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TAX BILLS IN CONGRESS

Most of the many tax bills introduced for consideration this session of congress are written about the single basic idea of tax reduction. To attain the objective they would travel almost as many roads as there are measures. They seek both changes in rates and in exemptions and deductions. One would advance the date of already scheduled tax cuts by an entire year. One would repeal the war excise rates. One would exempt pension and annuity payments up to \$1,440 a year and another would allow deduction from the tax base of annuity and life insurance premiums up to 15 per cent of adjusted gross income. One would make farmers' soil and water conservation expenditures deductible retroactively through the tax years back to 1944 and another would shorten the holding period for draft, dairy and breeding livestock which is required to qualify profit on sale for long-term capital gain classification. One would change the deadline for filing personal returns and declarations from March 15 to April 15.

There are others but these are sufficient to illustrate the variety of approach in seeking to satisfy the nation-wide demand for lower levies on income. How many of them will finally make their appearance as new law is, of course, conjectural. It is especially so in view of the belief held by top legislators and administrators that budget balancing must come first, that expenditure reduction must be the basis for tax relief. The amount of expense paring possible in the first, and even in the second year of this administration may not be too great; it has been closely limited by the commitments made by the outgoing administration. Some will be possible, however, and there will be some tax reform as a result.

As interesting as this possibility is the idea exemplified by another tax bill which, differing from the others, does not propose reduction. Its purpose is to reimburse employers for their expense in acting as the government's tax collector.

Since the Ruml plan of pay-as-you-go personal income taxation was put into effect, employers have had the job and the expense of doing it. They have been required to compute the tax on each employee's pay, withhold the amount from his check and provide him with a statement of the amount. They have been required to keep records of these debits and, at stated intervals, turn over the "take" to the government's fiscal representative. They must make quarterly and annual reports to the government. At the end of the year they must provide the employe with a memo of the total of wages or salary earned and the amount withheld. This is demanded as a part of the individual's annual tax return to the director of internal revenue. For all this the employer receives nothing.

Now and then there have been protests and even refusals. The best known of these was carried through the courts by Vivien Kellems, eastern manufacturer, after her bank account had been seized to obtain the withholdings with which she was charged. Miss Kellems won her suit against the collector but lost in an action against the government. In neither did the question of constitutionality, which she sought to raise, receive recognition by the court. That has never been decided.

If the measure now in congress (H.R. 321) is enacted, it would be one way of settling the question which otherwise, sooner or later, is almost bound to be raised again. What is more important, simple justice would be done and our federal government would no longer be in the position of chiseling valuable services under the mandate of a law.

"Germans Plan Revolving Cafe" says an Oregonian news story caption. That's what we are going to have in Oregon when the liquor-by-the-drink bill is passed.

Washington Column

By PETER EDSON
 (NEA Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — One of the most unusual facts about new Republican National Committee Chairman Wes Roberts is that he has met President Dwight Eisenhower only five times, face to face, though both are from Kansas. The first time was at Abilene, when Eisenhower came back from Europe. Next was at Denver, where Ike made his headquarters. Then at the Chicago convention, and once again briefly, at Washington, when the presidential candidate came through during the campaign.

In December Mr. Roberts went to New York for a meeting with the President-elect. It was at this meeting that Eisenhower gave his blessing to the election of Roberts as national chairman. There is one other most unusual fact about Mr. Roberts. In an administration that is now characterized as eight millionaires and a plumber, Wes Roberts is one of the least wealthy men, and chairman of political parties are traditionally big-money men.

He will get a handsome \$32,500 annual salary plus expenses as GOP national chairman. But this will be the most money he ever made. And his modest assets are said to mark and to prove another of his greatest attributes. He is called that rarity among rarities—a completely honest politician.

But he is a politician. It's in his blood. He was born Dec. 14, 1903, at Oskaloosa, Kans.—the state from which political hell has always come. He was the youngest son of a country newspaper editor.

He took journalism when he went to Kansas State. A dollar was hard to come by in those days, and he made a few on the side writing for his dad's string of three weekly papers. After he left college, he became editor of one of them for a 10-year period.

Roberts served as executive secretary of the Kansas Republican Committee. In that time he built up the organization that hasn't suffered a defeat since. He went on to become assistant state chairman and secretary to Gov. Payne Raitner for two terms. In 1943, Wes Roberts was commissioned a captain in the Marines' Intelligence. He rose to become a major in a Fourth Marine Air Wing bomber squadron which saw action in the Pacific.

Discharged in 1946, he came back to Kansas—and politics. He did publicity for the state highway commission, and from 1947 to 1950 was state chairman. He managed Sen. Frank Carlson's successful campaign that year.

The great mystery of the Wes Roberts career—if it is a mystery—is how a politician with only Kansas acquaintance could zoom to national prominence in a year. The answer to his success is that he applies grass-roots, precinct-level, Kansas politics to every campaign. The delegates to the Chicago convention were more voters to him. He learned who they all were, who they were for and where they could be reached.

Wes Roberts was married in 1929 to Ruth Patrick, a high school classmate in Oskaloosa. They have one son, Patrick, a junior in high school at Holton, Kans., where the family has lived since the war. The family will eventually make a home in Washington and then, maybe, it will be possible to get Wes Roberts away from that telephone and out of that hotel room.

REDMOND HOSPITAL
 Redmond, Feb. 6—Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Povey, Redmond, are parents of a son born Thursday morning at Central Oregon District hospital. New patients at the hospital Thursday included three outpatients treated and dismissed, and three children entered for tonsillectomies and dismissed the same day.

A half-million dollars worth of damage to agricultural crops resulted from a recent seven-day siege of smog in southern California.

