

# Capital Journal

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## Who Pays the Most Taxes?

Taxes are high in the United States, all of 'em, but they vary considerably, state by state, both in amounts raised and in taxation methods. Who pays the most, and the least, of his income to the tax collectors? A survey just made by the United States News furnishes some interesting answers and shows that we Oregonians are just above the average.

All Americans pay the same federal income taxes, according to incomes, and these vary widely between the wealthier and the poorer states. Within the states there is great variation, some depending principally on income taxes as we do in Oregon, others principally on sales taxes. Then it depends upon where one lives whether he pays high or still higher local taxes. The U.S. News survey deals with personal incomes and taxes and takes them percentage-wise.

In what state is the bigger percentage of income paid to the taxgatherer? One you probably wouldn't name in the first dozen if you were answering one of those "double or nothing" quizzes. The answer is Delaware where 46 percent of personal income is lost to the tax collectors. Forty-one and a half percent is taken by federal taxes, four and a half by state. The state collection compares with a national average of 7.9 and is the lowest.

Why does Delaware pay so much? The answer is simple. Because incomes are high there. Many of the rich DuPonts live in that little state, and many more well paid people in their organization. So the fact that Delaware pays the most is no reason for staying away from Delaware if you're offered a good job there.

At the other extreme, Arkansas pays only 28.3 percent of its income in taxes, but has much less left after paying. Close to Arkansas are Alabama 28.7, Mississippi 28.9, South Carolina 28.7, West Virginia 29.2, and Virginia 29.7. Each state under 30 percent is in the south. Highest paying and therefore presumably most prosperous southern state is Florida, 36.5. Texas pays 32.8, under the national average of 34.4.

States with a high income level that pay more than 35 percent of their individual incomes in taxes include Massachusetts and Connecticut 37.8, New York 39.1, New Hampshire 35.3, Rhode Island 36, Illinois 35.3, Wisconsin 35.6, Colorado 37.1, and Wyoming 37.8.

Until we reach our own west coast section, where California leads with 35.9, followed by Oregon with 35.4 and Washington with an even 35. We are only a little above the 34.4 average.

Which state, along with its subdivisions, collects the highest and the smallest percentage of individual incomes in taxes? According to this survey, North Dakota collects the most, 11.1, followed by South Dakota and Louisiana 10.8, Florida 10.1 and Minnesota an even 10.

At the other extreme, Delaware collects the least, 4.5, followed by Ohio 6.0, Connecticut 6.6, Illinois 6.7, Missouri 6.4, Virginia 6.6, Kentucky 6.8, New Jersey 7.0, West Virginia and Texas 7.1. California takes 9.0, Oregon 8.8 and Washington 8.5. The U.S. average is 7.9.

States taking heavier than average amounts may be spending recklessly or they may be providing their people with more and better services. One should not draw a hasty conclusion as to whether these states are better or worse off. Those spending the least may be getting the least, except that Delaware has a very high level of income, therefore can get along with a smaller percentage of it.

One thing is certain, paying an average of 34.4 of their personal incomes in taxes, Americans are heavily taxed. No wonder they squirm and grouse.

## Big 4 Parley a Near Failure

The dead-end result of the Big Four conference in Geneva, outside of social greetings, pleasantries, and interchanges of ideas, was to be expected and explains President Eisenhower's initial reluctance to a top conference, which was forced by world sentiment. The two important problems, security of Europe and German unity, were referred back to the foreign ministers, who for 10 years have been unable to agree, and are not likely to in the future.

It was generally recognized that the top Big Four could not settle world discords in a few days of discussion. But their discussions showed they were still as far apart as ever, and no groundwork was laid for future agreements.

Eisenhower suggested, "all curtains... should come down." Bulganin favored "lifting artificial barriers." Eden was for free exchange between peoples. Faure was for West-Russian exchange in economics, culture and information. But nothing was done to make their proposals realities.

Russia promised to contribute fissionable material to a peaceful atomic pool proposed by Eisenhower in 1953. But the pool has never materialized.

Eisenhower, Eden and Faure agreed that unifying Germany under the NATO for European peace was the No. 1 problem and wanted it done quickly. Bulganin refused to cooperate saying the time had not come, shoving it into the indefinite future. Evidently the Russians fear that a United Germany would line-up with the West.

