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Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

If you believe taxes have been a subject of concern in the past for those who pay them — 1983 is liable to send that concern skyrocketing to new heights.

And the increase in tax awareness is being enhanced by a grassroots tax repeal campaign of a magnitude rivaling the efforts of those supporting the Equal Rights Amendment. In essence, this new campaign backed by the nation's financial institutions seeks repeal of a law requiring withholding taxes on dividends and interest.

A Catch-22 proposition at best, the new law threatens to cost more than the revenue it is aimed to capture and penalizes Americans who practice thrift.

And it's in this atmosphere that the 62nd Oregon Legislative Assembly began deliberations in Salem that focus largely on raising some \$600 million in new revenue to match spending proposals.

Actually there's little real connection between the tax repeal campaign and the work of Oregon lawmakers. The similarities are the general subject of taxation and the time period involved.

The tax repeal campaign is national in scope and seeks to overturn a federal law. And repeal proponents must win their case before July 1. Oregon lawmakers will be struggling during those same months between now and mid-year with prospects of increasing state taxes if present levels of government services are to be maintained.

The tax repeal campaign can't help but make their job tougher.

The repeal target is a previously little understood part of tax legislation enacted by congress last summer. The part people heard the most about was a 10 percent cut in taxes effective July 1. What they didn't hear about was a 10 percent withholding provision against interest earnings on savings and dividends from investments.

At stake for the nation's 80 million savers is a sum of at least \$1.5 billion that will be lost because it will go to the government instead of being available for reinvestment and interest compounding.

There are exemptions. Senior citizens and others with low tax liabilities can apply for exemptions. But they must make application to every institution on each account from which they receive interest or dividends. And in the process they share the limit of their tax liability with a third party — something heretofore unrequired by law.

Financial institutions have successfully opposed such legislation in the past — until last summer. And their concern now is apparent when one considers becoming a tax collector for the federal government is going to cost them something in the neighborhood of another \$1.5 billion. The added cost, of course, will have to be passed on to their customers and clients.

They not only become agents of the government, they will probably be blamed by their savers and investors for the fact interest earnings and dividends are smaller than anticipated.

From a practical standpoint, the new law is exceptionally confusing. It is supposedly aimed at cracking down on tax cheaters. But the Internal Revenue Service reports a 96.7 percent compliance rate for payment of taxes on interest and dividends now. Further, the new law contains reporting procedures that virtually eliminate evading those taxes.

IRS also reports 75 percent of all taxpayers receive refunds each year. So withholding on interest and dividends probably won't net the gov-

ernment much new revenue in the long run.

What it really looks like is a \$1.5 billion interest-free loan to the government — at the expense of those whose savings and investments fuel the economy that produces taxable payrolls.

The new scheme is actually a disincentive to save and invest. And considering the fact savings and investments are an integral ingredient in the recipe for recovery from the current recession, its imposition now is extremely ill-timed.

Savers and investors need only call on their bank, savings and loan or credit union to obtain more detailed information about the law — and plenty of ammunition with which to bombard members of Congress.

What is sought is enough public pressure to induce the current Congress to repeal that part of the law before it goes into effect July 1. The campaign was said to rival that of ERA supporters in scope. But it's different in one important way. It has to be achieved in the space of a few months instead of years.

And the heat of that campaign is going to be felt by local and state governments throughout the country — wherever governments are seeking additional revenue.

Oregon lawmakers can take little solace from the fact they have company across the land. The situation can only be taken as another condition that will tax their ingenuity.

And it's questionable if that kind of tax will produce much spendable revenue.

Marriage Licenses

A Marriage License application has been accepted at the Morrow County Clerk's office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner from:

Scott Russell Bauska, 32, of Boardman, and Kathleen Ann Peterson, 35, of Ione.

P.M.H. Auxiliary to meet, elect officers Jan. 20

The Pioneer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will meet Thursday, Jan. 20, 1 p.m., at the hospital. A business meeting and an election of officers will be held, said an auxiliary spokesperson.

At 2 p.m., members will move to the nursing home for visiting, and refreshments, which are to be prepared by ladies of the Heppner Christian Life Center.

