

Proposition 5: State, Federal Tax Form to Be Same

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—For the next several issues, this column will deal with propositions to be submitted to the voters of California on November 5.

Proposition 4 relates to income taxes, both federal and state. It gives the legislature authority to conform state income tax returns to federal returns, the purpose of which is to make the state tax return easier to figure, and at the same time avoid duplication of the

chore of making out two separate returns.

This proposal has been before the legislature for study for many years. However, the state constitution was construed as preventing the legislature from adopting future amendments to federal laws.

Proposition 4, however, grants the legislature the power to incorporate provisions of the federal law, as they may be enacted in the future, into the California requirements for filing state income tax returns, as

well as the present provisions apply to the reporting and collecting of state income taxes.

The proposed amendment specifically prohibits the legislature from enacting any statute, directly, or indirectly, which changes state income tax rates on future federal rates.

Thus while the taxpayer is given the advantage of virtually duplicating his state and federal return, he is protected insofar as the rate of return is concerned,

as the state would not accept the higher rate of federal return.

In arguing on behalf of the amendment, Senator Milton Marks (R-San Francisco) and James R. Mills (D-San Diego) and Assemblyman James A. Hayes (R-Long Beach) point out that there are now many differences between federal and state law.

The proposal for conformity, they state, will cut costs, as administration will be eased, and return will be

easier to check and verify. "The difference which do exist," the law-makers state, "are problem areas sought to be simplified with the proposed amendment."

However, Senator Richard J. Dolwig (R-San Mateo) and Assemblyman Jonh J. Miller (D-Oakland) contend otherwise. They claim the amendment could "benefit the rich at the expense of middle and lower income families."

"Under the guise of conformity," their argument says, "federal exemptions,

which are much lower than the state's could be adopted to force a major downward shift of the tax burden from the wealthy to the middle and lower income groups. In addition, with full conformity to state law, the proposition would mean an automatic windfall of up to \$100 for persons owning stocks.

"It would remove the California tax provision which now provides that the first \$1,000 of military pay is exempt from the state income tax, thus discriminat-

ing against veterans and military personnel.

The senator and assemblyman contend that the legislative body of the state should be solely responsible for levying the income tax, and not share that responsibility with another agency, which in this case is the Congress of the United States. This is the best assurance, they claim, that the elected representatives of the state will balance the interests of taxpayers and beneficiaries with regard to state monies.

Your Right to Know Is the Key to All Your Liberties

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1968

Opportunity for Progress

American industry, in cooperation with the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, is providing the opportunity for many thousands of handicapped individuals to gain independence as they prove themselves on the job.

To give even greater impetus to this worthy project the week October 6-12 has been set aside as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." However, this activity should not be limited to one week in the year. It should be a continuing program—one which progresses well when we remember it's ability, not disability, that counts.

This movement is being accelerated also by the removal of architectural barriers to the handicapped in both public and private structures throughout the nation. This benefits many handicapped people as education and jobs become more readily accessible to them.

For example, twenty colleges have made their campuses completely accessible through the use of ramps, as well as stairs, and wider entrances to permit wheel chairs to enter.

The elimination of physical barriers will open up even greater opportunities for the handicapped.

Super Highways Seen

How would you like to drive your automobile 100 miles an hour on the highway legally—or be ticketed for being a slowpoke by driving less than 90 miles an hour on the same road?

This is the type of new highway predicted by the turn of the century by the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratories whose traffic safety research has attained national recognition.

Such highways could be commonplace by the year 2000, which is only 32 years away, according to Cornell researchers.

They have developed seven inter-related concepts of a proposed "Century Expressway" and recommended that a 100-mile stretch of it be

signed and built to serve as a proving ground for high speed automobile travel.

Recognizing that all licensed drivers could not qualify to drive at this speed, Cornell has proposals for screening out both unsafe cars and unsafe drivers before a motorist would be allowed to travel on a "Century Expressway."

The driver would be required to pilot the car through a series of tests including an unexpected stop to test his control ability and reaction time. There would also be a health inspection. Drivers not competent for any reason, such as being too tired, ill, or under the influence of liquor, would not be allowed on the highway.

WILLIAM HOGAN

A Skipper Talks About His Love for Sailboats

Ernest K. Gann has owned and skippered 17 boats of various sizes over the years, including the 117-foot former Dutch brigantine Albatross he sailed a few years ago, Rotterdam to San Francisco. He talks about his affection for all of them in "Song of the Sirens," the book of the season, no doubt, for amateur sailors and small boat enthusiasts.