Bulganin said Germany couldn't be unified as long as West Germany remains in NATO, wants NATO abolished and a new all-European security set-up with the United States forced to withdraw from Europe.

The Russian program seems to be, says a Geneva observer, aimed at freezing the East-West division of Europe for an indefinite period of peaceful stalemate.—G. P.

## Extreme Architecture for Academy

Coloradans must be drawing their collective breaths in quick, sharp jerks these days while congress pauses to take a new look following denial by the House Appropriations Committee of funds for construction of the buildings at the recently authorized Air Force academy at Colorado Springs. Congressional ire was aroused when a crazy looking architect's drawing of the proposed academy chapel was published. What it looked like would arouse an argument with as many versions as individuals who looked at it, but most people would agree that it didn't faintly resemble a chapel. To erect it as a chapel would be a sour job at religion.

Preliminary sketches of the other buildings weren't as objectionable as the chapel but to many congressmen and others they looked extreme, not what most people would desire in a national academy all hope will develop along the traditional lines of West Point and Annapolis. Unfortunately for Colorado Springs and Colorado, congressmen, stirred by architectural drawings they don't like, are now taking a second look at the location, wondering if Colorado Springs is the right place, even for satisfactory looking buildings. Our own belief is that Colorado Springs will prove as satisfactory as any place that can be picked, but we'd certainly like to see a building scheme selected that wouldn't be an affront to most of the people of the country.

### POLICE WELCOMED

DETROIT (UP)—Matthew Williams, 26, a 200-pound six-footer welcomed police who came to arrest him at a church yesterday. Williams needed medical aid after 16 women began beating him for trying to rob money from the purse of one of them.

### CORRECT

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (UP)—The University of Alaska Friday received a magazine from the University of North Carolina addressed: Farthest-North University of Alaska College, Alaska (Located 64 31' 21" North Lat.)

## THE ART OF CONVERSATION



## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Future Wife'll Run Husband Better Than Stove, Hal Says

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (U)—Items from the mailbox: Everyone knows what the American wife of today is like. But what about the wife of tomorrow?

Well, the chances are she'll be better groomed than her mother, and know more about the technique of understanding a husband than the technique of running a stove.

A test of some 190,000 senior high school girls by General Mills disclosed that 83 per cent were well informed on the art of keeping themselves looking neat and pretty, 71 per cent had studied up on how to keep a husband happy, 64 per cent had a good knowledge of the mechanics of housekeeping, but only 52 per cent had acquired real cooking skills.

One surprising result of the survey: Only 45 per cent could answer correctly questions on child care. This seems odd in view of the trend toward earlier marriage.

It seems like everything a person does now — from sneezing to buying a greeting card — reflects his deep, hidden personality.

For example, do you always send your mother-in-law an expensive, highly sentimental greeting card on her birthday; do you hesitate to send her one in a humorous vein? Well, it might be because you secretly are nursing a grudge against the old girl.

Anyway, this is one of the conclusions reached by a Chicago greeting card firm after a survey of several hundred thousand customers.

The survey, as interpreted by a psychiatrist, showed:

Children and young women prefer red cards. Most women avoid

buying yellow cards as they associate it with a sallow complexion. The favorite color of men — and executives in general — is blue. Those who choose green cards often are stingy and have a suspicious nature.

Those who like to send perfumed cards are generally extroverts with a tendency to show off — the "wife of the party" type.

Do you ever pick a greeting card featuring a sea scene or a lake view? It may be a sign that privately you wish the water would wash away the person whom you send the card to.

Personally, I'd like to send a card like that to the psychiatrist. Just how complicated do we want to make life?

"I have lifted the bosom, and flattened it," Christian Dior, French fashion designer, announced last summer.

His edict aroused considerable concern among men who disliked the idea of American women getting a flat-chested look.

What happened? "In spite of the headlines, the excitement, the hullabaloo about the return to the boyish form," says Sidney Schurr, executive of a rubber fabrics company, "American women kept right on buying padded bras, which last year hit an all-time high in retail sales volume of more than \$4 million dollars."

The brassiere and swimsuit manufacturers actually bought more than three times as much brafoam padding in the first nine months after Dior's new style came out as they had in the same preceding period. Everybody feel better?

## Allied Leaders Most Unhappy

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (U)—It is almost incredible that the three big Western Allies — the United States, Britain, France — would not have worked out in agreed detail exactly what they should propose to the Russians at Geneva.