The spokesperson reported that Lillian Boyce of Heppner had won the "nurse doll" and wardrobe in an annual raffle the auxiliary holds to raise funds for nursing home projects. The dolls' wardrobes are made each year by Erma Keithley of Heppner.

Ticket sales netted about \$125, and were used to offset the cost of a stereo system for the nursing home. The unit was installed before Christmas, the spokesperson said, so residents could enjoy Christmas music.

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Health Dept.

Friday, Jan. 14 - free blood pressure clinic and immunizations. Lexington Health Department office, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 18 - free blood pressure clinic. Heppner Neighborhood Center, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19 - free blood pressure clinic. Ione Bank of Eastern Oregon kitchen, 3 to 4 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 21 - free blood pressure clinic and immunizations. Lexington Health Department office, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 25 - free blood pressure clinic and immunizations. Irrigon county offices, 1 to 4 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 28 - free blood pressure clinic and immunizations. Lexington Health Department office, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

No sign of 1st baby

The first baby to be born at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner in 1983 had yet to put in an appearance as of Monday, Jan. 10. Twenty-one area businesses are offering gift certificates, merchandise and cash of over \$130 to the lucky baby.

No one, not even hospital staff, have any idea who the first baby of '83 will be, but everyone hopes he or she will arrive soon.

D.A.'s Report

A grand jury handed down six indictments last Monday, Jan. 3, reported Morrow County District Attorney Richard J. McNeerney. The six charged are:

Thomas W. Westmoreland III, 20, of Umatilla, charged with alleged Aggravated Murder, Murder, First Degree Robbery and First Degree Theft.

Terrance Lee Jones, 22, of Raymond, Wash., charged with alleged Criminal Negligent Homicide.

John Thomas Findley, 23, of Boardman charged with alleged First Degree Burglary and First Degree Arson.

Duane A. Epping, 19, of Lexington, charged with alleged First Degree Theft and Second Degree Burglary.

Randy S. Greene, 18, and Paul Johnson, 18, both of Irrigon, charged with alleged Second Degree Burglary and First Degree Theft.

"The two greatest stimulants in the world are youth and debt." Benjamin Disraeli

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spirit of Christmas

To the editor:
The spirit of Christmas was really abundant this year in the Boardman area, in spite of, or because of tough times and was shown in the great response of donations for the Christmas boxes.

Many families in our area who were finding it hard to come up with the means to provide the traditional dinner and-or gifts for the children in the home were recipients of these boxes. Each box was complete with turkey, canned goods, bread, margarine and fresh milk, and gifts for the children.

Much thanks to the Children's Services and to Morrow County Search and Rescue for delivering the boxes and the following businesses and groups for their help with food and cash donations. All the kids and staff at Riverside

High, United Way of Morrow County, Lions Club, the Tili-cum Club, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Good Shepherd A.L.C.W., Caring Center, Eagles Aerie 3714, Boardman Pharmacy and Hardware, Sentry Market, and Thrifty Foods.

The following allowed us to put food collection boxes and cash in their businesses: Inland Empire Bank, Boardman Pharmacy and Hardware, Hitchin' Post, Nomad, Sharlene's Dept. Store, Sentry Market, Circle K, and Thrifty Foods.

A big thank you to all who gave, and some very generously. It all added together to make a happier Christmas for several families and their children in our area.

Sincerely,
Boardman's Eagles
Auxiliary No. 3714

Economically impossible

To the editor:
The Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) is considering a new administrative rule for forest lands this month in Salem that will make it almost economically impossible to build a new house on much of Oregon's privately owned rural land.

The LCDC's proposed Forest Lands Rule will destroy most of the value of small tracts of rural land.

The new rule states a residence "may" be built on land zoned "mixed agriculture and forest uses" only if the owner "assures forest management" on the private property.

Forest management is not clearly defined; nor does LCDC differentiate clearly between mixed agriculture and forest uses; predominant forest uses; and developmental uses.

