

Attorney Proposes Alimony Payment Law To Permit Husbands to Meet Obligations

Los Angeles - (UPI) - The courts are too harsh in setting alimony payments by husbands in divorce cases, according to a California legislator.

As a result it is almost impossible for many husbands in domestic breakups to continue normal living. Assemblyman Howard J. Thelin said in proposing a state law to establish what a judge can award the wife in all fairness to both sides.

Thelin (R-Glendale) said he wanted a "schedule of payments" for both alimony and child support.

Strong opposition may be expected from judges and from some attorneys, he predicted.

He said he became interested in the subject after studying a detailed report on alimony and support court orders prepared by Los Angeles attorney Edward Raiden.

Left With Nothing
Raiden said his study showed that in many cases judges have gone so far in awarding money to ex-wives for their alimony and their children's support that a man finds he is left with nothing.

"In many cases the man takes the easy way out," Raiden said, "and leaves the state. He leaves his family nothing because he faces contempt of court if he can't make the full amount as ordered. As a result the wife and children

have to be supported by the people unless the wife can make enough money to care for the family."

Thelin said he felt "that before long the people will demand such legislation."

Alimony As Punishment
"There are too many times when a judge seems to consider alimony or support payments a means of punishment for wrongdoing," he said. "They sometimes forget it is not a criminal proceeding."

Raiden said his studies had produced what he believes to be a workable formula, although he said undoubtedly there would be changes after more minds go to work on it.

Under his proposal, alimony payments would be based upon the number of years of marriage as well as the amount of money a man earns.

"Why should a court give a woman half of a man's income for years after being married only a few months?" he asked.

Childless Divorces
Alimony payments in childless divorces would be limited in time to an equal time of the marriage. Under any circumstances the top amount a wife could obtain would be one-third of the couple's combined income.

"In other words," Raiden explained, "if a man earned \$400 a month and his wife, after divorce, earned \$200, the total income would be \$600. One-third of this would be \$200 so the man would pay nothing. If she earned nothing he would pay her \$133 a month."

He said these figures would be calculated each year and subject to change.

Child Support
On basic child support he said the formula would start with 20 per cent of a man's income for one child, 25 for two, 30 for three and one-third for four or more.

"Under no conditions, even if several divorces and children under various marriages were involved, could a court take more than 50 per cent of a man's income for support or alimony," Raiden said.

He said he felt such a law also would help stop the ever-increasing divorce rate.

"If a woman knew she could not take virtually everything a man had she might not be so fast to run to a lawyer," he said. "And if she did go to a lawyer he could show her exactly what she could expect in the way of money."

Considerable Discussion Seen
Thelin, himself an attorney, said he felt the proposed legislation would develop considerable discussion throughout the state.

"That is what we want," he said. "No one formula could be perfect and even if such a law is passed it would probably have to be changed as years go on."

Raiden said the important thing to be considered was to keep the breadwinner of a family winning bread.

"If we take away his desire to work and earn what good is any amount of money awarded by a court?" he asked. "We are trying to provide a bill that will support a man's children and his obligations and at the same time give him a chance to live a life for himself."

Balloons Provide Weather Data
Washington (Science Service) - Radio-equipped balloons flying at constant altitude from Japan across the Pacific Ocean and the U.S. to the Atlantic can yield valuable weather data at a reasonable cost.

This is the conclusion of J. K. Angell of the U.S. Weather Bureau, Washington, from a study of balloons following the winds eastward from Japan during the period from September, 1957, to April, 1959. Cost of operating the constant-level balloons, called transosondes, can be as low as \$75 for each wind reading.

This cost can not be compared with that for obtaining wind data from weather ships, since such measurements show winds, temperatures and pressures at various levels, and the ships also serve as rescue units in cases of emergency. Angell urges the continued use of balloons, particularly superpressure balloons, to determine wind conditions high over the Pacific.

Angell's report on the use of transosonde data appears in the current Journal of Geophysical Research, a publication of the American Geophysical Union supported by the National Science Foundation and the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

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Expect both business and consumer spending to record the greatest increases, although government spending will also show a small gain.

"Disposable income (personal income after taxes) should show an increase of about \$20 billion over 1959, even without a cut in personal taxes."

"Expect the greater income and the sustained record liquid assets of the public to be reflected in spending."

Higher Consumer Prices
"Wholesale prices will average slightly higher than in 1959, although quotations will not fluctuate uniformly."

"Expect consumer prices to show an increase of about 1 1/2 per cent over the previous year, but to lag as compared with the gain in average hourly earnings."

"The international situation will be slightly easier."

"Expect the Far East to provide most of the international tension, although a final settlement of the Berlin situation is not likely. Localized tension in the Middle East also will continue."