Although he loves the sea and sailing, Gann is anything but a romantic either a thousand miles from the lightship or at some highly advertised port as he has touched in his wanderings. I found his irony and often downright disgust in describing some of these places as interesting as anything in this rousing book. This is a kind of anti-travel writing by a tough, perceptive skipper who apparently believes that getting there is all the fun.

Curacao, for example, he recalls as "a hot and airless little island in the middle of a crude-oil-scented nowhere." Funchal, on the Portuguese island of Madiera, is "an easy-going tourist trap overrun with stuffed Englishmen and their part-time wives" where all the good wine is either hoarded or exported and the residue you get is barely fit for human consumption.

One of Gann's crew mem-

bers, who knew Hawaii in the old days, stared at the face of Honolulu from the sea not long ago: "It looks like some kind of skin disease," he said, "and it's spreading."

The most amusing part of Gann's anti-travel writing is and account of his private war with the Panama Canal, a "miserable canal," as he

Browsing Through the World of Books

calls it. On the Albatross voyage from Holland, Gann and company ran into so much boondoggling and red tape in this "capsule state that enjoys all the benefits bureaucratic socialism can provide" that Gann seriously considered sailing around Cape Horn to avoid them.

The food provision prices there he describes as "outrageous;" fuel bought from the Panama Canal Company costs twice as much as the going world rate, and when Gann tried to get his engine repaired he was advised to go away. "Not even the United States Navy can afford us," an official explained with no attempt to conceal his pride. Still sore as a mariner's boil in these recollections, Gann views this curious monopoly operated by the U.S. government

as "possibly one of the most zealously guarded and secret despotisms of all time."

Yet sailing vicariously with Ernie Gann, whether aboard a junk he once chartered in Hong Kong, a West Coast commercial fishing boat or a sloop-rigged Cape Cod day sailer, is a great lark. You are with a first-class skipper and writer who almost lost his taste for the sea when the Albatross his first love, went down. But not quite.

"I think we can sail today," he writes at the end of this book. "Both the wind and the sea have gone down and there is a patch of blue to the north as big as a Dutchman's pants. Which is invitation enough for any sailor."

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ROYCE BRIER

Apology Method Delays Pueblo Crew's Release

January 22, an ugly little vessel, USS Pueblo, was captured by gunboats off North Korea and towed to the port of Wonsan.

This ship was stuffed with electronic gear, an intelligence or spy ship. It had a crew of upward of 80 men, mostly naval personnel, although there was a report some Central Intelligence Agency men were aboard. Commander Lloyd Bucher and his crew were interned.

The North Koreans immediately charged the ship was within the 12-mile limit, territorial waters of North Korea. It was vehemently denied by Washington, which called the seizure a "hijacking" on the high seas.

A few days later North Korea released what purported to be a "confession" of Commander Bucher, that the Pueblo had penetrated the 12-mile limit. In the Pentagon this was called a "propaganda sham" and a "travesty."

Congress was disturbed. Fireballs wanted to crash in and rescue the crew, but President Johnson elected to handle it diplomatically. He called up 14,000 naval reserves, disturbing their civilian life for no true crisis, and ordered a carrier and destroyers to stand off North Korea.

The Pentagon was severely criticized for not providing the Pueblo with a naval escort which would have averted the incident.

The seizure required several hours, much of it at nighttime, and the final boarding was evidently made beyond the 12-mile limit. Subsequently developed physical facts, however, suggested the vessel was within the 12-mile limit when hailed, and drifted or navigated

outside the limit when boarded.

Illegality of the seizure was unequivocally supported for 14 days, when Secretary McNamara and State Secretary Dean Rusk appeared together on a television program and admitted the Pueblo may at some

Opinions on Affairs of the World

time have violated the 12-mile limit.

To a direct question if he would say flatly the Pueblo was never within the limit, Mr. McNamara replied, "No." Mr. Rusk was equally uninformed on the vital question.

The North Koreans had said they would release the ship and crew if an apology was offered by the United

States. After the February 5 broadcast, Mr. Rusk used the word "apology" in a statement, but did not promise one.

The American case, however, was flat on its face after the February 5 admissions. It was tossed to Panmunjom for negotiation, where it might have been settled in 30 or 60 days were it not for face saving for the President and the Admirals. So the 82 Americans have been left as prisoners for eight months to play volley ball.

Last month there were rumors of an apology and imminent release, again before Panmunjom. Later a news story said there was a delay because the United States couldn't decide on the wording and method of the apology.

The families of the 82 ransom victims will no doubt understand.

