

Press-Herald

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Tax Bite Still Soaring

While planners and politicians talk of the government rebuilding cities, guaranteeing jobs, underwriting medical care, education, social security, housing, cheap electricity, and Lord knows what else, a few facts about taxes are pertinent.

Total taxes estimated to be collected in fiscal 1968 by all levels of government in the U.S. will equal about \$3,550 per American family, up \$134 from last year. Twelve years ago, taxes collected by federal, state and local governments combined were equivalent to \$1,897 per family. Total receipts in fiscal 1968 will exceed 1967 receipts by about \$10 billion. They will be over \$100 billion higher than a dozen years ago. The collections in 1968 will provide \$148 billion for the federal government and \$69 billion for state and local governments.

There are still those who say that taxpayers are not doing enough! There are millions more of us raising families and running businesses under the mounting pressure of taxes and inflation who say that government is doing too much—much more than even the wealthiest nation on earth can afford!

Off Limits to Taxmen

Ordinarily, when a billion dollar investment in a commercial development is announced every tax unit of government perks up its ears. The assessors and the revenue agents sharpen their pencils. The public treasury is a principal benefactor when a company or an industry undertakes an expansion program. A billion dollar investment in new plant and equipment would usually mean a source of millions of dollars of new taxes—to the federal government, as well as to local governments.

But such will not be the case with a recent announcement of a billion dollar expansion program. In this case, the commercial enterprise doing the expanding is the government's Tennessee Valley Authority. The federal taxpayer can look to no help from TVA's billion dollar investment in new generating facilities—the world's largest. According to The New York Times, the construction program involves projects for more new generating capacity than at any time in the history of the TVA. The new capacity will come from eight nuclear and coal-fired generating units of more than a million kilowatts each. All have larger generating capability than any unit new in operation in the world. Their combined capacity equals the total for the whole TVA system only 12 years ago.

TVA has come a long way from the day when it was promoted as a flood control and irrigation project—with electric power an incidental by-product. It is now a vast complex of electric generating, transmission and distribution systems. It is one of the largest commercial enterprises in the country—and it is out of bounds for the tax collector.

Opinions of Others

Take the Bureau of Mines in the Interior Department. There, \$30,188.07 has been spent for fresh paint, rugs, drapes, furniture and lighting for the director's office. Included in this is \$1,500 for the services of an interior decorator. Although the director's office was already equipped with six expensive oriental rugs, wall-to-wall carpeting had to be installed and now the oriental rugs will be laid right on top of the new carpeting. Rug-on-rug is said to be the latest fashion in Washington these days and of course, no government executive could be expected to settle for less even though the federal treasury is busted, and even though this is the glorious year of "Austerity."—Rep. H. R. Gross (R-Iowa) talking about austerity.

A Letter To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,

Loudmouths are everywhere these days, often shouting so loud that it's hard to hear what's really happening.

Some loudmouths are good, and some are bad, but at the time they're talking, they're usually irritating.

They're people with problems—often real problems—and they want everybody to know about them. If nothing else, they want attention.

Some loudmouths are mentally ill, others are just lonely or mad at a problem they can't solve, and some have legitimate complaints. Loudmouths sometimes shout about how pretty or smart or talented they are, probably because they feel others won't think so unless they blow their own horns.

Some loudmouths are "turned on" about a cause and take every chance to talk about it, even disrupting everything else that's going on at the same time. In my classroom, I find

sometimes that loudmouths would take over the class if they could—to talk about their own problems and interests rather than the subject. Occasionally these are good, but the world must go on.

Groups of loudmouths sometimes come together and start shouting at the same time, and we have protest movements against everything from society itself to the lack of a stop at the corner.

