

Adenauer Mulls Election Year Tax Increase

Bonn — UPI — West Germans may be in for a tax increase this year.

Although 1961 is an election year — the general elections probably will be held in September — Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's government is seriously considering upping taxes.

The government has promised large increases in foreign aid, and has to find the money somewhere.

Defense costs also are rocketing with costly jets and missiles on the Bundeswehr's shopping list.

Germany also has agreed to pay more towards the costs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

It being an election year, Finance Ministry officials refuse to confirm or deny that tax increases are in the air.

But Finance Minister Franz Eitel has indicated that such increases may be forthcoming. "We know," Eitel said, "that a row of additional responsibilities awaits us. I am thinking in particular of greater defense efforts and higher contributions to development aid."

State Expenditure

There can be no state expenditure, Eitel meaningly pointed out, without state income.

"An effort in one direction," he said, "must of necessity be a burden in another."

Just who will have to bear the biggest burden of a tax increase is unclear.

The limit on income tax is presently 55 per cent. It is unlikely that this ceiling will be pushed higher. There is a greater movement to bring it down to 50 per cent.

West Germany, unlike many other countries, knows of no super tax whereby a person with a "super" income may have to pay up to 90 per cent or more in income tax.

Undoubtedly there will be a tightening on expense allowances. The government already has taken steps in this direction. Journalists, for instance, may no longer write off the cost of installing and maintaining a telephone.

Although Germans complain greatly about taxes, they come off far more lightly than many others.

A wage-earner with a wife and two children, and earning 600 marks a month (\$142.86), for instance, has to pay a maximum of 40 marks (\$9.52) a month in tax. And the average wage in Germany is under 500 marks a month (\$71.43).

Smoke Being Used For More Than 200,000 Products

Cleveland — UPI — A thick brown smoke which used to curl out of the coke ovens of the steel industry has made it possible to glue broken bones, repair motors on a starvation diet and reduce inflight collisions of aircraft.

By-product coke ovens, which replace the old "bee-hive" ovens used to convert coal into coke, are transforming the brown smoke into about 145 pounds of coal chemicals per ton of coal. The chemicals are used in over 200,000 products.

Some of the chemicals, such as ammonium sulfate, a nitrogen fertilizer, and cresosote are sold directly to the agricultural industry. Others like benzene, toluene, xylene, naphthalene, phenol and pyridine are converted by the pharmaceutical industry into such products as aspirin, DDT, explosives, nylon, plastics, dyes, paints, inks, perfumes and cosmetics.

A special bone glue already has been used to mend over 350 serious fractures. Still being tested, it is a strong plastic foam and a derivative of toluene. Poured into the fracture, it hardens so quickly the patient may move the repaired limb within a few hours.

Several experimental products derived from pyridine closely resemble vitamin B nutrients which are needed by moth larvae. Studies show promise that the larvae will either ignore fabrics treated with the chemicals or will nibble sparingly and eventually die of starvation.

The use of fluorescent paints, having coal chemical components, cut in-air collisions of the Air Training Command of the Air Force from nine in one year to only two the next year. Neither crash involved fluorescent-painted craft.

ALWAYS GET CAUGHT

Dallas, Tex. — UPI — Police-man Andy Sword arrested a burglar who lamented: "If you make enough noise, you'll always get caught."



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