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Therefore, an increase in the state share of these local costs would result in a property tax reduction by an average of 25 to 30 percent statewide.

The House Education and Taxation Committees realized in several years we would find ourselves with property taxes back up to their present level, with an additional tax to boot.

To combat this danger, a meaningful limitation has been applied to school spending, so that the rapid upward spiral in local property taxes can be effectively eliminated.

This limitation feature would give schools a current tax base, fixed at their present operating costs. They would be allowed a five percent inflation or growth increase each year, with rapidly growing school districts receiving additional funds to meet their growth problems.

School districts would be limited to two budget elections each year on uniform dates, so that we would no longer be beaten over the head with election after election.

In addition, we would no longer be faced with the threats that school doors will be locked if school budget increases are not approved.

Growth Feature Included

With the growth feature included, schools would not be threatened with closure, and the voters could easily distinguish between genuine growth problems and program enrichment.

However, there are five small counties in Eastern Oregon which would be exempted from this change in equalization because they operate on unique equalization programs and would be damaged by a change.

The subject of school financing and its methods is a complicated one, and it is certainly difficult to explain. However, the Senate and House Taxation and Education Committees have given this problem lengthy and objective study.

They have attempted to devise a greatly improved program of school and education financing, while at the same time significantly reducing the nearly confiscatory property tax burden.

Your thoughts on this program are appreciated. Please keep those cards and letters coming in.

Board Discusses Rodeo Business

A variety of business was taken care of at the last regular meeting of the Morrow County Rodeo Board on February 5.

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Following discussion, the board decided to eliminate the wild horse race event from this year's program. It was also decided to raise entry fee for novice bronc riding from \$5 to \$10.

Members of the Morrow County Jaycees were present to discuss handling of concessions. It was agreed that concessions for both the college rodeo on Memorial Day week-end in May and the regular rodeo shows in August be handled by the Jaycees.

Sound contract for the 1969 rodeo was awarded to W. N. Werger of Enterprise. Contracts are out for show clown and announcer, but have not yet been returned to the board.

Before dismissal, discussion centered on possibilities of advance ticket sales and on blocks of reserved seats.

Minority Leader Assails Sales Tax As 'Oppressive'

House Minority Leader Jason Boe ripped into the proposed Republican 3% general sales tax plan today in Salem with full force.

"It seems absolutely incredible to me," Boe stated, "that this tax proposal has gotten as far as it has. It is unquestionably one of the worst tax measures that has ever come before the Oregon Legislature. I thought we were supposed to give the people relief from taxes, but now we find out they're going to be taken to the cleaners by an oppressive sales tax."

Boe presented figures on the impact of the sales tax which demonstrated that in almost every case a person would actually pay more—much more—in sales taxes than he would get back in property tax "relief."

"As an example, a person earning \$7,000 in Portland with a family of four and an \$11,000 home would pay about \$70.00 a year more in sales tax than he would save in property tax relief. A person in Beaverton in the same bracket would pay about \$54.00 more and in Klamath Falls, he would pay a fantastic \$111.30 more than he would save."

The Democratic Minority Leader also pointed out other higher and lower levels of income that would be hard hit.

"I just think that the people of Oregon are too smart to let the Republicans pick their pockets with this sales tax measure that will cost them an incredible \$67 million a year. We're not talking about small change, we're talking about hard-earned dollars that the average family can't afford to lose."

The Democrats in the House have not in any way obstructed the Republican majority in the House in their impassioned desire to pass a 3% general sales tax," Boe concluded. "They have the votes here to do it. Fortunately, the people of Oregon have the votes to slam it right back at the Republican party of this state."

College Ag Course Geared to Change, Instructor States

"Agriculture is changing, and we have to adapt to keep up to date," said Riley Freeman of the Blue Mountain College staff in discussing the technical agriculture program at the college in a talk at Chamber of Commerce here January 27.

In the two-year course, the college emphasizes occupational preparation for its students in the field, he said, teaching them to get a job in agriculture or to a better job.

The endeavor is to bring a student up to his capabilities. Ranchers today find that good labor is hard to get, Freeman said, and some believe that a college-trained employee would be too expensive.

But the instructor declared that perhaps a rancher cannot afford to be without this trained help in today's agriculture.

The college course seeks to train a boy to communicate in writing and speaking as well as in the technical areas of agriculture.

