

Storm Damage Tax 'Windfall' Just Headache For Claimants, Officials

PORTLAND (UPI)—The "windfall" Oregonians hoped for in income tax refunds because of trees blown down last Oct. 12 isn't the breeze many expected.

"It's tougher than most people think," said a federal tax man.

The tree situation is causing tax officials—and taxpayers—more headaches than any other item.

Don't get them wrong—the loss is deductible. But figuring the loss—to the satisfaction of the tax people—takes a bit of doing.

An Internal Revenue Service (IRS) spokesman said there probably was a little "too much optimistic material" put out right after the big blow.

State and federal officials said many persons were under one big misapprehension. It is this:

That they could report a loss, for example, of a couple of 10-year old apple trees, get a nurseryman to say how much they were worth, and then deduct that amount as loss.

No can do, say the tax men.

"Entitled to Deduct?" But the IRS says "if your uninsured trees or shrubs were damaged or destroyed, you are entitled to deduct the amount that damage reduced the fair market value of your residential property as a whole."

That's a big mouthful, but the tax people tried to simplify it.

First, in most cases, deductions should be itemized on the tax form. Then the IRS lists two methods which apply to non-commercial tree losses.

One—The amount you spent to remove destroyed trees or shrubs, prune or otherwise repair damaged trees or shrubs, and to replant the lost trees or shrubs will serve as a measure of this loss of value.

Two—A competent real estate appraisal of the loss of value of the property as a whole because of storm damage. Any such appraisal should be in writing and should "be the work of a qualified appraiser who has made a personal inspection of the property."

Loss determined by this method must also be reduced by insurance, salvage, or other recovery to determine the deductible loss.

If you claim a casualty loss deduction a copy of the deduction computation should be attached to the return. You don't have to send in documents evidencing the repair expenditures or copies of the appraisals with the return.

But, the IRS warns, you'd better be prepared to present them upon request.

Examples Given

Here are a couple of examples listed by the IRS for method one:

Amount spent removing trees—\$63.

Amount spent replanting trees—\$43.

Amount spent repairing roof—\$24.

Cost of replacing window—\$4.

Total restoration cost—\$134.

Amount paid by insurance—0.

Amount deductible—\$134.

Or:

Amount spent removing trees—\$63.

Amount spent replanting trees—\$43.

Amount spent repairing roof—\$24.

Amount spent repairing window—\$4.

Total restoration cost—\$211.

Amount paid by insurance—\$35.

Amount deductible—\$156.

State Rules Similar

A spokesman for the State Tax Commission said its rules generally follow those of the IRS though the state holds more to the real estate appraisal of the property.

A lot of people might be discouraged, unless losses were extremely heavy, because the cost of the appraisal could be more than they would get in rebates. And getting comparative appraisals before and after the loss is another headache.

It isn't so bad on other property. For damage to houses, fences, garages or other residential buildings, the actual amount spent to repair the storm damage, minus any reimbursement by insurance, will be accepted as evidence of the deductible loss for that damage, the IRS said.

But it's the trees that are causing the confusion. Tax people say there's never been anything quite like it before—because Oregon never had such a windstorm before.

FPC Blamed By Morgan

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Federal Power Commissioner Howard Morgan will leave when his term runs out because of FPC decisions which he felt were more in the interest of private industry than the public.

Morgan, in an unusual letter to President Kennedy, said "ordinary men" cannot withstand the "pressures generated by huge industries focused with great skill on and against the sensitive areas of government."

He urged Kennedy to appoint exceptional men to the federal regulatory agencies and warned against the danger of "abandonment of the public interest."

Several of his reasons for leaving, he said in the letter to Kennedy, were "clearly visible" in his frequent dissenting opinions on FPC decisions.

Morgan, vice chairman of the agency, said he will not seek another term after his present one expires June 22. He was named to the commission in March, 1961.

A native of Tillamook, Ore., Morgan is a former chairman of the Oregon Democratic party and for two years was Oregon public utility commissioner.