HOUSE TO BE SOLD-A simple farm house at Candia Depot, N. H., known to millions of Americans as "The House by the Side of the Road," will be sold for taxes by the New Hampshire welfare department. The two-story frame house was the birthplace in 1858 of Sam Walter Foss, a newspaper poet who gained a measure of immortality with one poem featuring the house. The property is being sold to recover about \$2,000. (UPI Telephoto)

General Business Cycle Upturn Prognosticator's View for 1960

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York - (UPI) - Predictions are piling up for 1960. They make good reading. There are two brands as astute economist Heinz E. Luedicke of the Journal of Commerce classifies them - the "nothing-can-go-wrong-in-1960" kind and "strong-but-weaker-finish" variety.

He finds the difficulty with forecasts is that readers or clients expect too much from them. Thereupon he relates the story of the little boy who broke his arm.

"Doctor, do you think I can play the clarinet when I'm out of the hospital?"

"Of course, my boy."

"Gee, that's swell. I couldn't play it before I broke my arm."

NO. 1 STAR
Hollywood - (UPI) - Actor Rock Hudson has been notified he was selected "No. 1 Star of 1959" in a money-making stars poll of theater exhibitors in Canada and the United States.

Luedicke believes there's too much hedging in the forecasts. "There are so many holes in most of the annual forecasts that they resemble a piece of swiss cheese," he says.

He admits that the dream of the economists is a business indicator-or a relatively small group of indicators-that

Dangerous Soybean Pest in Illinois
Washington (Science Service) - The soybean cyst nematode, capable of destroying the nation's billion-dollar soybean crop, has been found in Illinois for the first time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

The pest has been known in some areas of the country since 1954. Surveys made last summer revealed that more than 32,000 acres of soybeans in 26 counties in Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia were affected.

Work is underway to perfect a method of eradicating the nematode, and plant breeders are developing soybean varieties that combine resistance with acceptable agronomic characters.

would enable one to foresee the turning points of the business cycle.

As it is, he says, it usually takes months before we can be sure that business has turned.

Some mighty big bankers go along with this belief, and they frankly admit that there isn't any one indicator or group that will tell to a nicety what's coming.

Why is it then that some prognosticators are so very successful? We asked one of the more successful ones-A. W. Zelomek-his secret.

Knows From Nothing
"All I do," he said, "is try to find out what John Doe will do. He's my indicator. He knows from nothing about economics. He has lots of money to spend and he has some in reserve. And he believes in Santa Claus."

He explained that the big thing is to know what the masses will do. As long as they spend, we'll have prosperity. If they buy automobiles, all the industries that go into making cars will prosper-steel, upholstery, rubber, glass, brass, copper, lead, zinc, and of course the oil industry.

"You've got to be a good sociologist and have good horse sense to know what the little fellows who spend the big money are going to do," Zelomek holds.

He has invented a term for that job-"socio-economist."

New Year Expectations
On that basis, here is what he expects in the new year:

"General business, based on gross national product (business consumer and government spending) will average higher in 1960. Total production will show a greater increase."

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San Diego Museum Needs More Fish

San Diego, Calif. (Science Service) - Fishermen take note: The San Diego Natural History museum at Balboa park here is in urgent need of fishes for its undersea and fish exhibit.

A list of the desired fishes and their approximate sizes is available from Wesley Farmer, the Museum's curator of exhibits. Fresh specimens are needed so that the fish "makers" can make casts and photograph colors before the fish lose their shape and color.

Land used for crops increased by less than 12 per cent since 1940. Yet total farm output increased by 36 per cent.

Eye Gnats Like Lengthy Flights

Riverside, Calif. (Science Service) - Eye gnats - tiny insects that annoy gardeners and have been incriminated as carriers of "pink eye" - will travel close to 4 1/2 miles to get to good feeding grounds.

This means that at least this wide an area must be treated with insecticides if a control program is to succeed, two researchers at the University of California Citrus Experiment station here suggest.

The eye gnat, *Hippelates collusor*, is an extremely annoying pest of man and domestic animals. Mir S. Mulla and Ralph B. March report in the current issue of the *Annals of the Entomological Society*

of America. In some areas there are as many as 5,000 gnats per acre. Generally they breed in farm areas, flying into residential areas to plague children and adults.

Gnats were "tagged" with radioactive phosphorus and their flight patterns traced. The insects avoided desert and barren hills, but were observed to cross a half-mile piece of desert to get to suitable spots. While they flew both with the wind and against it, the greatest distances, 4.1 and 4.3 miles, were traveled with the wind.

There are places named North Pole far south of the Arctic Circle.

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