Offered in the course at Blue Mountain are the academic courses in English and writing, as well as those of machinery and maintenance, hydraulics and mechanics, plant science, animal husbandry, and others. Field trips are taken to ranches and feedlots, giving the students a large "laboratory."

Blue Mountain also works with agriculture in some of its other programs, such as the evening school, Freeman said. Currently a class in animal health is being given at Stanfield and one in water management at Milton-Freewater.

Freeman, whose parents are purebred Angus growers in Baker county, demonstrated the same enthusiasm for his work as he hopes to engender in his students.

President Wallace McCrae, also a guest of the Chamber, introduced Freeman, pointing out that with his farm background, his experience as a former feedlot operator, his teaching experience in a large Southern California high school, and his training and work as a bookkeeper and accountant, the instructor has an ideal combination for his position.

President McCrae gave a brief report on progress of the third building on the Blue Mountain campus, now under construction. The library and classroom building is expected to be ready for use in the fall.

He also told of the college's attempts to meet the needs of the two-county area it serves and cited work being done in the fields of practical nursing, police science, radio broadcasting, and one of the newest, the flight program, using the Pendleton airport's facilities.

County Judge Paul Jones, first vice president, was in charge of the meeting.

Death Claims Lexington Man

Charles H. Bloodsworth died Sunday, February 9, at his home in Lexington, at the age of 70 years. He had been under doctor's care for some time for a heart condition.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, February 12, at 2:00 p.m. at the Lexington Christian church, with the Rev. O. D. Harris officiating. Vault interment followed in the Lexington Cemetery, with Sweeney Mortuary in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bloodsworth was born January 8, 1899, in Enterprise, Ore. He was united in marriage to Eula Crossler on June 22, 1929. They lived in Enterprise until 1944; moved to Touchet, Wn., for a short time, then began ranching near Lexington in 1945.

For 13 years, from 1952 to 1965, they made their home in Hermiston, then returned to live in Lexington. He had also been engaged in carpenter work, as well as ranching.

Survivors include his widow, Eula, of Lexington; two sons, James E. of Heppner, and Charles A. of Hermiston; one daughter, Mrs. Roger (Iris) Campbell of Lexington; also seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The family suggests contributions be made to the Oregon Heart Fund in his memory.

Programs Scheduled For Chamber Here

Program schedule for the weekly meetings of the Chamber of Commerce through March is announced by Mrs. Avon Melby, program chairman.

David Hall, Salem, chief of the State Engineer's Watershed Planning Division, will report on the Rhea Creek watershed project at the meeting Monday, February 17, at the Wagon Wheel Cafe banquet room at noon.

Other meetings planned are as follows:

February 24—Robert Gaynor, Portland, officer with Small Business Administration, speaking on opportunities for local development.

March 10—Harold Cantrell, Walla Walla, district manager of Bonneville Power Administration.

March 17—Report on progress by the Morrow County Port Commission.

March 24—Program by Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company.

Credit Bank Retires Government Capital

When the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane opened its doors for business on January 2, 1969, it was entirely owned by the 21,625 stockholders and patrons who discount with the bank, according to Carl H. Nieberg, president.

Nieberg said that the Spokane Bank has retired its final share of government capital, exceeding \$5½ million, on December 31, 1968. The Bank took advantage of a recently enacted law which accelerated completion of ownership by the 30 production Credit Associations (PCAs) of the four Northwest states.

The Spokane Credit Bank is one of twelve federally incorporated banks created in 1923 to operate exclusively in the field of agricultural production credit. These banks discount short and intermediate-term notes of farmers and ranchers, representing loans made for operating and capital purposes, endorsed by PCAs as primary lenders. The Spokane Bank now does business with 30 PCAs, farmer-owned lending corporations which, along with two other financing institutions, now become sole owners of the bank. Farmer-ownership of the combined net worth of the Spokane Credit Bank and PCAs of the Northwest now exceeds \$73 million.

The bank does not lend government funds. It secures loanable funds largely by monthly sales of debentures in the private money markets of the nation. These debentures carry no government guarantee, but have long been a favorite security of discerning investors because of the financial strength, the long record of integrity, and the high quality of the collateral of Credit Banks and PCAs nationally.

This is the final step taken by farmers and ranchers of the Northwest to pay back the capital originally invested by the U. S. Government in the three Farm Credit Banks of Spokane—the Federal Land Bank, the Bank for Cooperatives, and now the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane. Including the PCAs, farmer-ownership of the net worth in the Spokane Farm Credit Banks exceeds \$140 million.

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