They Send a Boy to Do a Man's Work



Crook Chamber Favors Pelton Bill

PRINEVILLE, Feb. 6 — Citing that it represents sentiment of a cross section of Crook county and Prineville's labor, industry, agriculture and business, the chamber of commerce here has forwarded to Mark O. Hatfield, chairman of the House State and Federal Affairs committee of the 47th Oregon general assembly, its endorsement of House Bill No. 160, along with an amendment which eliminates application of eminent domain to rights for the beneficial use of water for municipal, domestic, livestock or irrigation.

The endorsement of the measure, which would change various features of the Hydro-electric Commission of Oregon and allow the right of review in the courts to its decisions, the latter the most drastic departure from former legislative enactments pertaining to the commission, was accompanied by a statement from President Stuart MacDonald of the chamber in an "expression of hope that enactment of the measure will pave the way for a hydro-electric development of Pelton and Round Butte dams on the Deschutes river in Jefferson county in accord with plans of construction by the Portland General Electric Co."

"Such development," MacDonald's comment continued, "will provide central Oregon cities and counties with an added and uninterrupted volume of hydro-electric energy. Such a change in the power situation in central Oregon is much to be desired, in that it will prevent interruptions such as have occurred the past year, which have proved costly to industry, business and home owners and created emergencies of inconvenience and hazard."

The statement of the Prineville-Crook County chamber, however, asks for a preservation of the rights of irrigators when the Jefferson county Deschutes river dams are built. The final paragraph of the statement of endorsement of House Bill No. 160 was:

"The Prineville-Crook County Chamber of Commerce has been consistent in its support of pro-

posed development of hydro-electric energy on the Deschutes river in Jefferson county since plans for it were initiated in 1948. Through the statements of our support, however, there has ever run the thread of warning that users of water for municipal, domestic and irrigation purposes with rights now vested or to be applied for in the future, should be protected by recognition of firm priorities. We now most earnestly reiterate this warning.

Bend's Yesterdays

(From The Bulletin Files)
THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
 (Wednesday, Feb. 6, 1918)
 Dement's grocery has just put in a timely display in which are exhibited a number of substitutes for flour recommended by the war food administration.

Out of 155 men from Bend who took physical examinations last week, 93 were found eligible for class I.

Blanks for the registration of Germans have been received at the local postoffice.

Bend has been suggested as the site of an aviation school, to train fliers for service in Europe. A sunny place where a school can be established is being sought in the northwest.

The new teacher for the West End School at Millican, Maude Hubbard, arrived here yesterday and left for Millican.

The Mississippi river dumps 2,000,000 tons of soil into the Gulf of Mexico every 24 hours.

Through Every Shadow This Light Shines Brightly

No darkness so deep as to quench the light of the spirit . . . it shines on forever. That every funeral service shall eloquently express the beauty of the life everlasting is our steadfast aim.

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 for Ambulance Service
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When the occasion arises and a "wedding present" must be purchased, it always seems to be a problem. If you need to buy such a gift, now, why not give something really practical?

We can save you money on these practical gifts: Two only Juice-O-Matic fruit juicers, regular \$5.38 — now 3.98. Three only good quality 2-piece Carving Sets, regular 4.25 — now 2.95. Two only Flint 3-piece carving sets, regular \$16.95 — now 11.95!

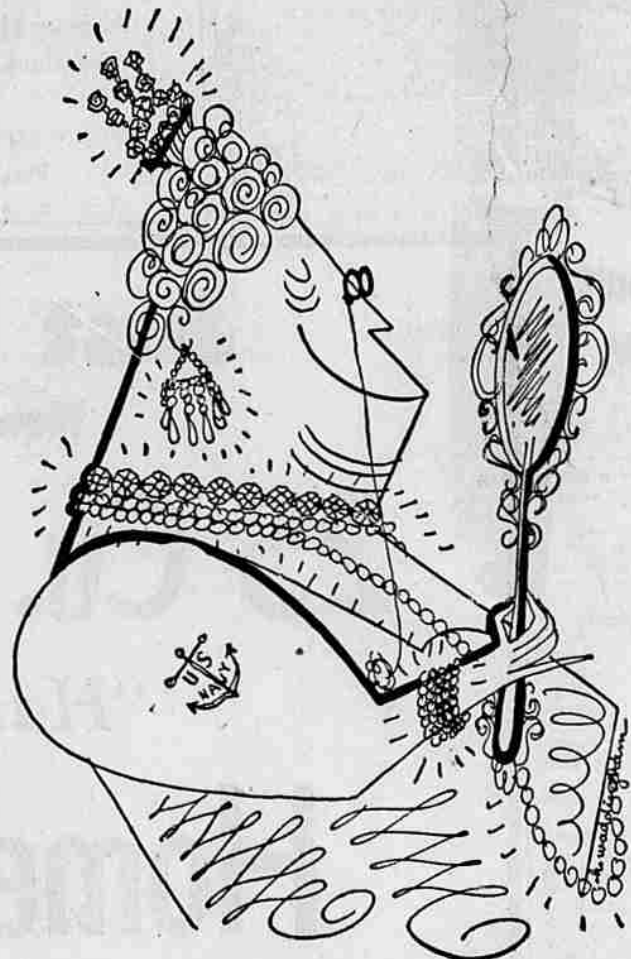
They are in our window — drop by and see them.

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Survey Studies Science Students

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Most superior science students come from middle-class families and small communities, according to the conclusion of E. G. Williamson, professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota, based on a survey to identify the characteristics of scientists.

In a report at a conference on scientific manpower here, Williamson said his findings show research workers are more individualistic than other persons, although the need of teams to carry out projects of modern experimentation have made the "lone wolf" researcher a thing of the past.



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 take a poke at
 the
 high cost
 of living

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