For land predominantly in forest uses, the rule reads, "For the purpose of approving

dwelling, 'commercial production' means growing and harvesting sufficient to provide full time employment for a family or head of household or the primary source of household income."

This requirement is impractical. With high interest rates and knowing that it requires 50 to 90 years to grow merchantable commercial timber, a family or head of household could not qualify for a residential building permit under this LCDC rule.

Rural landowners should obtain a copy of this proposed rule immediately from LCDC by calling Salem, 378-4926, or 1-800-452-7813 (from other Oregon areas), and those affected should promptly challenge this further erosion of their private property rights.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Murray
5844 S. W. Ralston Drive
Portland, Oregon 97201
(503) 245-2233

Lutheran churches to hold Christianity class

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

Hope and Valby Lutheran Church congregations are sponsoring a study of the basic beliefs of Christianity. The class is designed to use questions that members of the class have about Christianity, as well as printed materials, said the Rev. John Maas, pastor of the two churches.

"This class offers an excellent introduction to Christian beliefs and is open to anyone who wishes to attend," said Maas, the class leader, adding that the view of Christianity will be a Lutheran view because of his training.

A planning meeting with people who had indicated interest in the class was being held this week and decisions will be announced soon about where and when and how long the class will be meeting.

Anyone interested in sitting in on the sessions may contact Maas at 676-9940 or 676-5069, to find out where and when the first meeting will be held.

4-H sledding party planned for Jan. 16

By BIRDINE TULLIS
Morrow Co. Extension Service

All 4-H families are reminded of the 4-H sledding party on Sunday, Jan. 16 at Cutsforth Park. Whole families are welcome to attend the party, which will end with a wiener roast that evening.

Those interested in car pooling, or members needing rides are asked to meet at the extension office by 1 p.m. Those who plan to attend should bring a sled, skis, tubes, or whatever for fun in the snow.

Justice Court

Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled the following cases during the past week:

James Rodney Weimers, Heppner - Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit (65 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$12 fine.

Steven Dale Lankford, Heppner - Careless Driving, \$55 fine.

David Eugene Piper, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (69 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Reid Lyttel Miller, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$12 fine.

John Frederick Mollahan, Lexington - No PUC Permit, \$12 fine.

Jerry Riley Lair, Hermiston - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (67 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Shannon Dell McDaniel, Kennewick, Wash. - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (69 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Robert Dallas Nairns, Heppner - Expired Vehicle License, \$6 fine.

Claudia Jo Huston, Pendleton - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (70 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Tara Mahoney, Heppner - Disobeyed Stop Sign, \$14 fine.

Robert Clyde Britt, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (69 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Lewis John Thompson, Jr., Ione - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (68 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Hospital Notes

The following patients were admitted and - or released from Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner during the past week:

Leonard Kummerland, Heppner - admitted December 19, released January 8.

Maude Pointer, Heppner - admitted December 27, released January 5.

Katherine Hoskins, Heppner - admitted January 4, released January 8.

Margaret Healy, Heppner - admitted January 4, released January 9; and

R.G. Watkins, Heppner - admitted January 7, released January 8.

The following patients were still receiving care at the hospital as of Monday, Jan. 10:

Clarence Warren, Heppner - admitted January 4;

Wallace Matthews, Ione - admitted January 7;

Robert McMurty, Heppner - admitted January 5;

Richard Henriicks, Ione - admitted January 7; and

Isidoro Sanchez, Ione - admitted January 8.

On January 9, a Boardman ambulance responded to a Boardman residence for a patient who was possibly having an allergic reaction to medication. The patient was not transported.

EMERY TRAIL
The richest, most healthful, most perfect food in the world is bee pollen, say leading health authorities. It's impossible to duplicate in all the laboratories in all the world. Loaded with vitamins, minerals, proteins, amino acids, and lecithin, bee pollen also is nature's workhorse for your hair. In fact, people say, when it comes to your hair, all the great brains in the world can't equal the genius of one bee.



THE REAL THING

There are several man-made gems that try to imitate diamond's brilliant beauty. You might fool others... but you can't fool yourself. Wouldn't you really rather have a diamond?

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