

Revenue Said Number One Problem Facing Most State Legislatures

Preponderance of Budgets Said To Break Records

Editor's note—This is the nation's biggest year for law-making by state legislatures. Before 1961, only 47 legislatures will have met to deal with space-age problems just as likely as those before the new Congress in Washington—and in many cases a lot closer to home in their impact. A survey of the 50 state capitols indicates the biggest universal problem is taxes. The following dispatch indicates what's in store for taxpayers.

By EVERETT R. IRWIN
Chicago (UPI)—There is one consolation in filling out federal income tax returns this year—the taxes haven't gone up. But state taxes are going up, almost as fast as legislatures convene across the country to deal with record budgets.

The No. 1 problem facing most state legislatures and governors this year is revenue.

The 42 legislatures that convened this month and five that start work later this year are confronted with the dollar sign at every turn.

A great preponderance of 1961 budgets or preliminary budgetary demands are at record highs, a United Press International survey of the 50 state capitols showed today.

More Taxes Predicted
New or broadened taxes were predicted in most states—levies to meet rising costs of schools, highways, care of the aged, mental health and penal programs and other steadily expanding services.

West Virginia legislators already have plunged into the tax boost swim. In an emergency move to expand public works and put more than 5,000 jobs to work, they hiked the state's sales tax from 2 per cent to 3 per cent for the next 7½ months.

Hold-the-line stands against tax boosts shaped up in 16 states and are sure to develop in others. Some appeared to

be determined and likely to succeed. Others looked like wishful thinking in view of sharply higher budget demands.

New York Unique
New York finds itself in a unique position. Higher taxes and payroll withholding instituted two years ago by Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller produced so large a yield that the state is making a \$90 million rebate to an estimated 5½ million taxpayers.

In Illinois, on the other hand, incoming Gov. Otto Kerner said the state faced a "financial crisis" and needs \$265 million in new revenue. Gov. John Dalton of Missouri submitted a \$1.25 billion budget, \$154 million above the last biennial appropriations.

Connecticut faced a \$10-\$12 million deficit by June 30 and a \$130 million budget boost for the next two years. Vermont's Gov. F. Ray Kerner, who campaigned on a "no new taxes" theme, proposed record general fund and highway budgets.

Long Fight in Texas
In Texas, where \$100 million in new money will be needed to keep spending at the current level and \$200 million if new spending proposals are adopted, UPI's capitol correspondent reports: "The big long fight will be money. First where to raise it, then how to spend it."

A big tax battle is forecast in North Carolina. Gov. Terry Sanford campaigned for improved education and said he'll favor additional taxes if necessary to put his program into effect.

Ohio's Gov. Michael DiSalle and Oklahoma's Gov. Howard Edmondson put the problem squarely up to their legislatures.

Submits Two Budgets
DiSalle submitted a \$2.10 billion budget which would be met with available revenue and a fatter \$2.24 billion budget based on "need." Both were record high budgets.

Edmondson offered a \$268 million budget requiring \$48 million in new revenue and

a pared-down \$220 million package which called for retrenchments.

Montana's new Republican governor, Donald G. Nutter, submitted a "retrenchment" budget of \$71.1 million, \$4.2 million less than 1959 appropriations.

Several states are considering new or broadened income taxes. Several others may turn to sales taxes to replenish their coffers.

Gov. W. W. Barron of West Virginia has plumped for an income tax. Gov. Albert D. Rosellini of Washington urged his legislature to present to the people a constitutional amendment imposing a graduated net income tax.

Rhode Island Gov. John A. Notte Jr., asked legislators to reexamine a 1959 recommendation for an income tax. The Minnesota and Missouri governors proposed reinforcing existing income tax laws with wage withholding provisions.

Hikes Sales Tax
A sales and use tax in Michigan was hiked to 4 per cent (from 3 per cent) effective Jan. 1. GOP Gov. John H. Reed of Maine proposed a similar boost, and leaders of both parties in the Connecticut Legislature indicate they will have to follow suit. In Wisconsin, a bill would submit to advisory referendum the question of imposing a state sales tax.

Across the nation, legislators are mulling over hundreds of other tax proposals. There is a plan to boost the table tax on gaming in Nevada, a proposal to tax piggyback carriers in Oregon, suggestions for increased cigarette taxes in Missouri and Arizona. A controversial proposal for a 500 per cent boost in Illinois' corporation franchise tax, a plan to accelerate tax collections in Pennsylvania, a suggested tax on soft drinks in Arkansas and a proposed stiffer tax on non-resident hunters in Vermont.

Nevada has fewer inhabitants per square mile than any of the other states, census figures indicate.



Equalization Board Plans April Meeting

The Jackson county board of equalization will hold its first regular meeting on Monday, April 17, County Assessor Ray Schumacher said Monday.

