

Oregon's Tax Base Said Completely Messed Up; Blame on Exemptions

By DOUGLAS GRIPP
Salem — (UPI) — A major tax brain in the legislature says Oregon's tax base is completely messed up. He fixes the blame, too.

The tax base is the amount of property or income subject to taxation. The narrower the base, the less taxes the state can collect.

Mike Katz of Portland, consultant to the House Tax Committee, puts the blame on the multitude of tax exemptions which have crept into Oregon's tax laws. He said they now keep more than \$5 billion worth of property off the state's tax rolls.

The exemptions riddle taxes on property, personal income and corporations. The latter includes excise and income taxes.

Katz has spelled it out in a seven-page report to the committee which he said was still incomplete. The report was requested by Chairman Richard Eymann (D-Mohawk).

Katz listed 112 different exemptions reflecting millions of dollars in lost taxes. In one form or another, and at one time or another, exemptions extend to such things as: stored nuts, ships which "ply the high seas," stored hops, lodges, tombs, Indian reservations, leafy trees, church buildings used for recreation, bad debts, profit-making cemeteries and on and on.

Katz explained that some exemptions required by federal or state constitutions. Some are granted in the "interest of justice," some in the name of public policy, and some because they appear to be feasible. But some have been granted "with only the barest semblance of theoretical justification and some without even that," he says.

Katz said some exemptions were obtained through the legislature by "appropriate political pressures" and the "right degree of intimidation."

"All exemptions," he continued, "narrow the tax base, complicate the structure, shift the obligation onto remaining non-exempt taxpayers, and detract from the primary revenue-raising function of a tax system."

Katz said an important characteristic of tax exemptions is that "once they are granted, they are almost impossible to remove without a tenacious and costly battle."

Katz summed up by warning that "while advocates of exemptions are diligent and successful, and perhaps some are interested in the protection of the revenue base and the public treasury."

In other words, he says the average taxpayer is taking it in the neck.

They'll Do It Every Time

HOWCUM DEPT. KID FRANKSTERS CAN PULL UP THOSE HIGHWAY SIGNS AND PLANT 'EM SOMEWHERE ELSE APPARENTLY AS EASY AS PIE...



By Jimmy Hatlo

BUT WHEN THE HIGHWAY DEPT. HAS TO REMOVE ONE... WOW!! IT'S A MAJOR-GENERAL ALL-OUT OPERATION!



The Medical Roundup

by

Walter Alvarez

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1961)

An Outpouching on the Gullet

People write to say that while having their digestive tract x-rayed, the doctor found a small



diverticulum, or pouch, on their gullet. Some say that this pouch is producing no symptoms, while a few say that it is a sometimes makes swallowing a bit difficult. What happens is that when the pouch fills with food, it presses on the side of the gullet and tends to narrow the passage-way.

I think if I had such a pouch and it wasn't bothering me, I would wait and see if it did become troublesome. If it was bothering me every time I ate, I would go to a big clinic and see the expert on diseases of the gullet.

Cystoceles and Rectoceles
When a woman has had several children, she is likely to have a perineal tear, with the loss of pelvic floor muscle. Then the bladder and the rectum are likely to fall down low.

I sympathize deeply with the unhappy people who want and much need an encyclopedic article in simple, understandable English, but in most cases I know of no such article that is available. All I can do is to hope that during the next year I can find time to write a booklet on the disease mentioned, and to add this to those the Register and Tribune Syndicate now sells.

I can imagine how distressing it is for the mother of a defective child to be told that he has Fanconi's or Halstead-Spatz' disease, and then to be absolutely unable to learn any more about the ailment — whether it is going to be soon fatal, or whether it is curable, or where in the country someone knows something about it, or where research is being done on it, etc. One thing I cannot forgive some of my medical brethren for doing, is walking away from a frantic mother who begs for such information. No doctor is so busy that he could not stop for three minutes.

Government Helping with Dental Care
I am happy to read that last year the Congress gave \$160,000 for dental service to handicapped children. This year the dentists will ask for \$2,000,000. No child in this country should be allowed to grow up with bad teeth.

Voluntary Health Insurance
I read that voluntary health insurance now pays 5.2 billion dollars of our health care bills. Some 72 per cent of all our people and 49 per cent of those over the age of 65 years have one of the four available types of pro-

tection. Some 68 per cent of our families need each year, \$200 for medical expenses; 21 per cent have expenses from \$200 to \$500 and 11 per cent have bills over \$500.

Dr. Jerome J. Slevers of the Los Angeles Children's Hospital has just been emphasizing the need for doctors' telling the parents right away that their child has asthma when he recognizes the disease. Dr. Slevers says that often the physician is too reluctant to make this diagnosis because he fears to cause the parents anxiety. But if precious time is wasted before seriously tackling the problems of the disease and really curing the child, the asthma may become so chronic that it will go on perhaps for the rest of the poor sufferer's life. The time to understand an asthma well and to fight it strenuously is when it first appears.

For some, allergies are always "in season." To find out

more about your allergy and what to do about it, read Dr. Alvarez' booklet, "Allergy, Hay Fever and Asthma." It may be obtained by sending 25 cents and a large, stamped self-addressed envelope to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, The Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors. (Copyright 1961—General Features Corp.)

Debby W.—I want my sister to take care of Rory so I can go to Switzerland.

Phyllis A.—The baby hardly knows me. He's too young to leave so long.

Debby W.—My husband and I have the most wonderful opportunity to go to Europe this summer, if only Phyllis would agree to come in from Wisconsin and baby sit.

There's a convention in Geneva and Dick's firm is paying his expenses as a delegate. For a few hundred dollars more, I could go along and we could see Europe together on the way home.

My sister really owes this to me. Before Rory was born, I took care of things for her whenever she and Lenny felt like flitting. But she turns me down now, with some rather lame excuses.

