



Taxes Single Out Motorist for Largest Share of Gouge

"The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least possible amount of hissing."

So remarked the noted French financier Colbert three centuries ago. In the ensuing years, the delicate art of plucking a cent tax here and a cent tax there without unduly scarring the hide of the taxpayer has advanced to such a degree as to astound even a Colbert.

The gasoline tax—which now produces more revenue than the levy on any other single product—is a case in point.

Ironically, the gasoline tax got its start in Oregon in 1919, the year that marked the 300th anniversary of Colbert's birth. The date has since bought its way into financial history for the lowly one-cent a gallon tax imposed in Oregon to finance highway maintenance has multiplied

many times over while spreading to every state.

So large has this tax become that it now amounts to about one-half of the price charged for gasoline itself. The revenue it produces in a single year is enough to have paid the entire cost of running the U.S. government 20 years ago.

Of the average 10-cent-a-gallon tax on gasoline paid by the U.S. motorist, four cents is levied by the federal government.

The federal levy first was introduced at one cent a gallon in 1932 as a temporary tax to help meet depression needs.

As with virtually all temporary taxes, the federal levy has never been lifted, and actually had doubled by 1956. In that year the tax was hiked to three cents a gallon to pay for the new federal-aid highway program.

Last October, the federal gas-

oline tax was again increased one cent a gallon as a "temporary" measure to keep the federal roads program on schedule. This increase is scheduled to expire June 30, 1961.

The ultimate fate of this latest tax may show just how far Colbert's feather-plucking analogy can be extended. Evidence seems to be building up that U.S. motorists are becoming tired of acting the role of the thick-skinned goose.

"Car owners in ever growing numbers are turning to the small economy car that promises substantially more miles to the gallon."

One of the principal factors behind the more-miles-per-gallon trend is a 51% jump in gasoline taxes over the past 10 years. During this same period the price of gasoline itself has increased a mere 5%, as compared with 21% for prices in general.

At least part of the reason for motorists' apparent apathy toward gasoline taxes is that dealers include the tax in the price

posted at the service station. Thus a motorist who pays 30 cents a gallon assumes that this is the price of the gasoline, when in reality about 10 cents of it is tax.

By contrast, the tax on luxury items such as diamonds or furs is clearly stated separate from the price by the salesman and so impresses itself on the mind of the purchaser. And yet luxuries are taxed at only about one-fifth the rate of gasoline.

In a recent experiment in Virginia, service-station operators posted the price of gasoline separate from the tax.

The reaction of motorists was immediate. Although the method of price posting annoyed a few who felt they weren't getting the bargain they expected, the general reaction was one of surprise and indignation at the tax.

Perhaps motorists have been plucked once too often. As even Colbert would admit, a goose can be a pretty formidable creature when provoked.

County Orders Condemnation of Narbonne No. 2

An adequate water supply for beleaguered residents of 356 acres of Lomita and Torrance properties seemed assured today when the county Board of Supervisors ordered condemnation of the Narbonne Ranch Water Company No. 2 by county Waterworks District No. 13.

After acquiring the company, the county will refurbish the system, which now is so deficient that building permits are denied applicants in the area and financing of subdivisions has been withdrawn.

On Jan. 5, an election was held seeking annexation to District No. 13 of 268 acres of unincorporated territory and 88 acres within Torrance.

Torrance filed two suits to prevent the election and to condemn the water company. Another suit was filed by a property owner.

Last week the Torrance Council approved a compromise to withdraw the lawsuits under certain conditions, thus opening the door for the county to proceed to acquire the water system.

Terms of the city-county agreement provide that the Board must acquire the present system, and sell \$800,000 in improvement bonds. The system will then be constructed to County and Torrance City standards.

Following completion of the work, the portion of the system within Torrance will be leased to the city.

Pinewood Derby Finals Arranged for Saturday

Finals in the Torrance Recreation Department's Pinewood Derby program are slated for 10 a.m. Saturday at the department's parking lot, 1511 Cravens Ave.

Youngsters from throughout the city are due to vie with the miniature racers in dashes down a ramp.

Plaques will be given to winners in three age divisions: 9 years and under, 10 through 11 years and 12 through 14 years.

Carl Wahl is in charge of the program.

Use classified ads for quick results. Phone DA 5-1515.

To Start A Want Ad

1. Phone DA 5-1515 and say "I want to place a Classified Ad."

2. MAIL it to Torrance Press Classified Ads, 3238 W. Sepulveda, Torrance, California.

3. Bring it to The Torrance Press office, 3238 W. Sepulveda (Near Sears-Broadway Shopping Center.)

Your Classified Ads in The Torrance Press will reach more than 122,000 readers on Thursday.

Cancellations..

Ad must appear in paper one time before it can be cancelled.

Errors..

The Torrance Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion of any advertisement and reserves the right to rectify all errors by a corrected insertion of the advertisement the following issue.

All ads taken before Tuesday, 5 p.m. will appear in Thursday's paper. All ads taken before Friday 5 p.m. will appear in Sunday's paper.