He told a news conference Friday he had advised western senators of his decision before informing Kennedy. By tradition, he said he would be succeeded by a westerner, and by law his successor will be a Democrat or an independent.

Morgan said his remarks were not intended to "depict or describe" any individual, including the other four FPC members.



PATIENTLY WAITING—Four-year-old Lourdes Jimenez waits patiently in the hold of the SS Shirley Lykes Friday on her way to the United States from Cuba. She and her mother were reunited with the father, a Bay of Pigs invader, when they landed in Miami.—UPI Telephoto

Refugees Bring Stories Of Bitterness In Cuba

MIAMI (UPI)—Nearly 1,300 Cuban refugees arrived here by ship and plane Friday bringing stories of open sabotage and growing bitterness against the Communist regime of Fidel Castro.

"I am free at last," screamed a woman as she stepped into the arms of her husband.

The oldest refugee, 95-year-old Baldermo Beloso Acosta, who arrived with his 75-year-old wife, said "they took away my eight cows, my two teams of oxen and my horse, I had nothing."

The refugees told of terror in Cuba—of disappearing friends, executions without trial, corrupt officials, disintegrating support for the government and open sabotage by peasants who once formed the backbone of Castro's support.

"Everybody fears the police," said Aurora Margarita Piedra Vasquez, "and you must be careful you don't make enemies. For talking against the regime they throw you in jail."

"The sabotage and the turning of sugar cane fields around my town of Jovelanosa (Matanzas Province) is terrible," said Jose Paz, a 29-year-old cane worker. "It has reached the point where there simply won't be any sugar harvest worth anything."

He said authorities fight sabotage by executing suspects without trial.

"Four days before I left Havana to get on the boat they shot three sugar workers accused of sabotage," Paz said. "There was no trial."

Vincent Meneses, who brought his wife and young son with him, said, "The secret police took two of my neighbors eight months ago. That's the last their families or anybody else ever saw of them."

Meneses said the only way to get enough food was to bribe neighborhood "defense committees."

"If you don't bribe them they simply take it all for themselves," he said.

Several refugees said Castro was losing support daily. They said the people would revolt if they could be sure of success.

"They fear if they revolt and

Unified, Modern Image For Voters Asked Of California Republicans

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—California's Republican party was asked by its leadership Saturday to present a unified, modern image to the voters in future elections.

U.S. Sen. Thomas Kuchel, R-

Calif., keynoting the party's first statewide Central Committee meeting since the November general election, warned that "there is no inexorable law of history requiring a political party to survive."

"He who survives must deserve to survive," said Kuchel. "A political party, to survive, must keep the faith of the people, the faith of the many and not of the selfish few."

Kuchel, who won re-election by 700,000 votes last November, said it was vital to the nation and the Republican party "that we demonstrate that we are not going to walk away from the unsolved problems of the 1960's."

Among these he named the education of youth and medical care for the aged.

Commentator Viktor Mayevsky wrote that Premier Nikita Khrushchev's proposal for three on-site inspections annually to police the treaty was a "New peace initiative" by Russia which the West should find "necessary to grasp."

Progressive GOP

"There is a glorious opportunity

to demonstrate to the people of America that we represent progressive, forward-looking doctrine and that we wish to guide our nation into better times for our people," he said.

The senator, considered by many as the party's titular head in California, promised that he was ready to assist the GOP to become an "effective instrument" in government.

But he warned: "We continue to lose too many elections."

The party's national committee man, Joseph W. Martin Jr., told the delegates that the GOP should "concentrate on the issues" and not attempt to wear splinter labels.

"If the party is not big enough for any Republican, no matter what the shade of his opinion," said Martin, "it's too small to get anyone elected."

Martin, speaking at the committee's opening session, bitterly assailed Democratic Gov. Edmund G. Brown. He described the governor as "Little Boy Brown" and said he was "being bounced back and forth between (State Controller Alan) Cranston and (Assembly Speaker Jesse M.) Unruh."

Governor Criticized

"He no longer puts only one foot in his mouth," said Martin. "He now must put in both to try to serve the interests of the party's political spectrum."

