

EDITORIALS

SALES TAX IS JOKER

The proposed Nebraska Sales Tax bill now before the legislature is about the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the citizens of this state. In its present form, this bill is a rich man's bill and will increase the tax load of every working man in the State of Nebraska.

According to provisions in the bill as submitted for debate, it provides that should a sales and/or income tax be levied in Nebraska the state property tax would be eliminated. Therein lies the joker for which an unsuspecting people should beware.

A sales tax in Nebraska would take a minimum of \$40 per year out of every working man's pay check, i. e. if he spent only \$2000 on the necessities of life. If he spent \$3000, the tax burden would be increased to \$60. But, and this is a big but, the state property tax is one of the smallest items on your present tax bill. In 1955 it is approximately .007 (seven mills). That means the taxpayer is paying only \$7 on each \$1000 in valuation into the state treasury.

If your home or business property is valued for taxing purposes at \$2000, you are paying the state only \$14 per year under present law. Pass the present income tax law, and your tax bill will be a minimum of \$40. Only persons to benefit from such legislation are those with heavy investments in real property. Seven dollars per thousand on a giant commercial building or manufacturing plant can add up to thousands of tax dollar savings—all at the expense of the little home owner.

Percentage points on paper look good when broken down into "per capita" figures however, we do not pay taxes on a per capita basis.

Our advice to taxpayers in this area is to start howling loud and long and quick—by telephone, telegram and by letter let Nebraska's Legislators know we'll have no truck with this kind of tax bill. What we want is tax relief—not additional tax burdens for the little fellow.

THE BUTLER TEMPEST

The recent tempest touched off by Paul M. Butler, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is most interesting. Butler started the ruckus when he expressed the opinion that President Eisenhower would not run for another term in 1956. It is just possible that the Butler statement is good politics on the part of the Democratic National Committee chairman.

In the first place, if Butler can convince some people that Eisenhower is not to be a candidate, he will stir up a lot of thinking about the Democratic candidate and will add importance to the prospect of being the Democratic candidate.

Moreover, the impression that Mr. Eisenhower will not run will tend to make lesser Democratic officials and workers everywhere more enthusiastic, for it must be admitted that the prospect of Mr. Eisenhower on the Republican ticket again is not a particularly welcomed one on the part of most Democrats.

In our opinion, Mr. Eisenhower will be a candidate again in 1956, for two reasons primarily: First he has not been able to put over his program because of the division in his own party and because of the strength of the Democratic opposition in Congress. The President is known to want to finish a job once he undertakes it.

Secondly, the President feels that the world is in a tense international situation, and that he is qualified to supervise defense and international policies. It is possible that his successor might not be so well qualified and that serious results might follow the inauguration of one not so well

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

When we are too young our judgment is weak; when we are too old, ditto.
—Blaise Pascal

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Furse's Fresh Flashes

Only time you need collateral when borrowing money is when you're getting it from other than friends or relatives.

A Plattsmouth man says one reason why he married a nag is because he's been playing the horses all his life.

An irate reader just told us that we run the worst newspaper in the country. It makes us happy to know that we excel at something.

A banquet is about the only kind of entertainment that doesn't come to an end too soon.

There seems to be plenty of money in the country. Trouble is, it isn't in the hands of people ready to spend it.

Present day parking meters make shopping about as inconvenient as the old days when you had to get out and tether the horse to a hitching rail.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says if she ever pins her faith on another man she's going to use safety pins.

The man who pokes fun at a woman who tries to drive through a 12-foot garage door, usually sobers up when he tries to thread a needle.

One nice thing about writing these paragraphs is that we never have to see the frowns or yawns.

skilled in defense and foreign policy.

But, whatever the merits of Mr. Butler's actual remarks they seem to us to be good Democratic politics, and we think that is what they are.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

Plattsmouth high school baseball team lost a heartbreaker to Weeping Water 3 to 2 in a game featuring the pitching of Harley Streets who struck out 20 Weeping Water batsmen, allowed two hits. The village of Union was the scene of a small riot which started when a group of two river workers drew knives and playfully started to carve up a buddy. The Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce was about to take up the subject of mail service which arose when the Missouri Pacific changed schedules. A man who armed himself with a crowd of 200 men at the Armour packing company plant at Omaha to rob a girl employe of \$600, was captured at Manley. Carl D. Gantz, of Alvo, a member of the Federal Land Bank board, was making numerous trips to different conventions providing instructions on the organization of other board members. Kenneth Hilt celebrated his septenth birthday.