"This is one public body that can do much to preserve the so-called home rule at the county level in property tax administration," the county assessor said. "By properly performing its duties and by insisting that the county assessor does likewise, insofar as it has jurisdiction, the board will develop a much stronger administration locally and will eliminate need of the state tax commission interfering."

The board can increase the assessed valuation on an individual property, but must accompany the increase by written notice to the property owner. Board members can also lower the assessed value without notice, Schumacher

explained. It is also true that the board can increase or decrease uniformly the assessed value of all property in a class or in a clearly defined area without notice to the owners, he added. It has no authority to exempt property from taxation.

Number of Jobless Workers Decreases

Washington—UPI—The number of workers receiving jobless benefits fell by 94,700 during the week ending Jan. 14, but remained at a record high of 3,194,900 for mid-January, the government reported Monday.

Salem—UPI—Gov. Mark Hatfield Monday signed his first bill of the 1961 legislature—HB 2001, a housekeeping measure defining allotments involving the State Finance department.

Red Cross Report Indicates \$237,473 Spent Daily in '60

Washington—Almost a quarter of a million dollars a day went into the humanitarian services of the American Red Cross during fiscal 1959-60, according to the annual report.

The report has been forwarded to the secretary of defense and Congress.

The total expenditures for the fiscal year were \$86,677,974, or a daily average of \$237,473.

Of this, more than 58 per cent was expended by the nearly 3,700 Red Cross chapters; the balance was used by the national organization in serving members of the armed forces, in conducting relief operations following major disasters, in carrying on its blood donor and research, and in safety and health education work.

2 Million Volunteers
Volunteers number more than 2 million, and the career staff totals 9,200 in chapters and 3,700 with the national organization in this country and with U.S. troops around the world.

The largest single item in Red Cross expenditures was for services to the Armed Forces and veterans; and their families. The cost came to \$33,557,642, about 39 cents out of every dollar.

Providing whole blood and its fractions for the ill and injured accounted for another 15 cents of each Red Cross dollar. Disaster relief took more than 7 cents, while other health, nursing, and safety programs accounted for more than 8 cents.

The balance went for a national program of services for youth, services and assistance to the nearly 3,700 Red Cross chapters, chapter community services, international activities, membership enrollment and fund raising, public information, and planning and ad-

ministration by the national organization and chapters.

Help Servicemen
Last year 21,000 volunteers and a staff of 2,100 workers provided help to U.S. servicemen at military stations and hospitals, assisting an average of 77,200 servicemen each month.

In U.S. communities, chapter volunteers and home service staff each month assisted an average of 81,500 servicemen and dependents and 36,500 veterans and their dependents.

The Blood Program collected and distributed more than 2,400,000 pints of blood during the year, an increase of about 3 per cent over 1958-59. Red Cross provides about 40 per cent of the total supply of blood used in the nation.

The Red Cross conducted 325 disaster relief operations during the year, and 107,700 persons were sheltered, fed or clothed during these emergencies. Some 14,900 families were provided with new or rebuilt homes or given medical care in the post-disaster period. Not included in these figures was the rehabilitation aid given to 13,600 families in the Hurricane Donna relief

operation. This disaster, which occurred after the fiscal year's end, will cost more than \$2,000,000.

Value of Assistance
In the fiscal year, the Red Cross also gave assistance valued at \$10,500,000, including \$7,500,000 worth of government-donated assistance, to help meet disaster needs abroad.

Following the Chilean earthquake, President Eisenhower requested that the ARC coordinate all United States voluntary relief to that country. A team of American Red Cross disaster specialists was sent to Chile upon request of the American Ambassador to assist the Chilean Red Cross and other authorities administering relief. The aid was made possible by contributions valued at \$4,500,000.

The Red Cross offered training in public services and good citizenship to more than 20,300 students in schools and colleges, and trained more than 7,700 persons in first aid, water safety, and home nursing through formal class instruction, and another 5-

100,000 persons through press, radio and television.

Pharmacy Phacts

From GENE WESTLAND

FIRST AID is a subject many of our friends don't like to either talk or think about. A recent survey found, however, that an average of only one home in eight could show a medicine cabinet which could be called fully-equipped to take care of even ordinary emergencies.

arising in the home. Most people had band-aids, fever thermometers, adhesive tape and a burn relief, but few were able to show cotton swabs, sizable bandages, tourniquets or stomach settlers. Oddly enough almost 40 to 50 per cent didn't have gargles or antiseptics of any type. For your peace (and your family's) sake, please give this some thought!

You think you've thought of everything before your new baby comes, but always there is something that has been overlooked... or a change in plans made. At McClain's Drug Centre, 8 North Central, Medford, we're always glad to help you find unfamiliar items and talk over their uses with you.—adv.

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