

Assessor Predicts Tax Hikes in Fall

By PHILIP E. WATSON
Los Angeles County Assessor Signals are already coming in loud and clear that our property tax bill this fall will probably be even higher than the ones we haven't yet finished paying this spring.

As local agencies begin budget-making for the fiscal year starting July 1, it is already apparent that their revenue demands will continue their steady climb upward. Surveys of what we can anticipate in the way of increased budget demands from the major taxing districts have already been widely publicized in the press.

In Sacramento, the new administration and the legislature are grappling with a widening gap between income and outgo at the state level that threatens to postpone, at least for this year, the much-promised "property tax relief" we heard so much about from all parties during the campaign last fall.

AT THE same time, a deluge of bills affecting the property tax continues to flood into the legislative hopper. But with one notable exception — Assemblyman Joe Gonsalves' proposed constitutional amendment limiting the property tax to 1 per cent of market value, which would mean an approximate 50 per cent reduction in the average homeowners' tax bill — the net effect of almost every other bill would be to shift someone's tax burden to someone else, by way of exempting this, that and the other special interest.

So what it all adds up to is a gloomy picture for the hard-pressed homeowner.

A perfect example is the bill to exempt business inventories from property taxes. This proposal is back in the legislative hopper again in several different bills in both the Assembly and the Senate, and has impressive bi-partisan support, all the way up to the governor. It would mean an increase of about 10 per cent on every homeowner's tax bill, but the people pushing the exemption insist it is essential in order to "improve the business climate."

BUT WHAT about improv-

ing the home-owning climate? As tax pressures mount both in Sacramento and locally, the temptation will be strong to solve the short-term problem of next year's budget by tacking on a penny here and a per cent there, throwing a sop to the most vocal special interest groups with an exception here and a loophole there, and saddling the property owner with a bulging deficit and a diminishing purse.

If the homeowner allows this to happen, he has only himself to blame. He certainly can't say he hasn't been given ample warning.

Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots for the special municipal library bond and school board election to be held April 18 will be issued by City Clerk Vernon W. Coil through April 11.

A voter may obtain an absentee ballot if he expects to be absent from his precinct on the day of the election or unable because of disability to go to the polls.

Absentee ballots also will be issued to persons whose religious beliefs prevent them from going to the polls and to those persons in the Armory of Services whose permanent address is in Torrance.

Requests for absentee ballots must be submitted to his office in writing, Coil said. Each request must be signed by the person in whose name it is submitted and state the reason for the request.

Ballots must be returned to his office not later than 5 p.m. Monday, April 17, Coil said.

Members of the Armed Services may apply for absentee ballots through April 13.

On Honors List

Two Torrance students have been named to the Deans' Honors List at the University of California at Davis for the 1966 fall quarter. Students are William P. Thomas and Nancy E. Tymstra.

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

"Non-commercial television should address itself to the ideal of excellence, not to the idea of acceptance — which is what keeps commercial television from climbing the staircase. I think television should be the visual counterpart of our literary essay, should arouse our dreams, satisfy our hunger for beauty, take us on journeys, enable us to participate in events, present great drama and music, explore the sea and the sky and the woods and the hills. It should be our Lyceum, our Chateaufort, our Minsky's and our Camelot. It should restate and clarify the social dilemma and the political pickle. Once in a while it does, and you get a quick glimpse of its potential."

The foregoing was the splendid vision of educational television written by E. B. White as a part of the recent Carnegie Commission Report on ETV.

Visions are fine but they take money to bring off. As with the costs of college education, ETV is more expensive every day. The money must come from somewhere. Like it or not, a head tax is inevitable in both fields just as parents must share the rising costs of educating their grade school children.

THIS IS the strength of the Carnegie Report. It suggests a tax on the people who profit from the service — the viewers, that is — to be paid as part of the purchase price of a TV set.

The Carnegie Commission Report on educational tele-

vision is now on the stands. It has been discussed and digested and it shapes up as the most important document in broadcasting history. It is put together with skill and its points are well made.

The report was desperately needed. Commercial television has failed to fulfill its promise, indeed its pledge, to operate whole-heartedly in the public interest. The FCC has dragged its heels for 15 years in nearly every area, particularly in that of ETV. It is apparent from the reaction of the Telephone Company that the Ford Foundation's suggestion to harness satellite communications will be fought by those who profit from the present system.

Not all the best things in life are free. Nobody realized this more than Mr. Ford and Mr. Carnegie. The word is even getting around to the public.

HUMPHREY Bogart will be the subject of an ABC special narrated by Richard Burton, one of Bogart's closest friends, on April 23. . . . ABC will drop the soap opera "The Nurses" in a few weeks. . . . Bob Hope's annual Christmas show drew the second largest audience rating of the season. It was topped only by "Bridge on the River Kwai" . . . Marshall McLuhan was the subject of an NBC special on March 19 as a part of the new "NBC Experiment in Television" series. McLuhan, the philosophic professor of English literature at the University of Toronto, has often stated his intent: to provoke thought. TV needs him.

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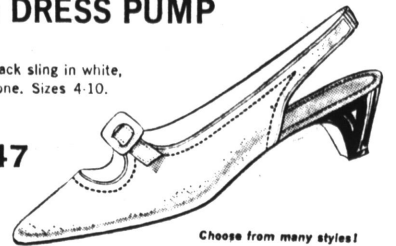
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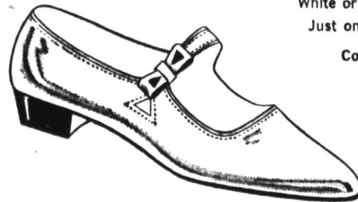
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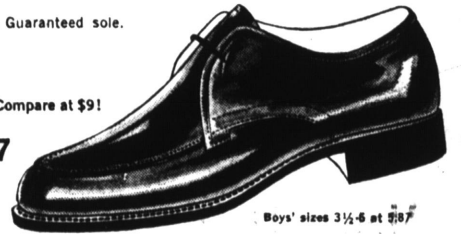
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