30 YEARS AGO

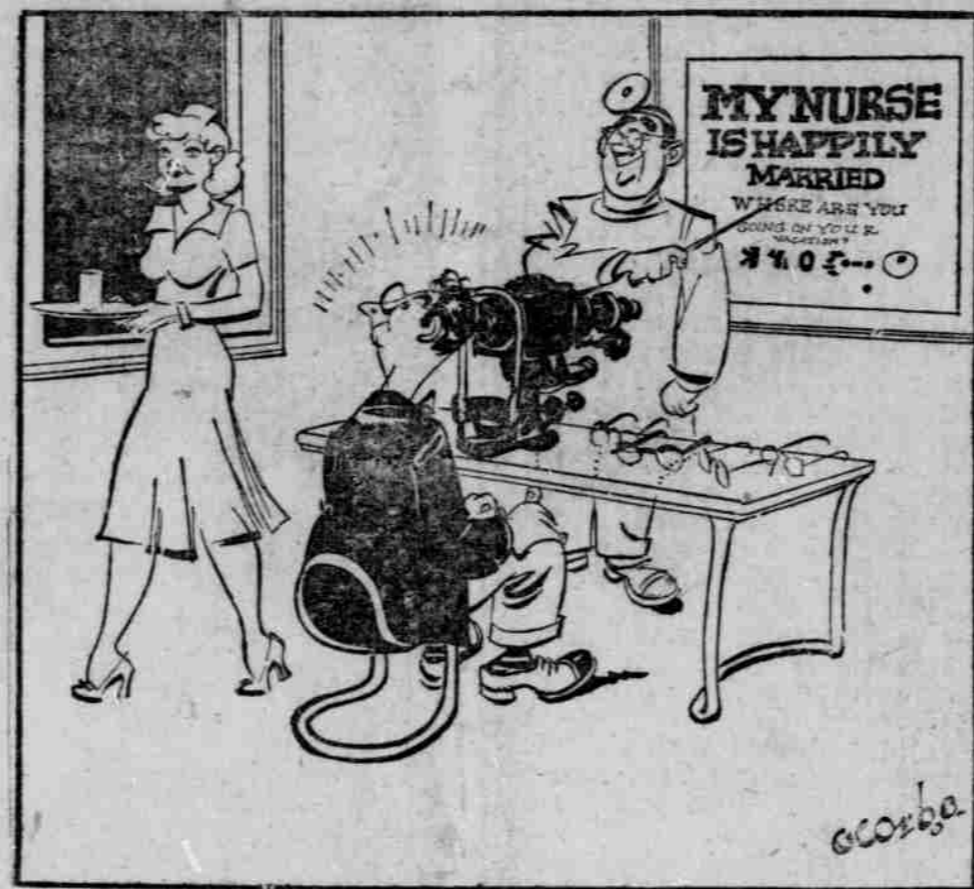
Orlando Tefft of Avoca, one of the few remaining veterans of Nebraska territorial days, was in Plattsmouth visiting old friends. Work of preparing for a new pavement at Weeping Water was going ahead rapidly. E. B. Chapman of Union was selected as chairman and H. F. Goos secretary as the Modern Woodmen of America held a county convention at Plattsmouth. Charles Godbey, C. F. Rose, Joseph Percell and P. J. Lynch were ready to stand for city election at Alvo as Mrs. C. D. Ganz, Mrs. L. Muir, Harry Appleman and L. D. Mullen made up the school board ticket. Plattsmouth Tennis Club got ready to go with a new board of directors. A. H. Duxbury, Harley Cecil, Robert M. Wallig, and R. J. Larson with R. H. Rebal, president.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

(Copyright, 1955, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)
DREW PEARSON SAYS: U. S. WILL FIGHT ALONE IF SHE GOES TO WAR OVER QUEMOY AND MATSU; IKE BAWLED OUT HIS OLD FRIEND, ADMIRAL CARNEY; DULLES LEAKED YALTA SECRET TO N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE 10 YEARS AGO.
Washington — Inside the White House — Here is why the President is so skittish about getting embroiled over Quemoy and Matsu. He has received a polite notice from Japanese Premier Ichiro Hatoyama that Japan will not permit us to use Japanese bases to fight Red China. Japan, said Hatoyama, could not survive if we attacked the Chinese mainland from Japanese bases. Also worrying Ike is flat notification from Canada that she will not support us in war over Quemoy-Matsu. Not only that, but Canada will withdraw the Canadian battalion from Korea. If we go to war over the offshore islands. Ike says he doesn't believe in going to war without allies. The President gave Admlr Carney the bawling out of his life for holding that dinner with newsmen in which he set

Ticklers

By George



"I always start with this chart!"

