

Revise Taxes, Economize, Poll Respondents Say

Cigarette, Sales Taxes Favored If Added Revenues Are Needed

The tax bill defeated at the Oct. 13 election was a poor bill. The state needs a different kind of tax, and it needs an entirely new tax program. If new taxes are to be enacted, they should be a cigarette tax or a sales tax, in that order — or both. There must be more economy in government at all levels.

These are the major findings of the Mail Tribune's tax questionnaire printed on Page 1 last Sunday. A total of 917 ballots, a remarkably large return for this type of poll, was returned.

Substantial, but fewer, numbers of respondents thought the bill was defeated because the tax increase was too much or the budget was too large.

Less than one-quarter of the ballots called for cutting the full \$60 million tax increase contained in the defeated measure. A few more felt the budget should not be cut and that the needed revenue should be raised another way.

An even larger number — about a third of the respondents — believe that some cuts should be made in the budget, and that some new but small tax increases enacted.

Nearly half called for a new tax program. More than half favored a cigarette and/or sales tax.

Only 9 persons believed there should be higher property taxes, while many more called for property tax relief.

Of the 917 ballots, 103 indicated there should be no tax increases of any kind.

Substantial numbers of respondents made a variety of comments, some simply by underlining words in the ballot, others by notes or even long letters accompanying their ballot.

There was a strong current of demand for economy in government in these comments, but an even stronger demand for a revision in the overall tax program. Relief from high real and personal property taxes was a recurrent theme in the comments.

Large numbers protested public officials' salaries, most notably those of the legislators, but listed others including educators. (One said "Pay teachers more, administrators less.")

The Governor came in for considerable criticism for "politicizing" and traveling outside the state.

A substantial number objected to "threats," "intimidation" and "scare tactics" in the campaign. Resentment of the legislature also was strongly in evidence.

"Waste" was another recurrent theme. Specifically mentioned were two voters pamphlets going to the same residence, "frills" in education (dancing, athletics, etc.), "dead wood" in government offices, more than one property tax statement going to a single individual, junkies to Hawaii, and others.

Substantial numbers suggested a higher state take on liquor, cosmetics and other luxuries.

A number of others suggested that gambling be legalized and taxed. Others suggested a state lottery.

More intensive use of school, college and university buildings was suggested by some.

The welfare program was both defended and criticized. Many respondents said no one should be made to suffer, while others said there is mis-use of funds.

But, second only to the need for a new and fairer tax program, the most urgent message of all was: "Economy in government!"

TAX QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS	
The tax bill was defeated because:	
1. The tax increase was too much	372
2. The budget was too large	393
3. The bill was poorly written, unfair	621
4. Oregon needs a different kind of tax	534
5. Other	203
What should be done now is to:	
6. Cut full \$60 million increase	164
7. Keep budget as is but raise revenue another way	183
8. Combine budget cuts and new, smaller tax increases	292
9. Devise entirely new tax program	367
10. Other	177
What, if any, new taxes should be enacted?	
A. Cigarette tax	584
B. General sales tax to provide new revenue and income and property tax relief	537
C. Revised income tax	125
D. More property taxes	10
E. No tax increase of any kind	103
F. Other	194
"Other" comments included:	
The tax bill lost because:	
—Threats, propaganda, scare tactics	26
—General protest, tax revolt	37
What should be done:	
Economize	121
Tax liquor	58
No more (or lower) property taxes	56
Cut legislators' salaries	49
Cut frills from education	28
More gasoline tax	7
Miscellaneous	89

(This last included taxing churches, lodges, tourists, rentals, a state lottery, legalize and tax gambling, higher auto license and hunting fees, tax luxuries, cut travel, reduce state employees, cut recreation, use surplus funds from other sources, attract new industries, objected to tax on a tax, live within means, tax advertising, get repeal legislators, use sales tax to offset property taxes, repeal property taxes, reduce income taxes, students pay full cost of higher education, get better management.)

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

New Constitution Prepared for Initiative Petition

'Alaska System' Adoption Favored

SALEM (UPI) — A New Oregon constitution, which would make the secretary of state first in line of succession to the governor, was prepared Wednesday for submission by initiative petition.

The document was prepared by nine members of the 17-member Constitutional Revision Commission which voluntarily reactivated at the request of the Citizens Committee for Constitutional Revision.

The citizens plan to spearhead the initiative drive.

Still unresolved is the legal question of whether an entire constitution can be initiated. The citizen's committee decided to try, and to fight the battle in the courts if necessary.

Amendments Adopted

At Wednesday's meeting, the commission adopted most of the amendments in the original draft which had been approved by the House during the 1963 legislative session.

The measure did not get the necessary two-thirds vote in the Senate.

The most significant changes approved Wednesday dealt with the secretary of state, and legislative apportionment.

