

Aspects of Tax Measure Discussed by Legislator at Meeting

Rep. James Redden (D-Medford) explained the current tax measure to the Business and Professional Women's association last week in a meeting at the Girls' Community club.

Redden explained the reason for what appeared to be a sharp tax increase when services were being held to a minimum.

He pointed out that the \$50 million surplus available in 1955 had been spent since then, together with current revenues, until the time arrived when the surplus was entirely gone. In that fashion, Redden pointed out, the state was able to maintain services and even increase them while holding the tax level.

Faced With Decision
He pointed out that once the surplus was gone, the Legislature was faced with either sharply reducing services or increasing revenues to make the budget balance.

Redden summarized the main features of the tax program, including the liberalized medical deduction, elimination of the federal deduction, imposition of a minimum tax, provisions for heads of households, students and capital gains features. He

stated that the bulk of the revenue was raised by the removal of the federal deduction, a theory which the Legislature settled upon rather than raising the percentage rates of income.

With the removal of the federal deduction, Redden pointed out, the Legislature was able to actually reduce the percentage rates applied to income. This method was favored by the Governor and leaders of both parties in both Legislative bodies.

Explains Minimum Tax
Redden also explained that the so-called minimum tax did not apply to everybody. Those paying the \$5 "filing fee" were limited to those people with less than \$500 in taxable income (such as students) who filed a return in order to receive their tax rebate.

The reason for this, in part, was to help offset the cost of administering rebates. The 1 per cent minimum tax on adjusted gross income takes over, he pointed out, when the taxpayer has \$500 or more in taxable income. For those who have taxable income in excess of \$500, and will pay a tax, it has no effect. Everybody is not charged \$5, and there is not a

1 per cent surtax. Redden also emphasized that income formerly not taxable, such as Social Security and certain pensions, is not taxable under the new measure.

Redden also briefly explained the state budget, pointing out that the costs of government that were on the increase were education, mental health and correctional institutions. This was attributable, in the main, to growing populations.

He said the increase in enrollments in institutions of higher learning, as well as in the grade schools, were a result of the booming population. Also add-

ing to the problem is the increase per student in basic school support.

Redden urged association members to inform themselves.

their families and their friends and to decide which they were to vote on the basis of what was necessary for the State of Oregon.

Redden stated that statements dealing with the cutting of the education budget were not threats, but simple mathematics. He pointed out that 60 per

cent of the general fund is earmarked for education, and the bulk of that in the form of basic school support.

In the event of cuts, no matter how large, the cuts must mathematically come from the largest segment of the budget, which is education. He pointed out that education had other avenues of

solving their problems, such as increases in property taxes and stiffer enrollment requirements, whereas other phases of government had no alternatives.

Four Mentioned as Davidson Successor

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Four men were mentioned here Friday as possible successors to C. Girard Davidson as Oregon's Democratic national committeeman.

State Chairman Ed Spencer listed them as State Rep. Sidney Leiken, Roseburg; State Sen. Alfred Corbett, Portland; former State Chairman Robert Straub, Eugene, and Howard Morgan, former federal power commissioner from Sisters.

Davidson recently announced his resignation, effective next month.

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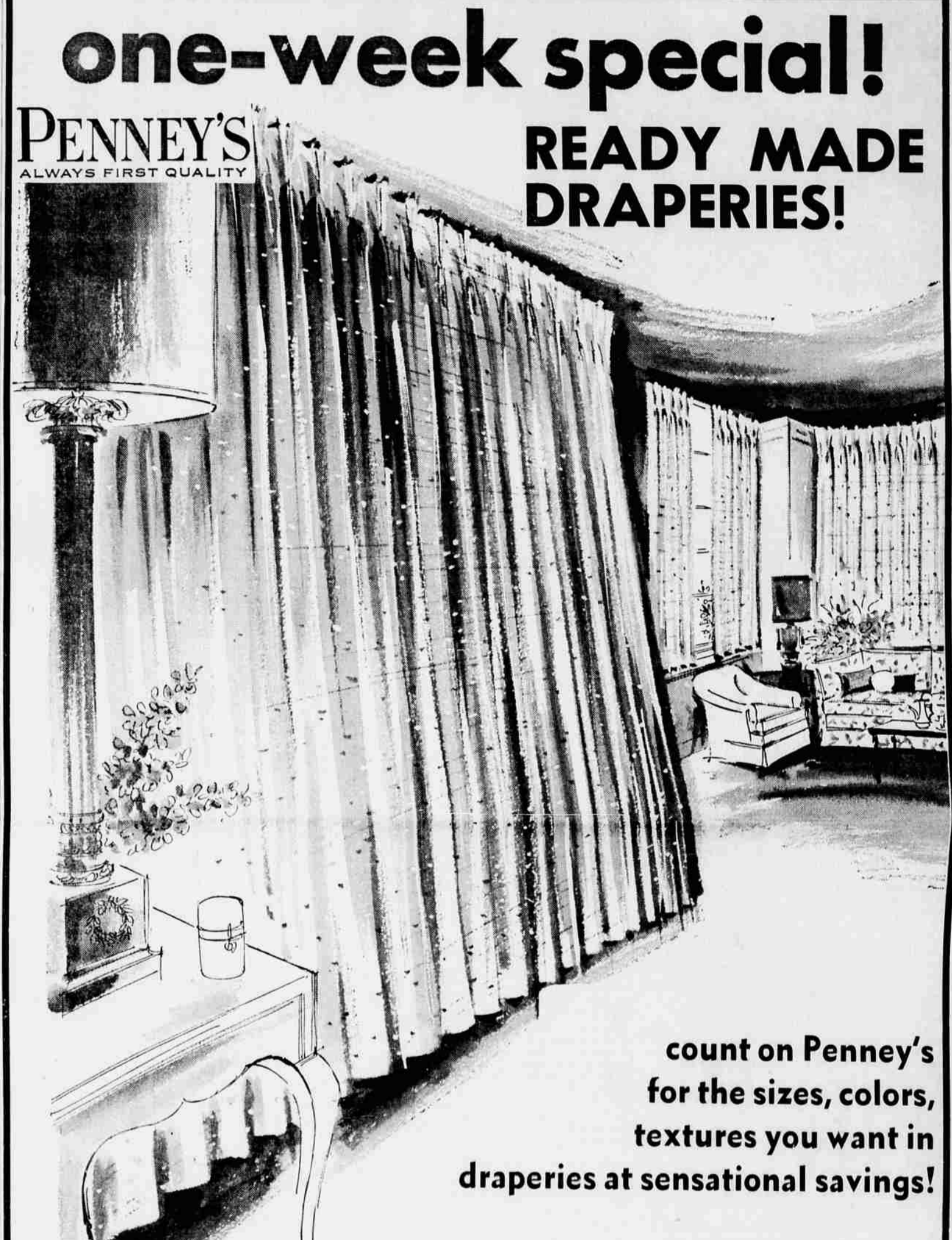
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