

Sherman County Journal

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TAX PROGRAM

Nothing could be quieter than the senate taxation committee which now has the tax program of the house—or practically all of it.

In the senate is HB5 which would transfer the excise tax funds to the general fund for a period of two years. There is also

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an amendment to the distribution section of the income tax which the senate could change to transfer the income tax funds to the general fund, if it was to weaken to that extent.

Also in the senate is HJR9 which would prevent the state from levying a tax on property except for bonds and interest. Around these three measures must revolve any new taxation plans of the state.

If the ways and means committee can cut the budget, or can send some of it to the people to be voted over the six percent limitation no transfers will be necessary. Actually the proper course would be to send all expenses over the six percent to the people, but there is a lack of faith in the people's judgment since the failure of the \$6,400,000 levy last November.

This lack of faith is no credit to the legislators, but it does exist. Other changes in the state's taxes may be passed that would not permit a deduction for federal income taxes paid. By increasing deductions for dependents and reducing the rates this action would

make little change for those paying on less than \$10,000. Those in the half million dollar bracket would pay considerably more. The federal government would lose the rate paid on the \$27,000, 000 of state income tax. But this bill may not be passed.

Taxation of ports, changes in excise tax, tightening of exemptions for charitable organizations are all being discussed, but none would make any great difference to the general public.

In southern Oregon church groups are moving to buy sawmills and resorts which they pay for out of tax savings. It is becoming quite a racket and several churches have been approached to take over logging operations and hire the present owner on a salary. This needs fixing.

But the main question is what the senate is going to do and the senators say nothing causing wonder whether their reticence is from secrecy or ignorance about what should be done.

In the senate there are always some who are both on taxation and on ways and means. That does not happen in the house. The result in the senate is that when a program does come out it is so coordinated with outgo and income that it is hard to beat, whether good or not.

Well, the august senate will have to make up its collective mind pretty soon or there will be the same public palaver as worried some of the newer members of the house committee on taxation.

DEMOCRACY

What are the principles of democracy? How far toward centralized government can a people go without losing them? Do the young people realize the advantages of our form of government? How much information must the people have to make a democracy work?

These are pertinent questions which are debated in one form or another every day. Books are written about them and speeches made.

They are good questions and all of them must be answered by the citizens of America before the cold war (as the ideological battle with Russia is called) can be won or even its philosophical locale determined.

Spring Knits in Cotton Boude  
in pastel shades 10.95  
Greta, The Dalles

Must we have more government, more taxes, more public employees, more governmental functions until the state bosses everything like it does in the dictatorship of Russia? Or must we turn about on our actions of recent years and let people do more things for themselves?

Some place between the dictatorship of communist Russia and the anarchy of the pioneer state is the best position for this nation. Where is it?

THEY ESCAPED COLD WEATHER

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thomas, West Yellowstone, Montana, and who operate the Thomas Airport cabins, were in Moro over the weekend visiting Mr. and Mrs. Orville Butler and family. The

George G. Updegraff  
Attorney at law

MORO  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
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visitors reported snow has been even with the roofs of the cabins and that it was 45 degrees below zero. They escaped the rigors of this winter by visiting in the southland and plan to return to the Yellowstone about May 1st.

The New Life group of the Community church will meet this Sunday evening, March 20, at 8 p. m. in the home of Dewey

Thompson. Everyone is invited and Mr. Gearhart will be the leader.

T. Lester Johnson

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Saturday, March 19

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Managed by Russ Broms

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We have everything in Oregon...including the human abilities and the human energies...to keep our state forging ahead to greater and greater goals!

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The First National Bank of Portland and all our affiliated banks are embarking on a program to help build Oregon by showing how constructive banking services can help the individual toward greater financial success. All of our 60 banking offices are pledged to this effort. No matter how large or how small the banking transaction, we are aware of its importance to the customer, and it is our established aim to render equally helpful and courteous service to all alike.

As a start in this program I am asking every member of our staff throughout the state to tell you about our services and show how useful they can be to you. I urge your active interest in this program. Call at our nearest banking office and tell us how we can best serve you and your community. Let's build Oregon together!

F. N. Belgrano Jr., President  
First National Bank of Portland

STARTING TODAY every member of the staff of your local banking office in the First National Group takes on a special job. That job is explaining to you the varied services his or her bank maintains for your use.

SHERMAN COUNTY BRANCH  
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