Phyllis A.—It's not that I'm refusing to help Debby. I'd do anything for her. All I'm urging her now is to forget about going away so far and so long while Rory is only 2½ years old.

A child so young doesn't know what's happened when his parents go on a vacation and you can't explain it to him. A friend of mine has an emotionally disturbed child and the doctor traces it back to when the child was separated from her mother during

hospitalization. The little one cried her heart out.

To make matters worse, Debby expects a new baby in half a year. She'd have to leave Rory again. But that would be easier to handle.

The Council: "Go now, pay later" can have a very special meaning, as Phyllis warns, for mothers who just fade away, out of sight of their pre-schoolers. "Stay now, go later" is our advice for Debby.

Of course when there's no choice in the matter, there's no argument. Disaster, illness, change of residence, legal or occupational "musts," childbirth—all these can make a prolonged separation of mother and child inevitable. And while he will suffer some pangs of anxiety, no matter how adequate the substitute mothering, the residual trauma will grow less and less as he comes to understand the answer to, "Was this trip necessary?"

But since Debby's absence is optional and postponable, we hasten to remind her that pediatricians and psychologists strongly urge that the mother stick around, especially when the child is between 1 and 6. There's a nice scientific explanation for this: In the months immediately following birth, the mother-child tie is "symbiotic" or resembling two lives in one body. After the first year, however, it becomes "diatropic," where the child must take longer and longer strides away, but always with mother as the starting point. Interruptions in this process can be disturbing and bewildering.

Young Rory, let us add, can have no sense of time, nor can he absorb assurances that

Foreign Postal Rates Increased

Washington — (UPI) — Postmaster General J. Edward Day has announced increases in U.S. postal rates to most foreign countries to close an \$18 million annual deficit in international mail operations.

The postmaster general, who can revise international postal rates without new legislation, said Thursday night the new rates would go into effect July 1.

Rates for regular and airmail letters and postcards to Canada and Mexico will remain unchanged. Ordinary surface mail to all countries other than Canada and Mexico will be increased from 8 to 11 cents for the first ounce. Regular mail postcards to countries other than Canada and Mexico will be hiked from 5 to 7 cents.

The 15-cent airmail rate for Europe will remain unchanged. But airmail letters going to South American countries will be increased from 10 to 15 cents per half-ounce. Three cents will be added to the current rates for Caribbean countries and Central America. Airmail letters to the Soviet Union will be increased from 15 to 25 cents per half-ounce. There will be no change in the 25-cent rate for Asian, South African and Pacific nations.

mother and dad will be back "soon." While we doubt that a serious emotional disturbance can be traced solely to a mother's unexplained absence, we agree with Phyllis that a very young child may well feel deserted, and that his resentment may show itself in devious ways for years to come.

No, Debby. There'll be other conventions. Watch for one in Denmark. Then you and Dick can take both kids to play in the Tivoli Gardens.

Clubs Get \$600,000 per Year Off Gum Machines

Service clubs in the United States realize \$600,000 per year for their projects off the Ford gum ball program.

That was the report Wednesday by Clarence Hutchinson, Pacific Northwest Ford Gum and Machine company. He spoke at the luncheon meeting of the Medford Kiwanis club which sponsors the firm's machines in this community.

Hutchinson reported that the firm which started its operation in 1939, has 4,500 sponsoring clubs and that Ford gum is sold no other way but through the clubs.

The Medford club has started a campaign to gain additional locations and improve old ones for the gum and candy devices. Members will contact businessmen. Kiwanians get a percentage of the income from the machines, and the amount last year was about \$900. Kiwanis share of the funds go toward its youth projects in the community, including the countywide dental clinic.

On the club's gum ball

committee are Hugh Engstrom, chairman, and Ben Roeser, representative of Ford in this area.

Presenting a program of dances at the club meeting were a group of girls from Hawaii who are attending Southern Oregon college. Their appearance was in behalf of the Luau which will be served by Hawaiian students at the college Sunday evening, April 18. Accompanying them to the meeting was Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of the college.

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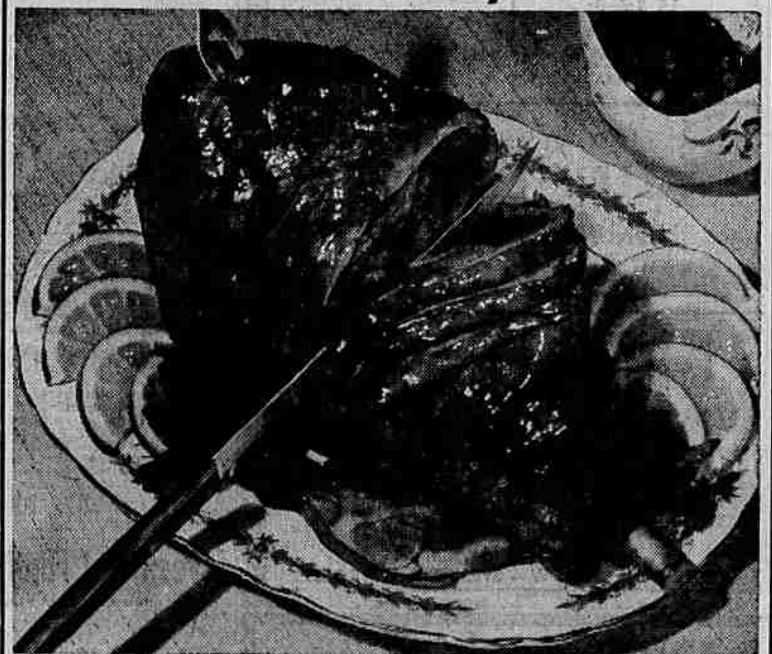
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