

Mobile Homes Target of Several New Tax Bills

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

SACRAMENTO — A move to increase taxes on the more than 400,000 mobile homes in California, which now pay a vehicle instead of a property tax, is under way in the state Legislature, as the result of half a dozen bills introduced by several members.

These measures, if any one of them is selected, give county assessors, as well as city assessors, the authority to take over, and would materially cause an additional burden to

individuals who have selected the mobile home way of life as a method of living within retirement incomes.

Generally, mobile homes are occupied by persons of retirement age, who for many years have done their part in maintaining city, county, state, and federal governments, and now are retired with limited incomes.

Taxation on a mobile home at the present is somewhat excessive, but under the methods of taxation provided in the motor vehicle code, there is provi-

sion for a graduated reduction over the years, until the home reaches 15 per cent of the original value. Cities and counties receive "in lieu" motor vehicle taxes.

Assemblyman Ray E. Johnson, R-Chico, in AB 2171, proposes to remove the in lieu tax entirely by July 1, 1970, meanwhile effecting a graduated reduction in the tax. However, his measure would subject the home to property taxation March 1, 1970.

Johnson has a second measure, AB 2172, which would fix

a general property taxation rate applied to the schedule of market value according to age, at "unspecified" rates.

Assemblyman Alan Sirotey, D-Los Angeles, has AB 1922, which wipes out the vehicle license fee law as far as the mobile homes are concerned, and puts the entire taxation program under general property taxation.

Another measure which would increase the costs of living in a mobile home has been submitted by Assemblyman

George N. Zenovich, D-Fresno. This measure, AB 1546, increases the fees of persons operating a mobile home park to \$2 per lot, plus the \$25 original permit. Now the owner of the park pays \$21 for the first 35 lots and an additional 50 cents for lots in excess of 35.

Should Zenovich's bill be adopted, the additional revenue in taxes could come only from increases in the lot rental paid by the occupant of the mobile, who, as noted above, is usually a retired person with

limited income, the purchasing power of which is decreasing as inflation expands.

More trouble for manufacturers of mobile homes is contained in SB 980, by Sen. Joseph M. Kennick, D-Long Beach. This bill asks an addition to state bureaucracy by requiring the commission on housing and community development to adopt regulations for the construction of mobile homes.

Why more regulation is necessary for this phase of home

construction, in the light of requirements the manufacturers must meet to comply with city and county building requirements, is a good question, but such a law is bound in the long-run, to increase costs and thus put more of a burden on people who buy the homes.

With the increase in mobile home living, it was to be expected that the Legislature would come around to attempting a foray on the owners to increase their taxes, and now the attack is under way.

Your Right to Know
Is the Key to All Your Liberties

Comment and Opinion

C-2 PRESS-HERALD

APRIL 23, 1969

Public Schools Week

Current disturbances in a few of our public institutions of learning are highly flammable in their effect on parents and the public in general.

But these demonstrations of student unrest should not overshadow the basic strength and great good inherent in our public schools system.

An ideal time to obtain reaffirmation is during Public Schools Week which is being observed in California this week for the 50th consecutive year.

Sponsored as always by the Masons of California, in cooperation with the various city school systems, Public Schools Week aims to give citizens an opportunity to visit their neighborhood schools, meet the teachers molding the minds of their children, and learn something about the problems of and the accomplishments in the classroom.

Our public schools are the crucibles in which the future of our land is compounded.

It is quite true to say that to the degree personal freedom of worship, work, thought, action, and speech are important to you and to your children, to that same degree is our great public schools system vital.

Public Schools Week was initiated a half century ago by Charles A. Adams, Grand Master of Masons in California, because then, as now, public education faced a challenge.

Fifty years ago qualified teachers were in short supply following World War I, and what was even more ominous, the general public apparently didn't care.

More than 600 schools were closed in California alone.

This year in particular, in view of the disturbing and confusing activities of campus agitators, it is more important than ever not to lose sight of the great basic good being accomplished constantly and quietly in our public schools.

We urge all to visit a public school during Public Schools Week not only as an indication of support, but also to acquire reassurance of the basic soundness of the greatest educational structure in the world.

Easy Does It

Question: What's the best way to do your spring cleaning?

Answer: Do it very carefully!

There is a message for all of us in one of industry's vital and continuing programs: Safety Off the Job.

Since World War II, accidents in industry have been reduced by half. That is a remarkable record which is the result of the emphasis which companies always give to safety at work. Now industry is also increasing its efforts to promote better safety habits outside the home. This is because, according to a pamphlet published by the National Association of Manufacturers, deaths and injuries to employees outside of working hours represented an economic loss of a startling \$8 billion in 1966, not to mention the grief and anguish involved. Traffic accounts for the largest percentage of non-work accidents. Falls, many of them around the home, are the second greatest cause.