The group voted to depart from both its original plan, and the House version, and to adopt the "Alaska System."

Under this system voters would elect the governor and secretary of state as a team, just as the president and vice president are selected in national elections.

At present, the president of the senate is first in line of succession to the governor.

Commissioners felt the successor should be elected on a statewide basis, and that the governor should have the assistance of a constitutional officer who was elected as part of his team.

The third constitutional officer would be the controller.

Solves Problem

Adoption of the "Alaska System" would solve the highly controversial plan originally proposed by the commission which would have vested all the executive power in the governor.

In the heated apportionment issue, the commission went along with the Senate plan which slightly favors the thinly populated areas of the state, and sets maximum house membership at 65, and top Senate membership at 35.

Dropped as unnecessary was a sentence inserted by the House which asserted "the people have at all times a right to alter, reform or abolish the government in the manner they think proper."

Mention of the death penalty was taken from the constitution, and left up to the legislature. It is expected the final draft will be ready in December.

The legal test may come if the secretary of state refuses to accept the initiative filing, or if it is questioned later.

City Officials Take Part in Discussions

Two members of the Medford city administration took part in panel discussions at the recent convention of the League of Oregon Cities in Portland.

City Manager Robert Duff was part of a three-member panel which discussed planning administration.

City Attorney William Mansfield discussed decisions of the Oregon Supreme Court this year which affected municipalities during activities of the legal section of the convention.

About 17 elected and administrative Medford officials attended the three-day convention.

Captain of Freighter Tells Of Strafing Off Cuban Coast



SHELL LODGED IN ROOM — Etom Maxa, head boom on the main deck. The ship was second mate of the Reynolds Metal Co. ship, strafed off the coast of Cuba. (The story is in column 9), (UPI).

United States Asks Ben Bella To Settle Dispute

Appeal Delivered By Ambassador

ALGERIS (UPI) — The United States has appealed to Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella to negotiate a settlement of his border conflict with Morocco, reliable diplomatic sources said today.

The appeal was delivered personally by U.S. Ambassador William Porter, the sources said, during a conference with Ben Bella Wednesday night.

The U.S. plea came as the government-controlled Algerian radio said that Algerian and Moroccan forces remained locked in battle along the border.

A dispatch from the radio's correspondent at Algerian army headquarters at Colomb Bechar claimed that the Moroccans have retreated 19 miles in the past two days.

The radio said the Moroccans left 17 dead and 12 wounded on the battlefield. It asserted that Algerian casualties totaled only seven wounded.

Earlier, a dispatch from the front said that Algerian troops backed by artillery had routed Moroccan forces and recaptured the disputed border outpost of Hassi Beida.

In Marrakech, Morocco's King Hassan II told a news conference that he is willing to meet with Ben Bella "without any prior conditions" in an effort to settle the border dispute.

The U.S. appeal to Ben Bella coincided with a new flareup in the border fighting. But there was a growing optimism here that a cease-fire agreement may be reached soon.



NOBEL WINNER — Greek poet and diplomat Giorgos Seferiades, above, has won the 1963 Nobel Prize for Literature. One of the best known living Greek poets, Seferiades was until recently Greek ambassador to England. He is the first Greek to win the Nobel literature prize. (UPI)

Flares Used To Illuminate Ship During Attack

No Casualties Reported Aboard

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (UPI) — The captain of an unarmed American freighter that was strafed and set fire by planes off the Cuban coast said today "all the men could have done to repel the attack 'was throw potatoes.'"

"We didn't have anything to defend ourselves with," said Capt. Gerhard Krause of the ship J. Louis, a U.S. owned ore freighter that sails under Liberian registration.

There were no casualties. Krause said the planes illuminated the ship with flares and then made 15 passes before "I stopped counting." Bullets rained down on the ship for an hour, the captain said.

Krause said he and two other men were pinned on the bridge. He ordered the rest of the 31 men aboard to remain behind decks.

13 Miles Off Coast

He said the ship was at least 13 miles off the Cuban coast when the attack occurred Tuesday. The J. Louis was en route from Jamaica to Corpus Christi with 31,500 tons of bauxite (aluminum ore.)

It docked early today at the Reynolds Metal Co. docks at nearby Gregory, Tex.

The "only American crew member was W. Fred Thompson, 55, of Portland, Tex.

Thirty-seven crewmembers were Okinawans.

Krause, 54, of Hamburg, Germany, estimated there were three or four planes involved in the attack. He said he never saw them because they were moving too fast. He said he could not hear any engines to tell whether they were jets or propeller driven.

Many Bullets Miss

Flares lit the sky 30 minutes before the attack, he said.

"I thought it was a U.S. Navy exercise," the captain said.

Many of the bullets missed their target, he said, but a fire broke out on the bow of the ship and was extinguished with chemicals after two hours.