April 15 as the date for a Chinese attack, Eisenhower and Carney are old friends, having served together in Paris at SHAPE. The Admiral is mild mannered and unobtrusive, but IKE talked to him as he used to bawl out rookie troops when he was a drill sergeant. The President apparently didn't know that it was Admiral Radford who put the usually silent Carney up to having the press briefing session.

Inside the Pentagon — All is now quiet at the Pentagon. If you ask a General what time it is, he answers in a whisper. If you ask an Admiral if it's raining outside, he says: "It's off the record." Ike tied their tongues in such tight knots you can't get a "hello" out of them. It was the President himself who ordered Secretary of Defense Wilson to stop all press conferences, speeches, views and comments on military policy. The President threw such a scare into Wilson that he not only canceled the entire public information program but promptly canceled a background briefing with Air Chief Gen. Nate Twining, and suspended a U. S. News and World Report interview with Gen. Curtis Le May.

No more press conferences, either on or off the record. All's quiet, at least on the Pentagon side of the Potomac. Inside the State Department — John Foster Dulles may not always play both sides of the street when it comes to Republican-Democratic politics, but he certainly plays both sides when it comes to tipping off the newspapers. When he planted a copy of the secret, supposedly suppressed Yalta Papers with the New York Times, the press fact was that he evened up the score for a sensational Yalta tip he gave the rival New York Herald Tribune. The facts have remained secret for 10 years, but can now be revealed.

It was exactly 10 years to the very month that Dulles, then consultant to a Democratic State Department, tipped off Mrs. Ogden Reid, owner-publisher of the Herald Tribune, that Russia would be given three votes in the United Nations. The U. S. A. and every other country were to get one vote. This secret deal was agreed upon at Yalta. Incidentally, as it now develops over the protest of Alger Hiss, it was one of the most Hush Hush secrets of that conference — so secret that Secretary of State Ed Stettinius flatly, vigorously told the Herald Tribune it wasn't so. Dulles, however, told Mrs. Reid's staff to stick by their guns. She had passed the Dulles tip on to her Washington Bureau Chief, the late Bert Andrews. His diplomatic correspondent, John Metcalfe, now head of the Metcalfe, lecture bureau, queried State Department officials, got categorical denials. They went back to Dulles. He insisted the story was true. This was in March 1945. Prior to this, Dulles had been featured as Thomas E. Dewey's Secretary of State.

If he decided in keeping with bipartisan foreign policy, Dulles had been invited to sit in on State Department conferences.

So the New York Herald Tribune, accepting Dulles word, finally published the sensational story. The news rocked the nation. But Roosevelt himself confirmed that Russia would get a total of three votes in the United Nations.

Inside the Senate — when senators probe the Yalta Papers, they plan to ask Mr. Dulles why he leaked one Yalta secret to the New York Herald Tribune to embarrass the Democrats in 1945 and another Yalta secret to the New York Times in 1955. Senators remember that John Foster had been a part of a Democratic State Department, either as consultant or full-time official for just about eight years. When Ike ran for the Senate against Herbert Lehman in 1950, he almost lost his State Department post, was finally saved by Dean Acheson. During the Lehman-Dulles campaign, some harsh words were spoken against the long-time governor of New York. Dulles was both bitter and personal. After such a senatorial campaign, the winner usually objects to any federal job given his opponent. Accordingly, Truman ruled Dulles could not go back to the State Department

as GOP advisor to Acheson. Truman felt so strongly about this that he had a statement issued by the late Charlie Ross in Key West denying that Dulles would be permitted back.

Next day Dulles was appointed anyway. The appointment made the Key West office of the President look absurd. Some people even thought Truman's staff had been drinking.

Many years later Mr. Truman told me that Secretary Acheson had called him personally to urge that Dulles come back despite his attacks on Lehman. Acheson felt it was important to the Bipartisan foreign policy. So Truman reversed himself. As of today no high-up Democrat has been taken into the State Department.

Merry-Go-Round — Douglas Dillon called on Secretary Dulles last week, told him he wants to resign as American ambassador to France by June 1. Dillon has never quite recovered from a back injury he suffered in Paris. His successor still looks like Clare Boothe Luce, our glamorous ambassador to Italy. Senators are whispering about the hot backstage poker sessions carried on by the two most devoted poker players — Senators Welker of Idaho and Jenner of Indiana. Over Club Hobby, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, wants a new name for her agency. She blames her poor publicity on the agency's awkward name.

