

Report on Property Taxes Asks Reforms

By PHILIP E. WATSON
County Assessor

Our department has been invited to participate in an intensive study of state and local financing conducted at the request of Edmund G. "Pat" Brown.

The conclusions of the tax research group in the second part of the study, which covers property taxes, were released last week. In the main, they follow the reforms that I have been advocating and that were embodied in the 28-point program adopted by the State Association of County Assessors.

Among the major recommendations of the group were to repeal the tax on household furnishings, require assessors to adopt a publicly announced uniform ratio, establish Assessment Appeal Boards in all counties, assess business inventories on their annual average value, tighten exemption requirements, and fix penalties for deliberate property tax evasion.

WHEN THE Governor asked me to participate in the tax research study, I assigned assistant assessor Gerald W. Miller to the task force. As the only representative of local government on the 11-man group, Miller had the responsibility of explaining the problems of the existing property tax structure and the importance of property tax reform and of guiding the state-oriented members of the group through the intricacies of the property tax laws.

The results of the property tax study are a tribute to his work.

In addition to the welcome reforms the group recommended, there are several

other items in the study which are worth noting:

- The group, although it considered the advisability of exempting business inventories from the property tax, did not recommend the exemption. In view of the continuing efforts to push this exemption, most recently by Mayor Yorty, I was pleased that the committee concluded the tax should be continued.
- The group also considered my proposal to limit property taxes to 2 per cent of market value. A majority opposed the limit on the grounds that limiting the amount of money that could be collected from local property owners would force the state to make up any deficit and that a maximum ceiling would soon become the minimum.

TO TAKE the objections in order:

It is quite true that if local government needed more revenue than could be collected under the limit, it would have to turn to other revenue sources. The other sources might or might not be the state. However, if local government had to turn to the state for help, this does not invalidate the limit proposal. The urgent question is not where are the other revenue sources, but how much longer can we continue to pile additional tax burdens on the property owner without destroying his ability to continue to own his property?

AS FOR THE objection that a maximum ceiling would

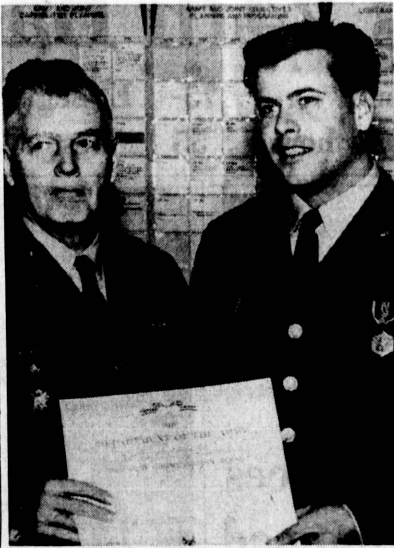
soon become a minimum, it is only necessary to point out that in Los Angeles County, most areas are already operating at, or above, the proposed 2 per cent limit.

Whenever this argument comes up, I like to remind people of the argument that raged when the federal income tax law was first passed. At that time, 5 per cent limit was proposed, but was defeated because people argued that what was starting out at a smaller per cent would quickly climb to the 5 per cent because government tended to collect all the taxes it was allowed. As you're doing your income tax in the next few weeks, take a look at the percentages now. Wouldn't we all happily settle for a 5 per cent top?

To get back to the study, overall, it was of tremendous benefit to our department. Not only did it give us an opportunity to present our experience in property tax problems, but sitting in on the discussions of state tax problems gave us greater insight into the problems of financing at the Sacramento level. Since state and local financing are inextricably tied together, the greater our knowledge of both, the better our judgments and recommendations can be.

NEW JETS ORDERED

Orders for three Super DC-8-62CF jetliners have been placed by Middle East Airlines with the Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc. Delivery is scheduled for the fall of 1967.



CITED... Spec. 4 James M. Reddick (right) received the Army Commendation Medal from Col. William J. Gallagher, secretary of the U. S. Army War College, during ceremonies at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Reddick was cited for his service as a special orders clerk for the War College Book Department. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Reddick of 20523 Vista Drive.

TOMORROW NIGHT El Camino to Present Filmed Trip to Tibet

With freedom on one side and communism on the other, photographer-explorer Earl Brink made the adventure film "Trekkling the Tibetan Border."