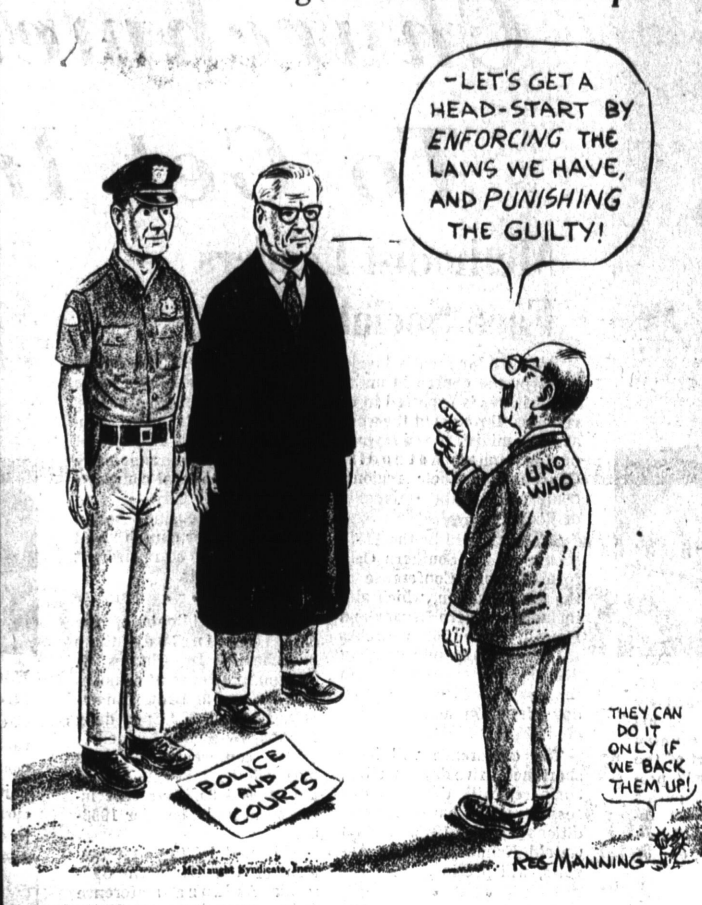
Some have legitimate gripes; others simply rebel for rebellion's sake (and let's face it, being loud helps let off steam).

Obviously, loudmouths change society. Usually, society doesn't want to change, because it's easier not to. Loudmouths make us change—sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse. Sometimes they persuade us by logic, sometimes being so obnoxious that they get what they want just to keep them quiet.

Try to listen behind the shouting, Bruce.

YOUR DAD

While We're Waiting For A Commission Report



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Simple Pad for the Guru Costing But 2,000 Clams

Bay City beat: Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who'll meditate for the masses at Squaw Vally in Aug., requested "simple accommodations," so his agents are leasing a huge mansion on Lake Tahoe—\$2,000 for three weeks. But then, it has eight baths, and there's nothing like a lot of tubs for meditation. . . . Steve McQueen finally wrapped up "Bullitt" here, after three months and \$5 million worth of shooting, and headed for the fishing holes of Montana in his deluxe camper. . . . Igor Stravinsky, a mighty spy 89, dir. d at Berkeley restaurant recently, downing an entire loaf of bread (among other things) and complaining about the recorded baroque music. "I'll send you an album of MY music," he said to the owner, and did. . . . It was also in Berkeley that Ken Reeves spotted a car with license plates USA 007 and figured it MUST belong to the CIA.

Seen heading most elegantly down the Coast Highway toward Carmel: Briggs Cunningham, at the wheel of his \$15,300 Ferrari, followed at a respectful distance his wife, Laura, at the wheel of her \$20,000 Lamborghini Miura. Destination was Del Monte Lodge's Concours d'Elegance—unless Briggs stopped too suddenly somewhere along the highway. . . .

Craig Claiborne to David Susskind: "The food on the airlines is so bad I think it's being catered by the railroads." . . . Lee Marvin's new movie, "Paint Your Wagon," is a musical set in the Gold Rush era, but it's being filmed currently at Baker, Oregon, because, reports Director Josh Logan: "Oregon looks more now like I imagine Northern California did then"—a near bogger.

A letter: "The life of the late Regis Toomey was beset

by tragedy. One rumor has it that his lovely wife, Saucquette, was so distraught when their child was born two months after his death that she was unable to think of a name. Ever since, the hospital has had to refer to the Saucquette Toomey baby. (Signed) Nick Cummings. That would be Dr. Nick Cummings, eminent local psychologist, whose slogan is "Find a Head and Fill It."

File and forget: The Hell's Angels are giving a series of

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

fund-raising dances (even renting the Cow Palace) so they can go to England to meet and greet their fans. "We're bigger than the Beatles are here," boasts Pres. Bob Roberts and who's going to argue with HIM? . . . Oh, speaking of young people, let's hear it for the kids (ages 5 to 10) in one of our privileged neighborhoods who spent a recent wkend doing odd jobs in the area. They gave the \$68 they earned to the Poor People's March. . . . Please meet the new Dairy Queen of central Calif.: Miss Katherine Moos, who doesn't except when she's feeling silly. . . . Those new steel tennis racquets are dangerous, and novelist Blair Fuller has the gashed forehead and black eye to prove it.

