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STATE TAX PLANS

In search for funds with which to augment the state tax income a committee named by the tax commission has proposed a cigarette tax, the disallowance of federal income tax deduction on state income tax returns and a state tax on automobiles. Also, the committee favors the repeal of the state tax on property.

Two of the items on this list have previously had voter consideration and one of the two could not be made effective without a change in the constitution. This, the state tax on automobiles, is now forbidden under the terms of section 3, article IX approved by the voters in November, 1942. Having opposed the adoption of that amendment we find especial interest in the fact that its existence now rises as an impediment to a proper tax measure.

The amendment had as its purpose the dedication to highway purposes of all revenue produced by the ownership and use of the motor vehicle. The motor vehicle was not then on the tax roll but the amendment carefully provided that if a tax were levied on ownership the proceeds must go for road purposes. Our opposition and that of many others was based on the proposition that to tie funds up in a constitutional amendment was bad because only by further amendment could they be untied, whatever the need.

Now, so this tax committee finds, the need has come but nothing can be done—though the motor vehicle is not on the tax roll—without the amendment. Oregon's vote and tax processes being what they are it will be months, if not years, before the issue can be decided. We are ready to declare now in favor of the amendment and the proposed taxation.

We should favor, also, the repeal of the state tax on property. None has been placed on the tax rolls since 1940 state income from other sources having been used to offset such levies as were made. It would be well to make this arrangement permanent. A state levy placed on the rolls and collected would raise merry you-know-what with every county in Oregon.

CREATING SHORTAGES

Out of a local grocery store on a day this week walked a customer balancing on his shoulder a hundred pound sack of sugar. Another member of the family carried a fifty pound sack of the same commodity. They didn't need the sugar, not in that quantity at least. For most of it they had no earthly use and would not have for weeks and weeks to come. But somehow they had gained the idea that sugar might some day become hard to get. Perhaps they had memories of the rationing of the war era and had become apprehensive that history would repeat itself as a result of current Korean military operations. What their reasoning was we have no idea. But whether intentionally or not they were doing their bit to make history repeat itself.

There was no shortage and there was no reason why there should be one but these buyers and others like them were doing what they could to promote a shortage. Their efforts would have been more effective, of course, if they had loaded two or three hundred pounds apiece into their car but, after all, they were doing their part. Supplies would be shorter, certainly, because of their unneeded purchases.

It happened like that in the early forties. Householders rushed to the groceries for food after food of staples that, they feared, would become scarce. It mattered not that others would go short as a result. They were forehanded, they would have plenty. We recall one citizen who boasted that his garage had barely space left for the family car, what with the cases of coffee and other hard-to-get items that he had stacked up along the walls. We always hoped that his hoarded stores would spoil or lose their savor before he came to enjoy them.

Such buying was silly in the extreme. There was no shortage then until greedy purchasers brought it about. There is none now. There is abundance. But if it is possible to exhaust that abundance, needless "cornering" of supplies for fancied individual benefit will exhaust it. Exhausted, too, will be the supply of purchaser cash needed from day to day for the normal buying of many, many other things.

We suggest that housewives take it easy, remembering not only the tremendous production that is America's but also the vast surpluses of foodstuffs that have been piling up under the government commodity price support program. A buying stampede is only folly in motion. Buying as usual is the part of true wisdom.

Gilchrist Firm Obtains Timber

The Gilchrist Lumber company was awarded 45,000 board feet of branded Ponderosa pine timber on public domain land near Lapine, after submitting a high bid of \$26 per 1000 feet in a sealed bid auction conducted by the regional administrator of the bureau of land management in Portland.

Bids were opened at 3 p. m. Tuesday. The timber purchased by the Gilchrist firm will cost a total of \$1,170, according to Kenneth A. Burkholder, district forester for the bureau of land management, who announced here yesterday the result of the auction.

Burkholder also announced that Emil Daehler, Bend, had submitted a high bid of \$15.30 per 1000 feet for 280,000 board feet of branded Ponderosa pine on public domain land on the north side of Devils garden in Lake county. Daehler will pay a total of \$4,284 for the timber.

In a third sale, Puckett and Scherer lumber company of Keno, was awarded 270,000 board feet of Ponderosa pine and 5,000 board feet of branded incense cedar on public domain land on the north side of Swan lake valley in Klamath county. The firm submitted high bids of \$17.20 for the pine and \$1.80 for the cedar for a total price of \$4,653.