Second in a series of films presented as "The World Around Us," the motion picture will be shown in the El Camino College Campus Theater tomorrow at 8 p.m.

Brink has been a traveler since 1936, visiting more than 100 countries and island groups. His half-million feet of color films reveal a Brink specialty, an "off-the-beaten-track" group of motion pictures.

BRINK IS A member of the Adventurer's Club, the Circumnavigator's Club, and the Explorer's Club, all of New York.

The 2,500-mile trek along the Tibetan border begins in Delhi, India, and includes a visit to the Taj Mahal.

The trek continues near the Khyber Pass, at Peshawar, often called "Arabian Nights Country."

"IN THE Kula Valley, we were practically next door to the Red Chinese. In other areas, Moslems, facing Mecca in their daily prayers, live close by 'devil dancers,' depicting the history of Buddhism," Brink reports.

The film shows the valley of the Hunzas and people living to be over 100, said to be the healthiest in the world.

Another film highlight is Musoorie, the escape hatch for the Dalai Lama when he fled from the Red Chinese.

"WE HAD the fortune to meet Tensing Norgay, the guide who led the first expe-



DRUMS AND BELLS... Important symbols in the religion of the Buddhists are drums and bells such as these shown by a Buddhist priest and Tibetan boy. The scene is from a color film, "Trekkling the Tibetan Border," to be shown tomorrow at El Camino College by photographer-explorer Earl Brink. The film is the second in a series on "The World Around Us."

Bank Sets Awards to Students

Faculty committees in all Torrance area high schools are preparing reports on candidates for the annual Achievement Awards program sponsored by the Bank of America, according to a spokesman for the bank.

Announcement of first-round winners at the four Torrance High schools and Bishop Montgomery High School will be made in March, with final selections due in May.

The awards, for "distinguished achievement and promise of future success and service to society," annually honors nearly 4,400 Southern California students with certificates, trophies, and cash awards ranging from \$25 to \$1,000.

Local high school winners will compete in zone finals during April and winners in the zone competition are eligible for the final round in May.

The program is now in its 19th year. Nearly \$100,000 in cash awards will be made this year.

COUNT MARCO

Try Being a Woman, Not a Pig

Pigs are in the news. The four-legged kind, that is. I've been telling you about the interesting items in your newspapers that could be of tremendous interest to you. Like the one about pigs.

The curator of animal behavior at a museum was quoted in the papers as stating: "Pigs are smarter than dogs. A pig is not pretty except to another pig. But when cleaned up, a pig will keep itself clean. It can be an attractive animal with a ribbon on its tail."

Now, are some of you females who go around looking like the aforementioned creature going to tell me you aren't able to rise above such a station? If a pig, once it's cleaned up, can stay clean, surely you with your higher intellect can do better.

Don't think my reference to you untidy, uncaring ones as pigs is uncommon. You'd be surprised at the number of men who use the same expression when looking at some of you slobes who dese-

crate the public streets and shopping centers.

They don't refer to you as a dog (which they love), a horse (which they respect), a cat (which they tolerate) or a lioness (which they fear), but next to calling you cows they will usually say, "Ugh, look at that pig!"

Don't get your blood pressure up. If you have any doubts, take a look around you (and look in a mirror). Would you in your fairest mind call what you see women?

Do you want to lift yourself out of the pig class? Let me help you. First, get yourself two full-length mirrors for an immediate viewing of front and backside. On the front one, paste a blown-up picture of a pig (cleaned up, with a ribbon on its tail).

Then when you look at yourself in both mirrors you can judge immediately whether you're properly attired for public appearance by a little sideways glance at the pic-

ture to see which looks better, you or the pig.

The new shopping center fashion, which I call the Piggy Look, consists of overloaded shorts or slacks, hair in rollers and sloppy shoes. If a fence were built around the likes of you who wear the Piggy Look (with a trough thrown in for good measure), one could say you were in your element.

At some time or other I have received the impression you do clean up. Doesn't it make you feel so good that you want to do it always, like the little pig with the ribbon on its tail?

After all, when that childhood rhyme was created about "This little piggy went to market," it wasn't meant as an inducement for a woman to desire to be the pig. Clean yourself up and it won't be necessary for me to put a ribbon around your tail but to pin a blue ribbon of achievement for being what you're supposed to be: a woman, dressed and acting like one.