Quote

"Whenever teaching degenerates into money-making profession, the cause of education will be lost." — N. DeVane Williams in the Holmes County (Fla.) Advertiser.

"Just a word of advice to young men trying to decide on a career . . . The best thing to do at the present time is to avoid the business and the professions and instead go into poverty. That's where the money is." — Dale Holdridge in the Langford (S. D.) Bugle.

"Keep a record of every penny you save and you'll soon have to adjust your

budget for the cost of notebooks." — Brice Van Horn in the Fillmore (Calif.) Herald.

"One of the basic principles of our form of government, including tax collection and spending, is that powers of government be held and exercised as closely as possible to the people most directly affected by them." — State Sen. James E. Whetmore.

"I am convinced that more wide-spread use of home health agency services can significantly reduce costs of hospitals and nursing homes." — Assemblyman Gordon Duffy.

Don't Be Too Hard On The 3rd Party, H.H.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Horror Photos Just a Mistake

You've heard of Dr. W. Stewart McBirnie? He lives in Glendale, where he heads something called Center for American Research and Education, whose symbol is — right again — the Liberty Bell. Some people who don't know better refer to him as "a right-wing extremist," but, in his own words, "I am not a right-wing extremist."

He is, however, extremely busy and creative. He also publishes a monthly newsletter, out of Glendale, called "Documentation." On the front pages of an issue earlier this year, Dr. McBirnie pleads "Please, Read This First," and then goes on to say that his readers may experience "shocked horror" at what is disclosed inside. But, he adds, apparently quoting himself, "It's about time someone told the truth, and hammered it down with evidence such as this."

The pictures inside are horrifying. Labeled as "Actual Photos — CHINESE COMMIES SKIN MAN ALIVE," they are reproduced from something called "Inside News," and show "Chin Piao, manager of an industrial factory near Shantung," strung up by his arms before a taunting mob. Caption: "Helpless victim screams in agony as a knife slices into his naked chest." Followed by "Relize what looks like the victim's shirt is actually his skin hanging in shreds!" Chin Piao, we read, is being thus tortured to death because he has been denounced as a "capitalist — the worst thing you can call a man in Red China." The photos were "smuggled out from behind the Bamboo Curtain."

Actually, if these photos were smuggled out from anywhere, it was the 20th Century-Fox studios in Hollywood. For these three photos — "The most shocking ever taken" — were stills from "The Sand Pebbles," starring Steven McQueen, and set in the 1920s. "Chin Piao," the hapless alleged capitalist, is the well-known actor, Mako, who, ironically, is Japanese. I showed this issue of "Documentation" to McQueen and he reacted with shocked horror himself. "How can such things HAPPEN? he gasped. As for "the knife slicing into the naked chest," he sighed: "We invented that knife ourselves, right on the set. It works like a ballpoint pen — the 'blood' is red ink."

How could such a thing happen indeed? "Well, Dr. McBirnie told me, 'I never heard of a movie called 'The Sand Pebbles.' But when I found out about this, I immediately sent a letter to all my readers, explaining that the mistake had happened in good faith. I thought the pictures were genuine — I only reprinted them from another publication, after all.' Then he said brightly: 'Well, anyway, we all know that such things happen in Red China. Those pictures aren't exactly unbelievable.' Game to the end."

We reopen our Reverse Status Symbol Derby to place in nomination Atty. Lui Venator of San Jose who, attired in an old sheepskin jacket and cowboy hat, drives to work in a battered white pickup truck — although he has a 1934 classic Rolls-Royce in the basement of his Saratoga home. Basement? Right, he took out a wall to get it in and restored the wall, simply so he can say to guests: "Would you like to go down to the basement and see my Rolls-Royce?" A nice play when the conversation lags.

Atty James O'Gara to client in divorce case: "What do you think your wife will charge you with?" Client: "I donno — she'll probably claim that I phoned her." O'Gara: "What kind of a charge is that?" Client: "Well, I did hit her with the phone, but dammit, she phoned me FIRST!"

There we were at The Greatest, a coffee shop at Seventh and Brannan, where Woody Allen and his merry group of movie makers were preparing to shoot a scene for "Take the Money and Run." A prop sign reading "Dishwasher Wanted" was placed in the window, and Woody was about to apply for the job. Loud cries of "Quiet on the set! Action!" — and onto the scene heaved Eunice Hadnet, who really WAS the dishwasher at The Greatest. Spotting the sign, she yelled "Hey, what's the matter, you guys—haven't I been doing a good job around here for the last eight years???"