Company programs boil down to two essentials: safe equipment and encouraging a positive attitude towards safety on the part of the workers. Safe Equipment and Positive Attitude — two points we all should remember.

Other Opinions

New York newspapers of June 2, 1874 resurrected from the cornerstone of the Museum of Natural History for its centennial, reveal that "nothing changes." Headlines concerned cabinet shakeups, civil rights, criticisms of the police, and concern about Communism. Karl Marx was London correspondent then for one of the New York newspapers. —Athens (Ohio) Messenger.

Why Should You Worry?



SACRAMENTO REPORT

Efforts to Lower Voting Age Gathering Momentum

By RALPH C. DILLS
Senator, 32nd District

The lowering of the age at which a person is allowed to vote in California continues to be a major issue before the Legislature, in spite of recent severe setbacks to such legislation. Several committees in both houses have considered or will be considering bills to lower the age to 19 or 18, depending on the bill. If present trends continue, however, none of the proposed constitutional amendments will reach the voters this year, as most if not all of the measures are being politically but firmly killed.

While the movement for reform in voting age requirements is nothing new, it did seem to be gaining consid-

erable momentum of late. Supporters say that every U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt has called for lowering the voting age. Public opinion polls recently conducted in the state would seem to indicate that for the first time a majority of the public in California is ready to grant voting rights to people below the age of 21.

One poll concluded that slightly more than half of the voters would give 20-year-olds the rights to vote. Only 43 per cent favored such a move just two years ago.

At the present time only four states of the 50 allow persons under the age of 21 to vote: you must be 20 in Hawaii, 19 in

Alaska, 18 in Georgia and Kentucky. Surveys show that the average turnout of these younger voters in Kentucky was higher than the national average.

Several bills have been introduced in the California Legislature to change the state's constitution with regard to voting age. One measure even combines this proposal with a dropping of the legal age for purchasing alcoholic beverages.

The author says lowering the voting age is called for because of the better education afforded today's young people. His bill is part of a comprehensive package which would also give 18-year-olds the right to make formal credit contracts and place 18-to-20-year-olds under the adult rather than the juvenile court system.

My colleague points to the claim that "they fight for us" and that "we condemn their civil disobedience, tell them to change the law," but do not permit them to vote.

He says that as we recognize that our 18, 19, and 20-year-olds are mature enough to vote, they should be treated as adults in our judicial system, in assuming contract responsibilities and obligations, debt limitations and in other ways as well.

It is a certainty that the issue will continue until resolved.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Pretty Faces Naturally Cost a Little Bit More

Kathy and Bing Crosby lugged a big black dog into United Air Freight to ship to L.A., insured for \$300. "That'll be \$19," said Paul Pels. Bing: "Gee, we sent him down on PSA a while back and it only cost \$15." Paul: "Our stewardesses are prettier." ... Rolling Stone, the excellent pop-rock magazine published on Bran-nan St., is now selling 60,000 copies per issue in the U.S. and 6,000 in Europe — so a British edition is about to be launched, with financial help from the Rolling Stones themselves.

Don Bayle showing a bit of bile: "My ex-wife worked six years for General Motors prior to our marriage and I keep wondering why they don't recall HER." ... On the other hand, the family that plays together and so forth: Galina Vishnevskaya, star soprano of the Bolshoi Opera, will sing at the Curran on the afternoon of April 27. Her husband, the noted Soviet cellist, Mstislav Rostropovich will be appearing with the S.F. Symphony the preceding week, so he will accompany her. On the piano, not the cello. "I like to play with her whenever we're in the same neighborhood," he reports through an interpreter ... Charles Pierce, evergreen star of the Gilded Cage, feels he is getting entirely too sentimental: "I start to cry when the first car without Platform runs out of gas."

Atty. Charles Garry, defend-

er of lost causes (and winner of several against incredible odds), will be honored by the Nat'l Lawyers Guild at a Hilton testimonial May 10 ... Faces back-to-back at Sam's in Tiburon: George Christopher and Poet Allen Ginsberg. They

Report from Our Man in San Francisco

had nothing to say to each other, which figures ... If the Landmarks Council is running out of buildings to stick plaques on, how about the ancient apt. house at Grant and Greenwich? Ken Kesey and Mountain Girl were busted for pot on the roof and Jack Kerouac wrote his early Beatstuff in the basement (or "catacombs," as he called it). By present standards, very historic ... Newest acronym in town is SCRAM: Sensible Citizens Reject Anti-ballistic Missiles. This group should win considerable support in Canada, which is in danger of playing unwilling host to The Last Great Skeeet Shoot in the Sky.