Collapsible tubes for toothpaste and other materials were made of lead and tin before the war; a switch to lead and aluminum was made when tin became scarce.

N. Korean Pursuit

(Continued from Page 1)

will help all free peoples resist aggression but we do not covet any territory and will not start any wars in an attempt to gain some.

Very Embarrassing
Privately, the U. S. state department hopes that the problem of crossing or not crossing the 38th parallel never comes up. The ideal solution for us, from a diplomatic standpoint, would be for our troops to encircle the communist armies and chew them up before they could retreat to the 38th parallel. That would leave north Korea defenseless and unable to wage war again for a long time.

When that happened the United States then would say to the United Nations: "The police action is over. The status quo has been restored in Korea. What would you like to do about the situation now? The U. N. probably would try to unify Korea so that free elections could be held and the 38th parallel would cease to be a line of irritation.

Somebody is going to ask if we aren't committing aggression every time we send a superfortress winging across the 38th parallel to bomb the communists on their home grounds. It's a good question, but there isn't anybody in Washington, Tokyo, South Korea or Lake Success who cares to answer it. There's a war on.

LIBRARY GETS RARE BOOK
Providence, R. I., 1949—One of four known copies of a 1557 book describing Hernando De Soto's explorations in the southeast has been given to the John Carter Brown library at Brown university.

Right Out of Hitler's Book



WASHINGTON COLUMN

It would be a major blow to the Republican party—almost worse than defeat in a presidential election—if Robert A. Taft of Ohio should lose his race for re-election as U. S. senator this November.

Whether you agree with Taft's political philosophy or not, he is far and away the ablest and most effective critic of the Democratic administration in Washington. Every administration needs good critics. Taft's defeat would leave the GOP hopelessly helpless.

The Democratic candidate is, of course, State Auditor Joseph T. "Jumping Joe" Ferguson. He has a reputation as a great vote-getter. He has been elected state auditor for four four-year terms. In 1948 he won by 292,000—the largest plurality any Democrat ever received in Ohio.

He is 58. He is the father of eight children—four married, with three grandchildren, and four at home. Two of his boys were in the Navy.

He says "ain't" and he drops his final "g's," and he makes other mistakes in grammar. "But," says Jack Kroll, "so do most of the people who vote."

The outcome of the Ohio senatorial race, however, depends not on endorsements, but on three general election factors. One is registration and getting out the vote. The second is money. The third is the new type of Massachusetts ballot adopted by Ohio last year.

Ohio has roughly five and a half million voters. Registration has been heavy in the industrial counties, due largely to PAC effort. But Republicans have also been active in getting out the

vote.

Fred Lazarus of Federated Stores and George B. Hall of Kroger's grocery chain were instrumental in organizing "The Ohio Voter," a group of trade association executives, to promote greater registration and participation in politics by businessmen. An organization of "Independents for Taft," founded at Oberlin College, has been fairly successful.

On money matters, however, Taft forces have been more successful. A. A. Weatherhead, Cleveland manufacturer, has reportedly raised nearly \$1,000,000 from Ohio businessmen. At any rate, he got so much money he didn't need the help of the national movement to collect dollars in other states to aid Taft in Ohio.

The new type ballot adopted by Ohio, which eliminates party symbols and makes voting a straight party ticket impossible, has been estimated to be worth 100,000 votes for Taft.

As for the issues, Democratic Candidate Ferguson himself says he'll campaign on the Democratic platform. He's for President Truman's civil rights program including an FEPC with teeth in it, and for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act. He's against communism and against government waste. He's for adequate national defenses and for the North Atlantic Pact and the Marshall Plan. "We gotta be prepared," says Joe.

He claims that Senator Taft has been a complete isolationist, that he doesn't represent the people, that he has no touch of humanitarianism, being too cold. Ferguson will base his campaign largely on opposition to Taft's

voting record in Congress.

If elected, Ferguson says he will launch an investigation of Taft's campaign contributions and expenditures. Ferguson has charged the Republicans with trying to buy the election.

Ferguson won his primary nomination on \$700 expenditures out of his own pocket. He says that he has yet to collect his first nickel of campaign contribution. Democratic state and national committees so far haven't kicked in, and neither have the PAC nor other labor organizations.

But he doesn't think it will take much money to beat Taft, because Taft will defeat himself.