Dr. Gaylor Parkinson of San Diego, the party's vice chairman, warned the Republicans that they must organize well for coming elections.

"We are up against a machine the likes of which we have not seen in California for many years," he said.

San Francisco Mayor George Christopher, the party's unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor in 1962, said in a welcoming address that it was time for the party "to join hands."

State Sen. John F. McCarthy, R-San Rafael, charged that Gov. Brown voiced a "bad-faced lie" when he said in his inaugural address earlier this month that he would propose no new or increased taxes during the current legislative session.

Members of the state legislature indicated they wanted a stronger voice in the party's future. At a morning caucus they approved a resolution asking the delegates to place all Republican legislators on the party's 45-member executive committee as non-voting participants.

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STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

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ARIES MAR. 21 - APR. 20
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Taurus APR. 21 - MAY 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Gemini MAY 22 - JUNE 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Cancer JUNE 22 - JULY 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Leo JULY 22 - AUG. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Virgo AUG. 22 - SEPT. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Libra SEPT. 22 - OCT. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Scorpio OCT. 22 - NOV. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Sagittarius NOV. 22 - DEC. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Capricorn DEC. 22 - JAN. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Aquarius JAN. 22 - FEB. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Pisces FEB. 22 - MAR. 21
1-48 58-63
68-75 79-89

Men Marry Despite Girls' Wacky Wails

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: That letter from the woman who yelled bloody murder because her husband leaned on the wallpaper and left grease spots was the last straw. Are the females in America having a mass nervous breakdown? It's no wonder the divorce rate is going through the roof.

A wife in Philadelphia can't stand her husband because he squeezes the toothpaste tube in the middle. A woman in California doesn't want to iron bed-sheets. A loon in Kentucky won't let her husband smoke a cigar in the house. Another crazy dame wants to strap a bicycle horn on her husband's head at night so it will wake him up when he snores. Still another nut wants to know what to wear to her husband's funeral—and he isn't even dead yet.

I'm convinced that the real trouble-makers in this world are the wacky women. All a person has to do is read your column for a week and he can get plenty of evidence.—R.D.

Dear R.D.: Men have been complaining about women from the beginning of time and they continue to marry them. If you can think of a better combination I'll buy it.

Dear Ann Landers: When my husband and I are with adults he speaks openly about how much things cost and is not the least bit reluctant to admit we can't afford certain things. I feel this is perfectly all right as most of our friends are in the same boat and we share similar economic problems.

I believe, however, that my husband should not make our children feel underprivileged by telling them we can't afford to buy them things which their friends have. Isn't it better to try to interest them in substitute toys? Or perhaps get them two inexpensive items in the place of one which is costly?

I keep telling him they will find out soon enough that life is

terrible and full of inequities. Youngsters should not carry this burden. Am I right?—FRANCINE

Dear Francine: You're wrong.

Where did you ever get the notion that it's harmful for children to hear the words "No, we can't afford it"? If more people used this phrase instead of hocking their eyeballs to please their kids, they'd be better off. Parents who spend time with their children and give them love and attention needn't be concerned about the youngsters feeling "underprivileged." They are the lucky ones who grow up straight and strong.

Dear Ann Landers: I'm a high school senior who wants to ask a question that has been bugging me. Why do teens who were going steady write after they break up and ask how to get back into circulation?

In our high school, and it's a pretty big one, everyone knows within the hour who the break-ups are. The news spreads like a forest fire and both kids are automatically back in circulation. So what's the problem?—DEEDEE

Dear DeeDee: I don't know what goes on in your school. Buttercup, but most teenagers who write after the Big Breakup do want to know how to get back into circulation. These kids long to be part of the group, which they have ignored, and they don't know how to manage it. So they write to Mother Landers.

Confidential to Below Zero: Six months is a long time for a girl to use a cold as an excuse for no goodnight kiss. Considering you are both in your middle 20s I suggest you look for a girl who is in better health.

Does almost everyone have a good time but you? If so, send for Ann Landers' booklet, "How To Be Well-Liked," enclosing with your request 20 cents in coin and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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