

BARNES ASKS GILL TEN QUESTIONS IN SALES TAX DEBATE

Mr. Gay Gill will you please answer the following 10 questions?

No. 1. Just what is your objection to House Bill 36?

No. 2. House Bill 36 provides for a 3 percent sales tax, two-thirds of the revenue to go to the counties. After 1935 all the revenue to go to the counties. Every dollar the counties receive to be posted as a tax credit on some home owner's tax receipt. Wouldn't this mean tax reduction for home owners of the state? Wouldn't such credits encourage and protect home ownership in the state. Wouldn't such credits tend to reduce interest rates for home development?

No. 3. A working man on the average spends one-fourth of his earnings for "shelter"; either rent on a home or payments on a home, or interest and taxes. If he earns \$1200 per year he spends \$300 for "shelter" requirements, \$60, or 20 percent of this \$300, goes for state, county and school taxes. Is this not a sales tax on this necessity? When a working man buys "shelter" isn't it a commodity just as food and clothes are commodities? Why have you never objected to this 20 percent sales tax on this commodity "shelter," for which a working man spends one-fourth of his earnings.

No. 4. Does "shelter value" in a home receive, when you are considering taxes on real property, any special consideration? Should "shelter value" in a home have any special consideration? Isn't it a fact that the older countries in Europe recognizing the stabilizing influence of home ownership have exempted a percentage of homes from taxation and are loaning money for home development at from 10 percent to 3 percent?

No. 5. At the open hearing on House Bill 36 at Salem one of the members of the tax committee, after listening for two hours to protests against the bill by yourself and others, suggested that those who objected to every revenue measure that comes up before them propose some substitute. Pointing out that both the state and the counties were facing unbalanced budgets. Have you proposed a substitute revenue measure?

No. 6. Doesn't money spent more nearly indicate ability to pay taxes than ownership of "shelter"?

No. 7. Mr. Galloway, of the state tax commission, object to giving owners of land credit on their tax receipts on the grounds that it would "raise the price of land suitable for home development." Do you object to this measure on the same ground?

No. 8. Our legislature is given the sole right to define and exempt from taxation "institutions that contribute to the mental and moral welfare of men, women and children." Do you question the right of the legislature to so declare that a family's homestead contributes to the "mental and moral welfare" of the family?

In the case of *Sisters of Mercy* against Lane county, 123 Oregon 144, the supreme court says:

"We grant that the exemption of the act exempting personal and real property from the burdens of taxation would add much valuable property to the tax rolls of Oregon. But, whether or not such exempt property should be taxed is purely a legislative, not a judicial question; and our constitution forbids the judiciary from entering upon the domain of the legislative department."

Can the ownership of a homestead by a family be construed in any way as serving the public welfare?

No. 9. The heavy burden of taking care of the unemployed is falling upon the counties. \$7,000 heads of families are out of employment in the state. Revenue must be raised. A sales tax with the revenue remitted to the counties would help provide for their care. This tax credit and reduced interest rate would create a desire for home ownership and many families who now have jobs, or an income from some other source would find it, under this new deal, "cheaper to own a home than to rent," and many of them would become home owners, and so contribute to the stability of their government. It would advertise Oregon and bring many families to Oregon who have moderate incomes and who are seeking sanctuary from high taxes on homes.

It would increase employment, especially in the building trades and speed up the wheels of industry, especially in the lumber industry. It would not add one cent of increased taxes on other real estate, nor would it remove one dollar's worth of property from the tax rolls. What better plan have you to offer, Mr. Gill?

No. 10. Do you still think that you can carry out your threat to defeat House Bill 36 through a referendum to the people if the legislature passes this bill? J. C. BARNES.

Gilmore Officials Visitors



C. B. Garretson



Howard O. Young

The appointment of Howard O. Young as sales supervisor of the Oregon territory for the Gilmore Oil company has just been announced by C. B. Garretson, assistant sales manager for Gilmore. Both men were recent visitors in Medford calling on Chuck Ellis, local manager.

Mr. Young comes to Oregon from Bakersfield, California where he was district manager for the San Joaquin valley for Gilmore. He will work under the direction of D. H. P. MacPherson, northwest division manager, according to Garretson.

Mr. Garretson's home is in Los Angeles.

ROTARIANS GIVEN PERTINENT TALK ON BOND DANGER

Medford Rotarians heard an inspiring talk which left them with much food for thought at their regular weekly meeting Tuesday. Henry H. Manny of Seattle, former northwest district governor of Rotary International, was the speaker and chose as his subject, *The Bonded Indebtedness of the United States and How It Affects Taxation.*

Mr. Manny's address which was followed with keen interest by his hearers included many salient facts concerning the national and local debt situation and is quoted in part as follows:

"The whole United States is burdened under a load of debt. We have voted billions and billions in bonds for public works that must be paid, but with the mounting taxes to take care of this indebtedness, and with the increased expenditure in government, it is perfectly evident that many of these bonds must be defaulted, and more of the people's savings lost."