Let's play "Who said this?": "You sir, are a traitor for referring to this war as unjust, immoral and unconstitutional at a time when our boys are bleeding on a foreign soil." Right, Stephen Douglas, attacking Abraham Lincoln for the latter's opposition to the Mexican war.

Welcome: Jerry Truem of Wisconsin U., here for the National Social Welfare Conference, was flagged

Morning Report:

All the experts warned us that the peace negotiations with Hanoi would move slowly but they didn't say how slowly. But now we know. No movement at all.

The very best that can be said about the negotiators for both sides is that there is nothing tricky about them. Both sides are very clear on where they stand. And in case you missed it on the first day, they have repeated their positions at each subsequent meeting. They demand we stop bombing. We demand they stop infiltrating.

It was said in advance that negotiating with the Communists would be a war of nerves. To see who would break first. I will say for the delegates that they still seem cool, calm, and collected. I can't say as much for us who are watching them.

Abe Mellinkoff

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Group Comes Up With Idea For \$50 Million Tax Bite

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
County Supervisor

SACRAMENTO—California legislators may someday learn that the people of the state are becoming weary of grandiose plans for new and increased spending programs, but to some of them the lesson is coming belatedly.

In the face of an unprecedented situation which finds the public hard-pressed to meet the billion dollar tax increase of last year, and the taxpayers still reeling from the income tax shock of last April, Assemblyman Edward L. Z'berg, D-Sacramento, and the assembly natural resources committee he heads, have come up with a proposal for another \$50 million tax bite.

Z'berg, who is noted as a great conservationist, and proponent of spending tax funds to wipe out the ills that beset the state, wants to assess the public an additional \$50 million for a "California Local Recreation Fund." The money would be meted out to cities and counties for the development of recreational facilities on a local basis.

Granted that cities and counties could use an additional \$50 million for this purpose without batting an eyelash, and also granted

that major recreational needs exist to keep up with the growing populations, the proposal seems out of alignment with the times. In fact, it can be compared to a family buying luxuries when there are insufficient funds in the bank account for the daily bread and butter.

And Z'berg isn't waiting until other phases of government are brought to levels of expenditure which the taxpayer can afford comfortably. His plans is to amend the program into legislation now before the assembly, and get the program started right away.

Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

First, he would ask for a 3 1/2 per cent tax on gross receipts from the sale of motor vehicle fuel, but he would exclude commercial vehicles, from June 1 through Sept. 30. He would put on this gross receipts tax instead of adding to the sales tax, thereby circumventing the necessity of amending the constitution and determining whether the people want the added fuel tax.

How he would increase taxes by an estimated \$51.1 million each year is altogether amazing.

Second, he would ask for an excise tax of 10 per cent on amounts over a dollar, on admission prices to "professional spectator sports, such as baseball, football and others, but would exclude the tax on amateur sports, plus horse-racing, boxing and motion pictures.

Third, a one per cent gross receipts tax would be levied from the sale of outdoor sporting goods and equipment, which includes a list of exclusions which makes one wonder what there is left to tax in this particular field.

This new tax plan is necessary, Z'berg says, because it marks the "first significant step toward the long-overdue goal of recognizing in public policy that recreation is a legitimate need of the people, with a priority at least equivalent to that accorded such other major, expensive programs as free-way construction, water development, education, mental hygiene, and welfare."

One can't argue with the fact that recreation is important, particularly to the people on welfare with nothing else to do but play on the taxpayers' money. But somebody's got to pay the bill.

ROYCE BRIER

Progress of Youth Power Suffers a Major Decline

The theory of the young, widely held among them, that when they take over the world, it will be better than the one their elders gave them, has suffered a decline.

In the past five years two young men under 30, by acts of violence, have changed the historical course of the United States, not for the better, but for the worse. These youths are Oswald, who assassinated President Kennedy, and one Sirhan, accused of shooting Robert Kennedy.

Those under 30 are bound to say it isn't fair to select them as representative of those in the age bracket. This is literally true, but the remaining fact is that while both thought they were bettering the world by their acts, they were not bettering it. That is, their judgement was twisted, and in some degree we cannot measure, their youth was a factor in their judgment.