The captain, who was torpedoes once and strafed many times while sailing aboard German tankers during World War II, said he never thought the J. Louis was in danger.

Says Crew Calm

The crew was calm below decks, but "there wasn't much praying down below. Everyone was crowded in and there wasn't enough room."

"We were lucky, just plain lucky," Krause said.

The J. Louis has been making the bauxite run from Jamaica to Corpus Christi for two years. The strapping occurred on the ship's 91st trip, and it had passed the same spot off the Cuban coast 181 times before.

"We will go further out next time," Krause said.

Fire Season Ends In Area Forests; Rain, Snow Noted

The fire season ended officially in the Rogue River National Forest and one State Forestry Department protected lands at midnight Wednesday, C. E. Brown, forest supervisor, and Curtis Nesheim, state district warden, have announced.

Closing of the fire season eliminates the necessity of obtaining burning permits and removes the requirement of carrying axe, shovel and water bucket when camping.

Fire closures of the Ashland watershed also is lifted with official ending of the fire season.

Rainfall Substantial

Substantial amounts of rainfall made ending of the fire season possible, the two forest officials emphasized. There was more rain in the wooded and mountain areas than in the valleys.

Snowfall was reported at the 5,000 elevation, including all Rogue River National Forest lookouts, Brown said. More snow was reported at Crater Lake National park headquarters and the fall was not measured but known to be greater at the rim. The total fall at the

City Cartage Firms Receive 'Interim Relief'

SALEM (UPI) — Truckers engaged in city cartage freight business in 29 Oregon cities today were granted a temporary 4 per cent rate increase by the state public utility commissioner.

The increase is half what the truckers requested through their representative organization, the Oregon Drymen and Warehouse Association.

Commissioner Jonel C. Hill said the increase "is strictly interim relief." He ordered the association to be ready to appear at a hearing in nine months to determine whether the increase should be continued.

Hill termed the truckers' case as "poor."

He said it appeared some relief was needed, but that evidence presented at hearings did not support the increases requested.

The cities in which rates were increased are Albany, Ashland, Beaverton, Brownsville, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Gresham, Eugene, Fairview, Gladstone, Grants Pass, Gresham, Junction City, Klamath Falls, Lake Oswego, Medford, Milton-Freewater, Milwaukie, Myrtle Point, Oregon City, Roseburg, Salem, Sandy, Springfield, Sutherlin, Sweet Home, Troutdale, Tualatin and West Linn.

Lewis Changes Plea In Josephine Court

GRANTS PASS — Raymond Dean Lewis, 36, of Independence, Mo., indicted last July by the Josephine County grand jury on a charge of receiving and concealing stolen goods, entered a plea of guilty this morning in Josephine County Circuit Court and was sentenced to two years in Oregon State Penitentiary by Judge Orval J. Millard.

Lewis, who had been free on \$2,500 bail, had earlier entered a plea of innocent to the charge. He changed his plea today.

The charge involved \$2,000 worth of men's clothing taken from shops in Medford, Grants Pass, Ashland and Klamath Falls.

All of the stolen clothing was recovered by Grants Pass police. It was found sealed in Lewis' car, according to the Lewis report.

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. PLANE CRASHES NEAR SAIGON
SAIGON, South Viet Nam (UPI) — A U.S. Air Force plane on a flare-dropping mission crashed in Communist territory 63 miles south of Saigon today, apparently killing four Americans and four Vietnamese on board.

OPERATION BIG LIFT NEARING END
FRANKFURT, Germany (UPI) — American Air Force planes neared the end of their massive troop-carrying "Operation Big Lift" from Texas to Germany today hours ahead of schedule.

DISCRIMINATION CONDEMNATION ASKED
VATICAN CITY (UPI) — U.S. bishops today appealed to the Ecumenical Council to issue a strong condemnation of racial discrimination.

WEATHER
FORECAST: Occasional rain and strong southerly winds tonight. Morning fog or low clouds Friday morning. Partly cloudy Friday afternoon. Low, 40-50; high 55-65 Friday night. High 50-60 Saturday. High 50-60 Sunday. High 50-60 Monday. High 50-60 Tuesday.

Our Skies Tonight
Sunset today 5:11 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:28 a.m.
Moonset tonight 11:24 p.m.
First Quarter Oct. 25
Prominent Star Capella, in northeast 9:30 p.m.

Gross Income Tax Favored for Oregon
PORTLAND (UPI) — The Townsend Organization favors a gross income tax for Oregon, publicity chairman Dr. Irene Waldo said Wednesday.

GREEN TO SPEAK
CORVALLIS (UPI) — Rep. Edith Green, D-Ore., will speak at Oregon State University's special Charter Day Convocation Oct. 29 in the coliseum.