But, it seems, they didn't.

They had since May 10 to get ready for their opening session with the Russians yesterday. It was on May 10 they invited the Russians to a meeting. Now, after the first day, the Americans are openly surprised and unhappy over what French Prime Minister Faure suggested.

The Americans made it plain they had not agreed ahead of time on what Faure said and that they were afraid the Russians might seize on his proposals, or some of them, to the disadvantage of the West.

They guessed right. Russian Prime Minister Bulganin, the last speaker of the day, altered his prepared statement to comment on what Faure had said.

President Eisenhower, Britain's Prime Minister Eden and Faure arrived in Geneva Saturday and lunched together Sunday. They outlined their opening speeches to one another in a general way—but not in detail.

Even so the three Western foreign ministers and staffs had since early May to work out and agree on "proposals" that Eisenhower, Eden and Faure would say to express Allied policy.

Apparently precise spadework wasn't done or else Faure came up with his own ideas at the last minute. One French source at Geneva attributed what Faure said to a dash of daring in his makeup.

If it was not just daring but spur-of-the-moment thinking by the Frenchman, then in one of the most important conferences in recent world history Faure seems to be depending on inspiration or intuition instead of careful preparation.

Among other things Faure suggested a disarmament program in which the United States, Britain, France and Russia would be able to keep a clamp on arms through controls on how much they spend on arms.

Since the American, British and French budgets are submitted openly to democratic parliaments for public debate, and the Russians can do as they please about making public or keeping secret the money they spend on arms, this hardly appears to be a fool-proof system.

That the Russians seized on it was clear from Bulganin's insertion of this sentence in his statement: "We are of the opinion that given stronger guarantees of proposals are of interest and worthy of careful examination."

Eisenhower mentioned the desirability of disarmament but suggested controlling it through an inspection system to see that no one cheated.

On another point Faure went beyond Eisenhower too. He suggested creating a European security organization to which all European states could belong. Eisenhower suggested Russia could be given stronger guarantees of protection against a rearmored Germany than she has now.

The Russians, who have spent years trying to divide the Allies, could not be blamed if Faure's statements seemed to indicate division. Bulganin didn't open his

## NATIONAL WHIRLIGIG

### Memphis to Save \$1,500,000 A Year On Own Power Plant

By RAY TUCKER

WASHINGTON—A generally unknown factor behind the decision of the City of Memphis officials to sever their association with the Tennessee Valley Authority and to build their own utility system is that the Mississippi River port and cotton center will save \$1,500,000 annually in the process. And it was the Dixon-Yates proposal which made possible this severance and saving.

Like every other municipal and co-operative customer of TVA, Memphis rates for use and distribution of Federally generated power are fixed by the TVA Board. Under the original contract, however, Memphis was allowed to impose a 15 per cent surcharge on the more important customers. The annual revenue amounted to \$1,500,000.

Many other cities and electric co-ops in TVA territory collect a 10 per cent surcharge, which pays their local expenses in handling TVA power. In view of the fact that TVA is subsidized by Uncle Sam, and pays no taxes, the rate

to consumers was not increased too heavily by addition of the surcharge.

### SURCHARGE ELIMINATION ORDERED

TVA authorities recently ordered Memphis to eliminate the surcharge, which would mean a serious loss of revenue to a rapidly expanding city of 400,000. In the midst of this controversy, came the Administration proposal that Dixon-Yates interests supply Memphis with power now furnished by TVA. In lieu of energy which TVA must turn over to atomic plants.

Refusing to accept Dixon-Yates electricity, Memphis decided to build its own utility plant. When Mayor Frank Tobey gave a firm promise to that purpose on his recent visit to the White House, President Eisenhower canceled the contract with Dixon-Yates.

### GLAD TO BREAK WITH TVA

Mayor Tobey's demeanor and remarks on his visit to Washington suggest that he was only too happy to break off connections with TVA. The issue of municipal finances and taxes will figure heavily in his forthcoming re-election campaign, especially as many business interests in Memphis and West Memphis, Ark., favored the Dixon-Yates deal.

It is also probable that many other "captive cities" within the TVA empire may follow Tobey's example. Under their contracts with TVA, the Federal agency may cancel or reduce their surcharges any time it sees fit.