Moreover, it is a twisted judgement of under-thirty (and hardly a fair one), that over-thirty is responsible for

the sorry state of America and the world. The forces of history and social change are not so easily identified and arranged in a logical order.

All this, however, deals with intangibles, and need not be taken too seriously. The two youths in question were essentially insignificant individuals who, by a freak of will opportunity, lived fleeting moments of great significance.

This is not invariably true.

Opinions on Affairs of the World

for the slayers of Julius Caesar, in the most celebrated example of political assassination, were leading Romans. But American assassins have been nobodies, for even John Wilkes Booth had to depend on his family for his place. Further, the assassin of Martin Luther King, a noble man and private citizen, through one of historical significance, was apparently a mere hired gunman. The bitter irony of nobodies shaking and re-directing American history, when

it is difficult for men of character and achievement to do so, can hardly be overlooked in our review of the five years.

Certainly the violent death of President Kennedy radically altered the life and direction of the Americans. He had a soaring quality which was missing in his successor. The successor seized a dangerous situation of small scope, and by a series of decisions enlarged its scope inasmuch that it overwhelmed him, and his people as well, if not to the world.

The political experts will spend two months analyzing the meaning of the disappearance of Robert Kennedy from the political scene. But not much expert analysis is required for the general outline.

Whether Robert Kennedy could have won the Democratic nomination, the experts could not say, but they were inclined to doubt it, and insisted Vice President Humphrey would be nominated. For manifest reasons this would be unlikely to change the course of the Vietnam war, which is what most of the turmoil is about. If Richard Nixon, as the experts again say, is the Republican nominee, the prognosis for the flattering "peace" we are now pursuing is not favorable.

The Europeans express shock at the present culmination of violence, and the apparent state of the American society. But as they have removed thousands of their leaders over 2,000 years by dagger, poison, and gunpowder in political assassinations, they will probably survive their shock.

Quote

If we are sincere in our efforts to stop drunk driving, we should pass a law that it is a crime to drink and drive. —Assemblyman Willie L. Brown Jr., San Francisco.

The Old Timer



"Unhappy is the head that always wears a frown."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Muir's Notes on the Area South of Yosemite Issued

John Muir, the naturalist, conservationist, and tireless crusader for national parks and reservations, published his guidebook, "The Yosemite," in 1912. He never got around to producing a second book on his explorations in regions south of the Yosemite, specifically the spectacular areas of Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.

Muir wrote widely of these places, in newspaper dispatches and in magazines such as the Overland, Scribner's and Harper's. He kept volumes of notes, journal entries and letters on these peaks, forest depths, stupendous rocks, big trees, lakes and meadows. It is from this bulk of material that Fredrick R. Gunsky, former journalist and former editor of the Sierra Club Bulletin, has completed the book John Muir always intended to write.

Gunsky is the editor of "South of Yosemite: Select-

ed Writings of John Muir," which includes a record of Muir's many months spent in this region of the Sierra during the 1870s, extending his knowledge of the range, as Gunsky notes, "in order to make good his claim to be its foremost interpreter."

It is a record of Muir's pioneering trips and his crystal-clear observations. Yosemite to Kern Canyon. This

Browsing Through the World of Books

is a scholarly log by the old gentleman, but unexpected touches of poetry turn up in this pioneering prose as he surveys the grandeur that keeps opening up before him. A high country lake, for example, with isles "lighted as if the sun rose from them alone," or rocks, "a wilderness of crumbling spires and battlements, built together in bewildering combinations. . . ."

This is an important piece of California, no doubt, a book Muir would have approved, indeed a "first edition" John Muir. As editor, Gunsky intrudes only occasionally with revealing asides to describe what Muir was up to at a given time; with whom he was traveling, or — before Muir launches into a discussion of wild sheep in the San Joaquin Valley before he was able to support himself in the Yosemite.

This revealing, invigorating first-hand account of some of California's most dramatic wilderness areas is illuminated by a series of photographs by Philip Hyde who followed Muir's trails to visually capture the pristine grandeur he described. A very successful book for conservationists, Sierra enthusiasts and (like both Gunsky and Philip Hyde), admirers of John Muir. (Natural History Press. Doubleday; \$7.50).