

California's Tax System To Be Top Subject in '65

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

Really dark clouds are beginning to pile up on the horizon so far as the future of state taxes is concerned. Even though state revenues have climbed higher than estimates, and a small general fund surplus is anticipated at the end of the current—1964-65—fiscal year most authorities are predicting a general fund deficit of between \$100 million and \$150 million by the end of the following year unless taxes are raised before then.

Both the Senate and the Assembly Committees on Revenue and Taxation have been allocated sizeable sums from the legislative contingency funds for intensive studies of the state and local revenue structure in California. Consultants for these committees have been hard at work, digging out facts as to governmental costs and expenditures. Committee reports will

be submitted to our 1965 general session.

FOR PRACTICAL as well as political reasons, it seems safe to assume that important changes in our tax system will be a major topic during our 1965 deliberations. Practical reasons, because if additional taxes will be needed to balance the 1965-66 budget, they must be enacted then to provide the added money when needed. Political—let's face it—because half of the Senate and all of the Assembly must stand for re-election in 1966, and it's best for all concerned if the word "taxes" can be quietly ignored in election years.

It is still too early to predict what tax changes will be tossed in the legislative hopper, but many possibilities have been mentioned. Even a partial list has something on it to make every taxpayer shudder a little.

Withholding of the state personal income tax, which lost in two previous general sessions, again heads the list. This change would provide a large "one-time windfall" of added revenue, the estimate varying according to the percentage of "forgiveness" of overlapping taxation written into the law. Another idea would be to raise the personal income tax rates 50 per cent for all brackets, estimated to up the annual take by \$200 million.

SALES TAX changes are not overlooked. An increase in the state rate, from the present 3 per cent to 4 per cent, would add \$330 million per year to revenues. Imposing the sales tax on food, now exempt, would produce \$180 million per year more. Raising the cigarette tax from the existing 3 cents to 8 cents per pack would produce \$125 million a year in higher revenue. A state tax on utility bills would raise about \$160 million per year.

New or raised business taxes have also been mentioned. A new realty transfer tax of an unspecified rate has been suggested. Upping the Bank and Corporation tax

rate by one per cent would produce some \$70 million more per year. Elimination or modification of the exemption for insurance company home office buildings could raise an added \$5 million a year.

Faced with the certainty that the state budget for 1965-66 will surge upward perilously close to the \$4 billion mark, economy-minded organizations and individuals are already mounting close watch over budgetary planning and tax proposals. One such group has already announced that come what may, it will press for budget reductions totaling at least \$100 million.



Garden Checklist

1. Prepare planting holes for soon-to-be planted roses, fruit trees, and other deciduous plants. Mix steer manure and bone meal in the soil.
2. Give house plants a "shower" by syringing dust off the leaves. Shop for new house plants to keep you entertained during the winter months.
3. Do not forcibly separate Tuberous Begonia bulbs from the plants when they die back. Wait until a gentle tug will do the job.
4. Look for a living Christmas tree now while the supply is still good in nurseries.
5. Make sure newly planted trees (including that new living Christmas tree) are solidly staked against possible wind damage this winter.

Holiday Craft Classes Set By Redondo Parks Dept.

Craft classes with a special emphasis on holiday arts are now being offered by the Redondo Beach Recreation and Parks Department. The sessions will begin Nov. 16 and continue through Dec. 17. The two-hour sessions will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Grant Community Hall. A similar class for teenagers will be conducted from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.

Mrs. Pat Dreizler, a supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department, will conduct the classes. A fee to cover the cost of materials will be charged.

Further information is available from the department, FR 2-1171, extension 246.

Supervisor Balks Plan to Relocate Two Dormitories Hits Snag

Proposed relocation of two intern dormitories at Harbor General Hospital has been termed "very low priority in the light of shortage of patient service facilities" by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Hahn toured the dormitories last week, then succeeded in having the Board of Supervisors refer the proposal back to the County Engineer for a complete reevaluation.

The relocation of the two intern living facilities would cost more than \$43,000.

"I looked at the present buildings and they are adequate," Hahn said. "This expense would merely put the dormitories closer to the main portion of the hospital which I think is unnecessary. The great majority of interns are young men with automobiles who can easily reach their duty areas."

Hahn said the plan to move the dormitories was advanced only because it was part of a master plan for hospital development which "was drawn several years ago."

"I think we should pay more attention to the need for more out-patient clinics and patient service areas before we start moving buildings around," Hahn said.

Parents At Scout Ceremony

At the Hillside School Cafeteria, Girl Scout Troop 84 held their Court of Awards with a special program for parents and friends. The program was written and presented by the members of the troop.

The girls are entering the Cadet program in Scouting and each contributed information about the history of Girl Scouting and Juliette Low, the founder. A candle-light ceremony was given with each Scout repeating the Girl Scout law. Each girl rededicated herself to Scouting by repeating the Promise in unison.

PROFICIENCY badges were presented to the girls by their leader Mrs. C. W. Burkes who was assisted by co-leaders Mrs. Vernon Orr and Mrs. Guy Warner. The girls then presented an original humorous skit. Three new members were welcomed into the troop. They were Barbara Boylan, Terri McGill, and Brenda Hudson.

Members participating in the Court of Awards and receiving Proficiency Badges were: Becky Burkes, Brenda Goudini, Caryle Myer, Sherrie Myer, Freddie Orr, Julie Ross, Vicki Warner, Diana Williamson, Susan Wilkins, and Debra Zuanich.

"DIABETICS under proper medical supervision can lead a happy, productive life, but if the disease is undetected severe complications and even death may result," stated Cyrus E. Eisner, M. D., chairman of the Southern California program.

To obtain more accurate results Dr. Eisner suggests a meal with increased amounts of starches and sugars (for example, apple pie with ice cream... pancakes with syrup) be eaten about two hours before taking the test.

Detection centers scheduled locally are Torrance Senior and Junior Women's Clubs, 1421 Engracia, Monday, 2 to 9 p.m.; Charles F. King Youth Center, 1409 W. 253rd St., Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Junior Women's Club of Wilmington at Wilmington Health Center, 612 West "E" Street, Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

Bridge Unit Will Sponsor Carson Area Street Work Wins Approval

Allocation of \$9,750 for repairs on a portion of Normandie Avenue near Lomita Boulevard has been announced by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

The improvements will include widening of the existing street to join new curbs and gutters, Chace said.

The road will provide for added traffic capacity and improved drainage when repairs are completed.

Gordon D. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Davis of 1103 Cranbrook, completed basic training Oct. 23, at the Recruit Training Center, San Diego, Calif.

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