjoy first!

We would now be able to save the big expenses involved in the Highway Department road construction and maintenance, the expense of the Drivers' License and correlated divisions of the Department of the Secretary of State, much of the work of the Public Utilities Commission, the traffic problems handled by the Traffic Safety Division of the State and Highway Departments. One *single* invention thus added millions of dollars in necessary expenses and salaries to the tax burden of Oregon.

### In Step With Social Progress

If our social conscience had lagged behind in the "Dark Ages" of public welfare, think of the money we would save! We could be saving ourselves the expenses of public welfare assistance, unemployment compensation, vocational rehabilitation and industrial accident benefits.

If we had been willing to go on believing that incarceration was the sole aim of institutions we would save the additional costs of curing, rehabilitating and readjusting to normal living the inmates of our eleemosynary institutions.

If we did not believe in the human value of every individual citizen, we would not try to provide opportunity for the maximum development of his capacities. We wouldn't need to finance improved education in public schools and state colleges, education for the handicapped children, a free state library service, improved health standards or fair labor legislation.

### Conservation and Protection

If we were willing to leave the fate of our natural resources and basic industries to unplanned development, we wouldn't have to pay for the work of the Department of Agriculture, the Fish Commission, the Forestry Department, the Game Commission and the State Parks Department.

In the complexity of our modern civilization, it is impossible for each citizen to judge the competency of all of those who render him vital services. Oregon's citizens have demanded protection against the inevitable "quack" who lives parasitically upon people unprotected by laws. Thus we have boards of examiners for specialists, from barbers and embalmers to naturopaths and doctors.

### Increased Population Served

Can we, in the interests of economy, afford to give up any one of the basic principles upon which the existence of these departments is based? We cannot go backward in social progress, in educational values, in affording protection to our citizens.

Another factor to be considered is the increase in Oregon's population. It is impossible to serve our present increased population without increasing the budgets for the various state departments.

When you hear people discussing taxes and public expenditures, remind them of these factors. Ask them to divide their taxes into the benefits they receive directly and indirectly.