"The only form of extravagance today is in government expense. This must be stopped, and the only way it can be stopped, is by an uprising on the part of the property owners and business men to counteract the propaganda of a radical nature and force economy in government, through public opinion, just as every property owner and business man has been compelled to economize today. Unless this is accomplished, there cannot be anything ahead but ruin and want."

Property values have shrunk from 25 to 35 per cent. Taxes have increased until it is forcing thousands and thousands of property owners to give up their property, and their homes, because of their inability to pay; therefore, those still holding property will be forced to pay an increased amount to take care of the reckless expenditures of public funds.

"No bond issues should be voted of any kind, because we haven't the money to pay. Every man elected to public office should be forced, thru public opinion, to pledge himself, not to ordinary economy, but to a program of the strictest economy of every kind. If the property owners and business men of this nation could be mobilized on a program of this kind, good times would return, and the United States would go forward happily and successfully. This is the only solution of our problems today, and unless this is done there will be no return of prosperity."

Mr. Manny also cited many instances of large cities confronted with a staggering burden of debt including his own home town of Seattle where various ventures in municipal ownership have resulted in an unbelievable tax rate which is one of the highest in America. He also told of the state of Oregon's bonded indebtedness which is over 212 million dollars of 78 per cent of entire worth.

In closing the speaker stated that this was the 24th talk he had made on the subject of taxation in the past year in an endeavor to awaken a realization in his hearers that the present situation is desperate and must be remedied before it is too late.

Visiting Rotarians at the meeting included Lew Hubba and H. H. Manny of Seattle. Dick Isaac of Medford was a guest at the luncheon.

STEINER WORKING FOR ROGUE FRUIT HARVESTING LOAN

A telegram has been received by Ben E. Harder, president of the First National Bank, from Senator Fred Steiner at Washington, D. C., stating that he had already started work to secure federal funds for the financing of the 1933 fruit crop harvest in the Rogue river valley. An earlier telegram from Senator Chas. L. McNary said that he was conferring and working with agricultural credit corporation officials towards securing the loan.

It is estimated that the maximum amount required will be \$750,000, if secured will cover packing charges as well as the various forms of pear production, from smudging to harvesting.

Senator Steiner's message brought the information that he would confer with Chief Towle of the Agricultural Credit Corporation this afternoon, to discuss conditions and details.

Local orchardists acquainted with the details, feel that speedy action will be obtained, once the credit corporation has all the facts at hand, and are convinced of the merits of the loan, and that it will prove substantial and beneficial to the fruit industry and this district.

Details for the forming of a local credit corporation, acting in conjunction with the Agricultural Credit Corporation bank in Portland, will be arranged once the loan has been approved.

The funds would be available for the spring orchard work, which will start late in March, full blast, according to present indications.

COMMISSIONER OF MARKETING ASKED TO AID GROWERS

The agricultural committee of the chamber of commerce and the marketing committee of the grange met at the chamber of commerce Monday and prepared a recommendation to be presented to the state legislature asking for a measure empowering the director of agriculture of the state of Oregon to act as a marketing commissioner, setting up machinery to advise growers.

The sponsors of the move, it was explained today, do not contemplate any additional financial outlay, but the creation of an adviser for producers and distributors when requested.

The adviser, in accordance with the plan, would gather and disseminate impartial information concerning supply, demand, prevailing prices and commercial movements, including common and cold storage of any such products. The plan would also foster and encourage cooperation between producers and distributors.

Such a plan has been under study here for some time and is designed after that in operation in California. Copies of the proposed bill were sent today to Max Gehlher, directors of agriculture, and to the Jackson coun-

PHOENIX LADIES' AID WILL MEET ALL DAY

PHOENIX, Feb. 1.—(Spl.)—Announcement in an earlier issue that the Ladies' Aid society of the Presbyterian church here would meet Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Malmgren, should have read that an all-day meeting would be held, with covered dish dinner at noon.

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ty delegation to the legislature. The committee last night also discharging the proposed anti-dumping bill introduced in the legislature as house bill 221 and providing for control of producer dealers and peddlers. No definite decision was reached regarding the bill, which will be considered again at another meeting February 6.

Oregon Weather. Fair tonight and Thursday, but with valley fogs; little change in temperature; gentle changeable winds offshore.

Portlanders Here—E. J. Roth, H. G. Ferwell, Ione Cook, Frank Cruser, J. Raamussen, D. M. Simms, Thomas McGuire, H. T. Wilmarth, D. J. McGowan, F. A. Johnson, R. H. Nichol, son, V. I. Powels, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McCord, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Allen, E. F. Peithman and W. F. Hinton, all of Portland, were guests in Medford today on business and pleasure.

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