

Status of Major Legislation

Washington (UPI)—Status of major legislation:

Income Taxes—President Kennedy has proposed tax-reduction-and-revision bill that would provide net cut of \$10.4 billion in individual and corporate taxes over three years. House—Ways and Means committee has partly completed draft of compromise program. Senate—Awaiting House action.

Military Pay—Administration asked \$1.2 billion annual pay and benefit boost for all servicemen, reservists and retirees. House—Passed modified version to cost \$15 million less and providing no increase for 832,000 draftees and enlistees in their first two years of service. House included controversial \$30.5 million "recomputation" feature for those retired before 1956. Senate—Hearings start Tuesday.

Fallout Shelters—President Kennedy wants authority to make federal contributions toward construction of civil defense fallout shelters in schools, hospitals and other non-profit institutions. House—Armed Services subcommittee hearings completed. Senate—Nothing scheduled.

Foreign Aid—Administration asking \$4.5 billion. House—Foreign Affairs committee hearing approval of authorization bill setting ceiling on appropriations below \$4.5 billion. Senate—Authorization hearings under way. (Actual appropriations to come later.)

Health Insurance—President wants hospitalization program for persons 65 and older financed through social security taxes. House—Ways and Means committee expected to hold hearings later this year. Senate—Awaiting House action.

Mental Health—Administration wants long-range program for community mental health centers; research on and treatment of mental retardation. House—Commerce subcommittee approved, pending before full committee. Senate—Approved 10-year \$548 million program.

Medical Schools—Administration asked long range construction aid for medical-dental schools, loans to students. House—Passed three-year program that would cost \$236 million. Senate—No hearings yet.

College Construction—Kennedy originally asked for Federal funds to build classrooms and laboratories as part of larger \$5.3 billion school bill; agreed later to separate bills. House—Education committee approved \$1.6 billion in grants and loans for colleges, pending in Rules committee. Senate—Hearings completed on omnibus school bill.

Schools and Libraries—President wants aid continued for "impacted areas" and libraries. House—Education committee approved in separate bills, with amendments forbidding use of funds for segregated facilities. Senate—Hearings completed on omnibus school bill.

Voting—President Kennedy asked for controls on use of literacy tests, speedier voting rights suits and extension of the Civil Rights Commission's life for four years in his original request last winter. House—Judiciary subcommittee finished hearings on this request. Senate—Judiciary subcommittee approved four-year extension of Civil Rights commission.

Public Accommodations—Kennedy's main request in his second rights message was for legislation outlawing segregation in use of hotels, stores, restaurants, theaters and other public accommodations in interstate commerce. He also asked for new authority to initiate school desegregation suits and optional authority to withhold federal aid to states that practice racial discrimination. House—Judiciary subcommittee hearings under way. Senate—Commerce committee hearings continue this week on public accommodation feature; judiciary committee started hearings today on full civil rights package.

Employment—Kennedy endorsed Fair Employment Practices commission legislation to bar job discrimination by private businesses and labor unions. House—Labor committee has approved FEPC. Senate—Hearings tentatively planned for later this month.

Cotton—Administration backed subsidy plan would provide cheaper cotton for U. S. textile mills; includes lower support prices for large-scale growers and potential relaxation of planting restrictions. House—Agriculture committee approved, pending in Rules committee. Senate—Hearings completed.

Mexican Farm Hands—12-year-old law permitting importation of Mexicans for temporary work on American farms expires Dec. 31; administration requested one-year extension with new safeguards to protect domestic workers. House—Bill to extend program two years without change defeated on House

floor. Senate—No hearings scheduled.

Mass Transit—Kennedy proposed \$500 million in subsidies to improve city rail, bus and subway services. House—Banking committee approved bill, pending in Rules committee. Senate—Approved \$75 million program.

Wilderness—President wants to establish a national program to preserve public lands in their natural state. Senate—Passed, with provision covering 8 million acres immediately and possibly up to 35 million acres eventually. House—No committee hearings set.

Depressed Areas—Kennedy asked Congress to expand

sharply program of federal redevelopment aid to local industries designed to create jobs in areas of chronically high unemployment. House—Rejected. Senate—Approved. House leaders expect to try again for House passage later this year.

Youth Employment—Kennedy asked new \$100 million youth conservation corps for outdoor work in forests and parks; home town youth corps for local civic projects. House—Education committee has approved, pending in Rules committee. Senate—Passed.

Domestic Peace Corps—President asking for new organization of 1,000 to 5,000 skilled volunteers to carry out

work in this country similar to peace corps projects abroad. \$5 million first year cost. House—Education and Labor subcommittee hearings may resume later this month. Senate—Labor subcommittee approved.

Price-cutting—Administration-opposed bill backed by druggists, and other retail groups is designed to stop retail price-cutting of brand-name merchandise. House—Commerce committee approved, pending in Rules committee. Senate—No hearings scheduled.

Laws Enacted

Draft—Congress granted Kennedy's request for four-year extension of selective service and doctor draft.

Feed Grains—Congress extended for two years temporary program of paying farmers to hold down surplus production of corn and other feed grains.

National Debt—To permit government to borrow money it needs to keep paying its bills Congress raised legal limit on national debt to \$307 billion through June 30 and to \$309 billion during July and August. Previous temporary limit was \$305 billion; further legislation will be needed to prevent ceiling from dropping to \$285 billion Sept. 1.