Ann Landers Says

Readers Offer Aid To Drinker's Wife



Dear Readers: I have received so many excellent suggestions for E.O.M.—the woman whose husband decided he could quit drinking without help—that I have decided to print two such letters. Here they are:

Dear Ann Landers: Please tell E.O.M. I'm living through the same heart-breaking, nerve-wracking nightmare that she is experiencing and it is murder. I got the help I needed by looking in the phone book and calling Alcoholics Anonymous—not for him (he said he wouldn't go) but for myself. I heard A.A. had a branch for the spouses of spouses and what a God-send it has been!

The organization is called Al-Anon. They have both noon and evening meetings in our city. I can truthfully say the meetings have made a different person out of me.

Children who must live with an alcoholic should attend Alateen meetings (another group). I know of two fathers who went A.A. because of the help their children got from Alateen.

So please tell E.O.M. to get in touch with A.A. and learn when and where these two groups meet. The benefits beggar description.—BEEN THERE

Dear Ann: Please tell E.O.M. that precious few alcoholics can stop drinking without outside help, and from the description of her husband (mean, sullen, punitive) he may be off the booze.

but he is still in trouble—a dry drunk. The emotional problems which drove him to excessive drinking are unresolved, witness his terrible disposition. His chances of staying dry are mighty slim. The man needs A.A. and his wife could get a lot of good out of attending meetings for her local council on alcoholism.

My alcoholic husband is still drinking, and like E.O.M.'s husband he insists he has no problem. The council has helped me keep from cracking up. With the council's continued assistance I intend to change myself enough so that no matter what my husband does I will be able to lead a normal life. Sign me—KANSAS CITY

Dear Ann Landers: Our daughter is a sophomore in high school. Her English teacher (a woman in her late 20s) has been living with a man of poor reputation for several months. She wears an engagement ring, it is apparent that this woman is pregnant.

Do you feel she should be allowed to continue to teach? My husband and I are horrified at the poor example this teacher is setting for her students.

Should we report her to the board of education or should we arrange to have our daughter transfer to another school?—PERPLEXED PARENTS

Dear Perplexed: Unless your daughter is attend-

ing school where the faculty and administration is blind I cannot understand how the teacher goes unnoticed by the principal.

A pregnant (and unmarried) teacher would not be tolerated in any public or parochial school that I know of.

You can be sure that if this teacher is pregnant (which I doubt) she won't be around much longer.

Unsure of yourself on dates? What's right? What's wrong? Should you "Shouldn't you?" Send for Ann Landers' booklet "Dating Do's and Don'ts," enclosing with your request \$6 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. (c) 1966, Publishers Newspaper Syndicate.

Volunteers Sought for Blind Woman

Volunteers to assist a blind woman with such simple tasks as shopping are being sought by the Volunteer Bureau of the South Bay Harbor Area.

The woman needs such things as a simple dress and coat which are becoming to her, as well as harmonious in color.

Persons interested in giving some of their own time to help with these small tasks are asked to call Mrs. Arthur R. Turner at the Volunteer Bureau, TE 3-5227. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. until noon.

Press-Herald Sunday Crossword

(Answer on Page B-3)

SUNDAY, FEB. 20, 1966

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|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| ACROSS | 70—Pulverized rock | 128—Clandestine | 17—Cut of meat | 84—Moccasin |
| 1—Spartan-like | 71—Mixed as written | 131—Christians | 18—River in Siberia | 87—Blue symbol |
| 2—Contract | 72—Witch | 132—For shame! | 19—Lanes | 88—Washes (plg) |
| 3—The nose here | 73—Frank's rock | 133—Unassumed | 20—Chemical compound | 89—Maritimes |
| 4—Vaggle | 74—Discoated | 134—Cheese | 21—Native metal | 90—Lily job |
| 5—Most unusual | 75—Wright | 135—Cry | 22—Son of Adam | 91—Passion |
| 6—Pole | 76—Unusual | 136—Inane | 23—Afternoon | 92—Barnish |
| 7—Crown | 77—Unusual | 137—Unusual | 24—River in | 93—The Indian |
| 8—Youthful | 78—Unusual | 138—Unusual | 25—Unusual | 94—Turkish flag |
| 9—The one there | 79—Unusual | 139—Unusual | 26—Unusual | 95—Furry |
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