Furthermore, the contract stipulates that any surplus resulting from the surcharge must be applied to a reduction or elimination of the municipal tax. Through these methods, TVA popularizes itself by keeping utility charges at a minimum.

### TVA CONTROL

In other words, through its monopoly on the generation, distribution and cost of power, TVA has had partial control of the finances of every municipal and co-operative customer in its seven-state area. The purchasers have been at the mercy and whim of Federal bureaucrats appointed by a man at Washington — the President — who did not know or understand local needs.

Despite technical details and differences, the outcome of this protracted politico-economic controversy means that Memphis, and possibly many other cities in "the valley," may be freed of a Federal domination which they definitely resent.

Incidentally, Mayor Tobey's eager acceptance of the new arrangement appears to refute the Kefauver-Gore-Lehman contention that it is a "bigger scandal than Teapot Dome" (Kefauver), and that it will be a major issue in the Presidential election next year.

Once again, Ike has rolled up the punch, as well as counterpunching neatly.

### BIG GROCERY ORDER

CORVALLIS, Ore. (UP)—Mr. and Mrs. George Evans figure they must have set some sort of record when they bought \$800 worth of groceries at a Corvallis supermarket.

They plan to take the food with them when they leave for a school teaching job in Alaska, near the Arctic Circle.

### HE'S WALKED A MIRACLE

Ralph Saldo Emerson The man who has seen the rising moon break out of the clouds at midnight has been present like an archangel at the creation of light and of the world.

### PLEDGES CARRIED OUT

N.Y. Gov. Harriman I have reduced unemployment in this state — particularly among Democrats.

## How Old Should A President Be?

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

Should the age of a candidate for presidential nomination be an important factor in considering his availability? Carmine De Sapio, head of Tammany Hall, said on a recent TV program that it all depends. If the man is hale and hearty, his vintage is not too important.

Perhaps he is a bit prejudiced because the man he obviously favored to elect is Gov. Averell Harriman of New York who will be 64 next November, a trifle less than a year younger than President Eisenhower, who will be 68 when he completes his first term.

Here is a rundown on the ages of some of the men who, more or less, have been mentioned as candidates:

Secretary of State Dulles will be 68 next year. In 1956 Senator Bricker will be 63 and Senator Dirksen 60; Gov. Lausche of Ohio will be 60. Senator Russell of Georgia will be 58 next November. Gov. Knight of California will be 59 in December, and former Gov. Dewey and Ambassador Lodge are 53 this year. Adlai Stevenson is 55, as is Senator Sparkman, his running mate in 1952. Senators Symington and Kefauver will be 52 this year.

In the lower brackets are Senator Knowland, 47; former Gov. Stassen, 46; Vice President Nixon, 42; Senator McCarthy is 47. Senator Johnson of Texas, whose recent illness will count against him, is 47; Gov. Williams of Michigan is 44; Gov. Meyner of New Jersey is 44. The youngest potential is Gov. Clement of Tennessee, who is 34.

It may be noted that among the 34 Presidents, only seven took office at the age of 60 or more. William Henry Harrison was the oldest, 68 at the time he took office, but he died within a month after his inauguration.

How much does age count? Senator Green of Rhode Island is 83 and still mightly active. Senator George of Georgia is 77 and within the year has emerged as "Mr. Senator" because of his leadership in implementing the foreign policy of President Eisenhower.

## Smart Enough?

Eugene Register-Guard

Every now and then we read statistics to the effect that fewer and fewer Americans are turning to farming as a means of making a living. "The Nation's Agriculture," a periodical devoted to the farmer and his problems, sheds some light on why so many Americans are leaving the farm. Says the trade paper:

"A modern farmer must be a combination of mechanic, financier, executive and laborer. He should understand the fundamental economic principles and the wonders of soil chemistry. Hydrated vigor, antibiotics, hormones, fungicides, nematodes, the ring test and cost accounting are parts of his daily vocabulary."

And that's the reason so few of us farm these days. Mightily few of us are smart enough.

## PAINFUL SURPRISE

Pendleton East Oregonian

According to latest reports from the U. S. Treasury, only two Oregon counties show savings bonds sales less than they reported a year ago. The laggards are Umatilla and Lake. The Umatilla showing is a real surprise. This county has been a leader in savings bonds sales for as long as we can remember.

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