Silver—To combat shortage of silver for coins, Congress gave administration authority it requested to replace exist-

ing silver-backed \$1 bills with gold-backed \$1 bills.

Women Workers—Starting next June employers must provide equal pay for women workers who do the same work as men; new law applies to jobs covered by minimum wage-hour law.

Taxes—Congress in response to administration request extended for another year present temporary tax rates on corporation profits, liquor, cigarettes, automobiles, telephone calls and airline tickets which had been scheduled to drop to lower levels July 1. (Corporation tax rates would be permanently revised downward, if Kennedy's tax-reduction program is enacted.)

Grange News

Upper Applegate Grange—Upper Applegate Grange met recently in regular summer session with Master Edmund Ramsey presiding.

Fred West, soil conservation chairman, reported that a soil engineer would be present at their next meeting. Legislative Chairman Anna Scott reported the various bills that were passed and those rejected. She also gave a comprehensive report on the state convention of the Grange.

Youth chairman stated there would be a 4-H Preview fair at Ruch on July 26, and a 4-H County fair Aug. 10. Ways and Means commit-

tee served a barbecue beef dinner at the new recreation park of the United States Forest Service on July 14. Treasurer Ed Finley submitted his resignation and Cyrena Davis was elected to the office for the balance of the year.

The Master called attention to the Pomona council to be at Phoenix Grange July 17, and the visitation jamboree at Central Point on July 19. At that time the winning Granges of the county will be announced and presented with their prizes.

The Three Graces had charge of the lecture program. Grace Buck, chairman. All played the game Pass the

NO SHIFT WORK

London (UPI)—The Industrial Welfare Society, which recently made a survey of nightshift workers and their families, today reported the most provocative answer they received came from a wife who snapped: "My next husband won't do shift work."

Fruit. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Krugel entertained with a violin and piano duet.

Mrs. Wilma Sharp from Coyote Grange, San Jose, Calif., was a guest.

After the meeting, refreshments were served by the Blacks, with a birthday cake for those celebrating their birthday anniversaries during April, May and June.



Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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TAX RELIEF 'IN REVERSE'

Instead of getting relief from our oppressive, obsolete tax burden in 1963, let's face it: the tax load on us as individuals, corporations, self-employed professionals or businessmen, property owners, has been and is being sharply increased.

We're not even holding our own on the tax front. We are falling way back, carrying a tax burden much higher than it was even in 1952, the peak tax year of the Korean war. Billions more are being drained out of our pocketbooks and cash registers in taxes this year than last. Considering the blunt, bitter tax facts, our economy has been turning in an extraordinarily good performance.

(1) Social security taxes were, as you are aware, increased as of Jan. 1. The combined tax on employees and employers is now up to 7 1/4 per cent, is pulling out \$2 billion more from incomes in 1963 than in 1962. In addition, the maximum tax on self-employed persons is now \$259.20 a year against \$223.60 in 1962.

(2) State and local tax increases are breaking records from coast to coast. Almost every one of the 50 states holding regular legislative sessions this year has hiked taxes—on sales, on corporation and individual incomes, on gasoline, on cigarettes, on alcoholic beverages. At the same time our cities are boosting their tax take from every source they can find to tap.

(3) Taxes are going up on millions of incomes simply because we have a steeply progressive tax structure—meaning the higher the income, the higher the tax rate. Incomes have increased this year, and thus so have the tax rates which those getting the incomes must pay. This is the meaning of a "progressive" tax structure and ours is progressive to a degree which makes no financial sense at all.

If Congress were now voting a tax cut for individuals and corporations, this would offset this new drag. As of today, the odds on a tax cut applying in 1963 appear next to zero. If Congress were working hard on a tax reduction to apply Jan. 1, 1964, we could foresee an offset soon. As of now, any prediction on the timing of a tax bill is strictly a guess.

To put it plainly, we are adding to our tax load at a time when the need for relief is greater than ever, for the 1961-7 economic expansion is getting "old." Unemployment is a serious problem and no new business stimulants are on the horizon.

A question I hear constantly is "What's the point in cutting federal taxes if state, local and social security taxes rise and sop up the money, leaving the economy no better off than before?"

This question misses the heart of the matter so badly it hurts. Here is the heart of the matter.

Social security taxes have gone up to finance expanding benefits which the voting public has demanded. The law on the books right now would raise the combined employer-employee rate to 9 1/4 per cent and the self-employed rate to 6.9 per cent in 1968. The 9 1/4 per cent rate will be mighty close to the limit many experts believe taxpayers will tolerate, but there is no doubt whatsoever that social security rates are heading there.

State and local taxes have gone up to finance expanding services demanded by a skyrocketing population—schools, roads, sewers, water systems, parks, police and fire departments, etc. As our population continues to soar, more services will be needed and states and cities will raise taxes to finance these services, for they cannot go into debt to pay for services. They can go into debt only to pay for capital investments. State and local taxes will go up further.

There is only one way we can get offsetting tax relief—and that's via across-the-board federal income tax reductions. There is only one sure way we can hold consumer and business spending in a rising trend and thus keep our economy rising—and that's via federal tax cuts.

If this Congress buries the tax bill of 1963, it will be risking a dangerous business slowdown.

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