John Brent and Peter Bonnerz of The Committee flew to Guaymas, Mexico, to join the cast of "Catch-22," the World War II story being directed there by Mike Nichols. Nichols' first order: "Awright, you guys, off with the long hair and sideburns!" Nichols has as-

sembled there, by the way, the world's largest air force of doddering B-25s; they can get off the ground, but just barely ... Actor Laurence Harvey, explaining his new film, "He and She," to Hank Grant: "It's the simple story of a poet and a nymphomaniac. I was tempted to play both parts" ... As for Jean Arthur, whose gravelly film voice still turns on the geriatrics set, she has deserted her Carmel home for Vassar, where she is teaching drama.

Beniamino Bufano and Tabe Sloor are together again! Put it down as another miracle of spring, when the sap rises (hi) and vital juices flow. After all that bitter publicity, all the legal action over the statues he gave her, all the charges flying back and forth, the tiny sculptor and the fancy Finnish fold-out are once again strolling through Golden Gate Park, making mosaics in his alley studio, riding around in her car. Beautiful! "Actually," says Benny soulfully, "I have never stopped seeing her. You know I can't hold a grudge for more than 10 minutes." Purrs the Tabet: "I feel sorry for Beniamino. He is so all alone. He doesn't even know how to drive. And don't print my address. After those stories about us were in the papers, I had to move twice. People broke my windows and everything." How can this happen in the cool, gray city of love. Shame, shame.

THE MONEY TREE

Food Growing Moves From Fields to the Laboratory

By MILTON MOSKOWITZ

The nation's farmers — and possibly some consumers too — would be up in arms if they were to see a study now being circulated on Madison Avenue.

The study — prepared by Ted Bates & Co., fourth largest advertising agency — predicts a glowing future for synthetic foods. Imitation milk and meat-like products are among the goodies coming your way.

"Synthetic foods are here already," says the Bates study. "The tempo of their introduction is quickening. And almost without exception, they simulate natural food products in taste and appearance."

Some synthetic foods, such as artificial sweeteners, are produced entirely in the laboratory — by chemists. Others may use agricultural products in combination with man-made ingredients.

The Bates study thus claims margarine as one of the first of the synthetic foods — and certainly the most successful. Margarine is made from vegetable oils with flavoring and color added. Dairy farmers, called margarine "bull butter" and fought it bitterly from one end of the country to the other — but margarine won its fight. In 1940, we consumed seven times as much butter as margarine. Today, margarine consumption outweighs butter by two-to-one. Per capita consumption of butter has, in fact, been halved during the past 25 years.

Are other natural foods going to meet the same fate as but-

ter? The food processors are hopeful. Sales of synthetic foods are estimated now at \$500 million a year, up 10 times since 1957.

Contributing to this advance are powdered drinks such as

A Look at the World of Finance

Tang and Awake, both marketed by General Foods, and Instant Breakfast, marketed by Carnation as "meal in a glass."

The synthetics don't always hold their customers, however. When Mead Johnson introduced Metrecal and the 900-calorie diet in 1959, the product was a smash success, quickly imitated. But sales of these products have plunged from 190 million in 1961 to 80 million today.

The same cannot be said for the powdered coffee creamers, first introduced in 1952. This market, now in the \$70 million range, is moving up strongly, cutting into the sales of canned milk. Carnation, a leading canned milk seller, is suffering no pain because it leads this market with its Coffee-Mate. A dairy product made of vegetable fat, corn-syrup solids and sodium caseinate.

The processors, you see, are equally adept at working with the natural product or the synthetic. Borden and Kraft, both huge processors of dairy foods, wouldn't hesitate to market a synthetic. Borden has a product called Lite Line, which it depicts as a "supermilk" because it contains more protein

than regular milk and 99 per cent fat-free. What would Elsie the Cow think?

On the market today are imitation milks and filled milks, both making use of vegetable fats such as coconut oil. According to the Bates study: "The new filled milks are so close to the real thing that dairymen themselves have not been able to tell the difference when served both."

The non-meat "meats" beginning to surface are made from soy protein. They can be made to look and taste like meat. They can already be found in such canned foods as chili con carne, beef hash, "Sloppy Joes", and spaghetti sauce. Check the label the next time you use one of these products.

There's Stripples, a vegetable protein bacon that is cholesterol-free and contains two-thirds fewer calories than regular bacon. Also, you know how bacon shrinks to one-fourth of its weight when broiled or fried? Stripples doesn't shrink.

A number of advantages are attributed to the synthetics. They are versatile, convenient, and inexpensive; their supply is predictable. "In sight," concludes the Bates study, "is the time when food manufacturers can create new products that have no counterpart in nature."

It has always been tough on the farm, and it appears as if it's going to become tougher.

WE DIG THIS IDEA!



Press-Herald

Glenn W. Pfeil
Publisher
Reid L. Bundy
Editor and Co-Publisher
Published Each
Wednesday and Friday
2228 W. Sepulveda Blvd.
Torrance, Calif. 90501