the OSEA news

The monthly publication of the Oregon State Employes Association

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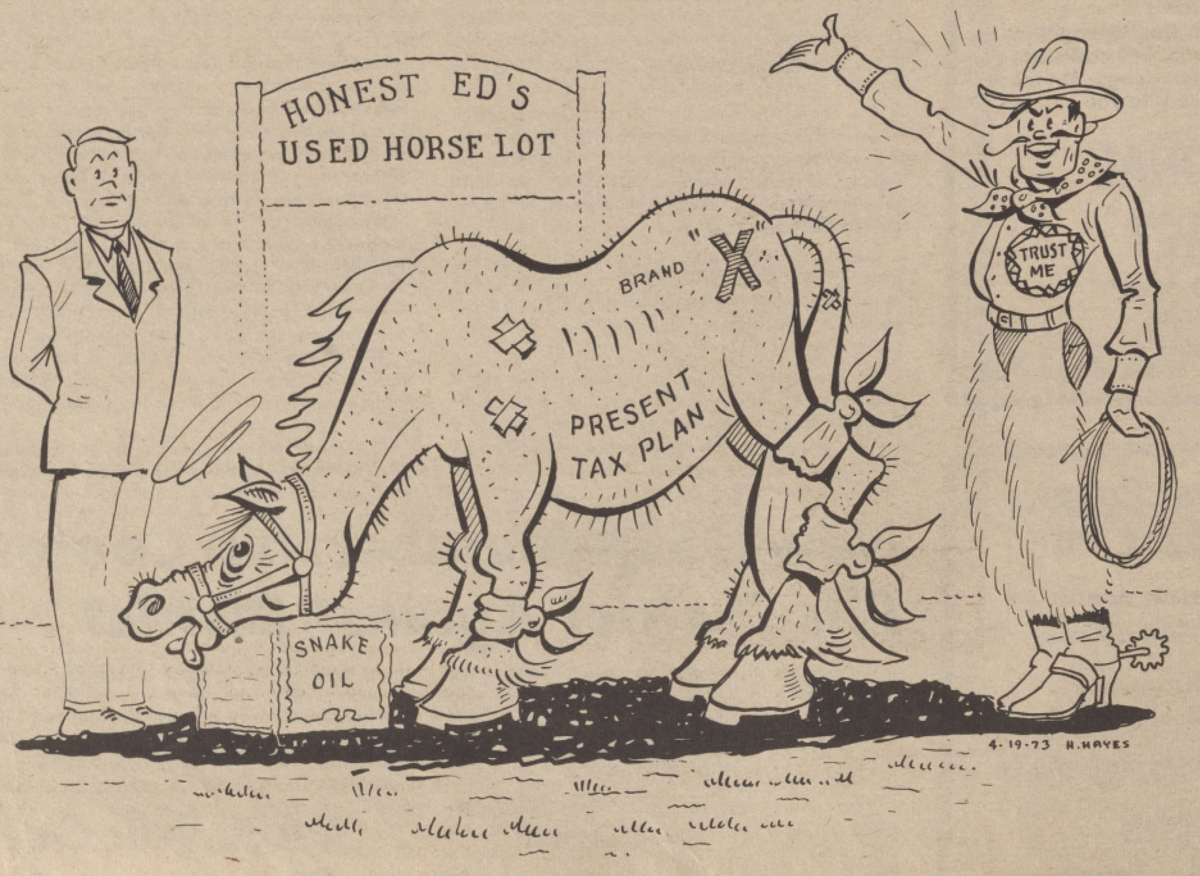

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE WAY HE LOOKS, BELIEVE ME THAT HORSE IS IN PERFECT CONDITION.

From the....

Executive Secretary

Whom Can You Trust?

One thing appears certain as Oregon citizens prepare to vote on their tax system in the May 1 election—most people agree it needs to be changed.

Legislative committees and Governor McCall and his staff have been working for two years on how to change it. The trust that Oregonians have in the judgment of the governor and legislative leaders—as well as State Treasurer James Redden and Secretary of State Clay Myers—may be the main question that is decided on election day.

Without dealing in personalities, one is compelled to observe that the main body of legislators now opposing the McCall tax plan are those who refused in the 1971 legislative session to consider any change in the tax laws, even when the state was in a condition of financial emergency. One of the main opponents of the McCall program was making proposals in 1971 much the same as those that are in the present bill.

In their unsuccessful fight against the McCall measure in the House and Senate, the opponents not only argued for less property tax relief (take only 65 per cent instead of 95 per cent of the school burden off the property tax rolls) and a lesser income tax increase, but the main thrust of their arguments was to cut $100 million or more out of general fund budgets. House Majority Leader Les AuCoin invited the opposition leader to come over to Ways and Means and point out which budgets should be cut, but apparently there was no acceptance of the offer.

When state employes vote on May 1, and have not been confused by the opposition campaign, they should have three questions in mind:

(1) If this tax measure—supported vigorously by a governor of one party, legislative leadership from the opposite party, a constitutional state official from each party and legislators from both parties—cannot be passed, is any change possible?

(2) What would the passage of this tax plan, which reduces property taxes greatly but increases income taxes (not the 33 per cent claimed by the opponents but more like six to eight per cent), mean to me as an average working person in Oregon?

(3) If the tax measure is not passed, what would the opponents propose be done to reduce property taxes (Cut state budgets? How much? What would be left for state salaries and benefits?)?

On page eight of this issue, The OSEA News is publishing a copy of the Department of Revenue computer data sheet, which any person can use to get the answer to the second question. Using it, you may phone toll-free the number 1-800-452-0330 and find out what your total tax bill would be if the vote is "yes" on May 1, as compared to your tax if there is no change.

The trust we can place in Tom McCall, Jim Redden, Clay Myers, Jason Boe, Dick Eymann and others—as well as the credence that can be given to the opposition's advertising—is something for each of us, individually, to decide.

(Address all communications to the Salem address.)

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