USES MODERN SCIENCE

Walpole, Mass. 12-7.—The willow twig divining rod is obsolete, according to Joseph Pruell, who claims to have discovered water for more than 50 drought-stricken New England farmers. Pruell, a machine shop foreman, does his divining with a pocket-sized device he built for himself out of metal and plastic. He says it operates on the same principle as a mine detector or Geiger counter.

COMPLICATIONS

Boston 12-7.—Struck by a motorcycle, 8-year-old Timothy Todd was taken to a hospital where doctors discovered he had: 1. Possible fractures of the nose and knee; 2. Chicken pox.

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FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



U. S. Weapons

(Continued from Page 1)

tank warfare as we have known it will soon be obsolete." Pace added that he was talking of "weapons of the future, but we hope the not-too-distant future."

Defense spokesmen translated that as meaning two to five years from now. Among the new tank-stoppers, they said, will be recoilless artillery, firing improved versions of the shaped charge and something called the squash-head charge.

The shaped charge, now used in bazookas, is a high explosive so shaped that its force is focused in such a way as to bore holes through armor.

The squash head is designed to plaster itself against a tank and, in exploding, knock chips off its interior plates, destroying the insides without ever penetrating the armor.

Dr. Vannevar Bush, former head of the defense department's research and development board, has said the recoilless artillery and shaped charge combination could be put into production in six months if great enough effort were made to do so.

Tanks Not Obsolete

Meanwhile, tank warfare is anything but obsolete. Right now the military appears to be putting its greatest hopes on the 3.5-inch bazooka, a modernized and souped-up version of the anti-tank weapon of world war II.

An army spokesman said on Tuesday that this weapon is on its way to the front. Some shipments may already have arrived. Whether it will succeed where the F-80's five-inch rocket failed remains to be seen.

No U. S. tank yet put in action

has proved capable of slugging it out with the Russian tanks employed by the North Koreans. Apparently the best mechanized weapon we have in that part of the world now is the General Pershing, which was becoming obsolete before world war II ended.

U. S. Artillery Good

We do have some effective weapons—the Napalm fire bomb, for example. And our artillery, recoilless and otherwise, is good for general artillery purposes.

In the field of infantry equipment, U. S. light arms appear to be adequate, if not superior. Army and marine units are supplied with a gadget which should give them an advantage in infantry fighting.

It is the sniper scope, used for long-range daytime potting at the enemy, or sniperscope, the version used at night or when visibility is poor by day.

The device consists of an invisible infrared light source, an electronic telescope, and a portable power pack.

It may be used for sweeping an area for targets too far away or too obscure to be seen directly. Or it may be mounted directly on a rifle or carbine.

Radiated infrared light is reflected back by the objects it strikes. By means of the electronic telescope it is transformed into visible images on a tiny screen mounted on the sights of the weapon.

Used in Pacific

Developed in the last war, it went into action in the Pacific in 1944. An army spokesman said it caused 30 per cent of all enemy casualties on Okinawa.

Since then the device has been greatly improved.

Until the Korean fighting develops along different lines than it is taking now, however, the sniper-scope may not be much help. The Koreans have

been rolling over us with fast-moving tank columns. Rifles don't stop tanks.

Sniper-snooperscopes are standard equipment for infantry units. Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces in Japan are equipped with these gadgets. But it was not known at the Pentagon whether American troops now fighting in Korea have them.

The military concedes that the Korean war caught it with its new "super" weapons far from ready. But spokesmen point out that it takes a lot of money and time to do weapons research, more time for tests and general de-bugging, and still more to get weapons into production and in the hands of troops trained to use them.

Some Not Suited

Much publicity has been given to arms that for various reasons aren't suitable for fighting like that going on in Korea.

Take the high-altitude radar-controlled anti-aircraft rocket gun called "Loki." Even if it were ready for use, there wouldn't be much use for it now in Korea.

The same thing goes for the giant B-36 bomber which we have, and the more modern heavy jet bombers which are still being perfected. The six-engined B-36 is a long-range atomic bomber. It is a strategic weapon.

B-36's with atomic bombs could destroy enemy cities and production centers, but they were not designed for use against ground forces.

There have been demands in congress that we turn the A-bomb loose on the North Koreans. But North Korea, it has been pointed out, has no metropolitan areas or vast industrial concentrations worth expenditure of atomic weapons.

B-29's with napalm and TNT would serve them just as well.

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