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100% COTTON 8-oz. duck, sanforized, guaranteed, for Bermuda shorts, etc., 95c yd. La Mae material, 45" to 50" wide, made with NON-TARNISH metallic yarn. Gold, silver, turquoise and in combination of colors, \$2.49 yd. Imported Hawaiian prints, mercerized cotton, sanforized, drip-dry, 37" wide, 32 different patterns, reg. \$1.29 yd., special, 89c yd. VOQUE, NEW YORKER & SIMPLICITY PATTERNS

The Family Store

FA 8-7775 1673 Cravens

PL 3-3541

GA 2-1239

So. Calif.

Schools of Bus.

555 Atlantic Ave., Lone Beach

PL 3-3541

DA 5-1515

Lost and Found

FOUND, 1 puppy, approximately 9 mos. old. Call after 4:30. FA 8-1557

Personals

Free Pianos

WE WILL STORE A PIANO IN YOUR HOME FREE

WHITMAN PIANO CO.

1746 W. ADAMS, L. A.

OPEN DAILY & SUN. RE 1-7319

Painting and Decorating

PAINTING SPECIAL

• Skilled Workmanship

• All work Guaranteed

• Free Estimates

DA 5-0806

Building and Remodeling

ROOM ADDITIONS

Den—Family Rooms

Bedrooms

Kitchen—Baths

To Save-Call

Floyd's Const. Co.

FA 8-1406

FREE PLANS & ESTIMATES

100% BANK FINANCING

A Call Will Save You \$

TORRANCE SINCE 1950

Room Additions

• Family Rooms

• Bedrooms

• Kitchens

• Cement Work

• Free Plans and Estimates

• 100% Financing

Bishop Const. Co.

FA 8-5299

CONCRETE

BLOCK WALLS

Cement & Brick Patios

FR. 9-2025

ELECTRIC CONTRACTOR

COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL

RANGE & DRYER WIRING

PLUGS INSTALLED

24 HOUR SERVICE

100% FINANCING

ECHO ELECTRIC, Inc.

16319 AINSWORTH DA 4-6600

Additions-Remodeling

Alterations

Concrete Patios, Etc.

Free Estimates

Call

DA 6-8356

Add Remodel

Patio, garages, doors, windows.

FREE ESTIMATES

Call Herman

Licensed Contractor

DA 4-4811 Day & Eve.

PRESS

WANT-ADS

DA 5-1515

Employment Offered

(Men) 70

Employment Offered

(Men) 70

Inspectors

B&S Auto. Screw Machine

Operators

Cold Header Operators

Turret Lathe Operators

Davenport Auto. Screw

Machine Operators

EACH ABOVE OPERATORS JOBS REQUIRES ABILITY TO MAKE OWN SET-UPS

Top rates for qualified men, generous vacation and paid holidays. Free top medical and life insurance benefits. No parking problems.

U. S. Citizenship Not Essential

Contact Mr. Fred Pearce, Personnel Mgr., 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. for interview

HI-SHEAR RIVET TOOL CO.

Torrance Municipal Airport

2600 West 247th St. Torrance, Calif.

Salesmen

We Want You on Our

\$1000

MONTH

(Average) Payroll

★ WORLD'S LARGEST COMPANY

★ HEAVY ADVERTISING

★ FREE SALES COURSE

★ PERMANENT

DA 3-8550

SALESMAN

Age 25 to 40

Career opportunity for qualified men. Guaranteed salary plus incentive earnings. Salary plus car allowance paid while training.

Automobile Club of Southern California

1616 S. Gaffey

San Pedro, Calif.

TV REPAIR

Qualify to own your own shop in 6 months with our guaranteed course. Day or eve. classes, 5 days a week. New classes forming now. Class A state credentialed instructors.

So. Calif.

Schools of Bus.

555 Atlantic Ave., Lone Beach

PL 3-3541

GA 2-1239

Building and Remodeling

Additions

Complete building service

Including Permits and Plans

100% Financing, FHA terms. 5 years to pay.

Paul's

Construction

CALL DAY OR NIGHT FOR FREE ESTIMATES

DA 5-0001

Room Add

NO DOWN, 100% FHA

20 years Local Experience

Dens—Bedrooms—Baths

Kitchens—Garages, Fences, Cement

We Do Everything for You Help and Save

FREE PLANS—ESTIMATES

Davenport Construction Co.

Licensed and Insured

Day or Night

DA 6-5024

CEMENT WORK

Driveways, all types of slabs, sidewalks and concrete steps. FA 8-3399

Building Materials

SPECIAL

Lumber and Plywood

1x6 Sheathing 31c l.f.

2x4's 8 ft. long 40c ea.

4x8 Plywood \$2.50 per sheet

1x6 T&G V-Joint Knotty Spruce 5c l.f.

Used Lumber and Plywood

Herwood

BUILDING SUPPLY

24500 So. Normandie

Harbor City

DA 6-5146

Plumbing Services

HEATING

Phone DA 4-4951

PROMPT EXPERT SERVICE

Garbage Disposal

Thermostats

Water Heaters

Floor Furnaces

15410 S. WESTERN

We Repair

Furnaces, Water Heaters

For Information Call

Torrance Plumbing

1418 Marcellina Ave.

FA 8-4444 FA 8-2654

Gardening, Landscaping

TOP SOIL, FILL DIRT

LARGE LOADS