The Administration has found a new way to save money. It will order government subsidized shipping companies to stop serving their seamen fancy meals.

Capitol News

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN — It usually takes strife and controversy to make news. But this week in the Legislature there were signs that one of the big stories of the session would be the settling of an ancient controversy.

The indications were that the school land leaseholders and educational organizations were cautiously approaching each other to find a way to heal the bitter breach between them.

Up to now the leaseholders have insisted that either the lands should be sold or some thing done about cutting the rent. School groups have been unsympathetic toward anything that would decrease the revenues, which go to all the schools of the state.

But a new approach appears to be in the wind and it may be one both sides can agree upon. This would be the share-crop method of renting. Often used in private arrangements, it means that the renter give a set share of his production each year to the landlord and keeps the rest. Its advantage over a fixed rent is that it takes into account both lean years and bumper crops, giving both parties a fair share no matter what the crop outcome.

Such a method would replace the present system of charging a 6 per cent rental on the appraised value of the school land lease. The increase in appraisals—and hence rent—in recent years has been one of the big reasons the leaseholders have demanded relief.

Don Kline of the Nebraska State Education Association said he though his group would approve of such a method, although he could not commit himself because the association hasn't specifically discussed the matter.

Western Nebraska senators in the Legislature have declined direct comment. But the picture seems to be that they have decided that the Legislature definitely isn't going to go along with LB 26, a bill to sell the school lands.

The big news may be that both sides can agree on it. Technical Problems — Setting up a share-crop system won't be done with a mere snap of the fingers. It probably would require hiring a private land management firm since 1,650,000 acres are involved. This would mean the Legislature would have to appropriate more tax funds to the State Board of Educational Lands and Funds. Under the constitution income from the lands themselves cannot be used for administration. Another problem would be deciding how to share-crop grazing land. It's easy to divide up corn or wheat but cattle is another matter. It probably would require establishing a per unit per acre basis of rent. In such formula would have to be provisions for changes in the cattle market and for dry years when the grass is short. Tax Reform — The Legislature have the green light on general file (first major debate test) to LB 148, the "keystone" bill in a tax reform program in this session. Assessors under present law are supposed to use only one factor in assessing property—the current market value. LB 148 would allow them to use earning capacity, desirability, location, reproductions cost, and comparison with other properties in determining the value. Although the railroads and some large industries have been fighting this bill hard, on a decisive test vote attempt to kill the measure lost 6 to 30. This smashing victory for the bill promised well for other measures attempting to "doctor" the alling property tax system in Nebraska. Debate on this important measure took parts of four days. Sen. Otto Liebers of Lincoln, chairman of the special committee which wrote these tax reform bills, wrote two years of study, had to answer question after question on the measure. "This bill will make legal what assessors have been doing illegally. Under the present market value law it was just impossible to get fair equalization," Sen. Liebers said. So 53 counties have had scientific reappraisals in which "basic value" formulas similar to LB 148 have been used. Liebers estimated the 80 per cent of the property in the state has been assessed this way already. Liebers said that while market value sounds fine in theory it falls down because of local inflation, or the fact that some property seldom or never is bought and sold. Turnpike Bill — A bill to abolish the State Turnpike Authority received a favorable vote from the Legislature Public Works Committee and was sent to the Legislature itself for consideration. Proponents say the authority

THE PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL

Monday, April 4, 1955

Income Tax Fax

(Editors note: This is one of a series of articles on income tax which is being brought to the readers of the Journal as a public service. The series will continue weekly through April 1.)

By Peter James Wikel Public Accountant

Do you have to file a declaration of estimated tax for 1955? You do if:—

(1) the gross income for the taxable year can reasonably be expected to consist of wages and of not more than \$100 from sources other than such wages, and can reasonably be expected to exceed—

(a) \$5,000, in the case of a single individual other than a head of a household or a surviving spouse, or

(b) \$10,000, in the case of a married individual not entitled to file a joint declaration with his spouse;

(c) \$5,000, in the case of a married individual entitled to file a joint declaration with his spouse, and the aggregate gross income of such individual and his spouse for the taxable year can reasonably be expected to exceed \$10,000; or

(2) the gross income can reasonably be expected to exceed \$1,000 from sources other than wages and can reasonably be expected to exceed the sum of—

(a) the amount obtained by multiplying \$600 by the number of exemptions to which he is entitled plus

(b) \$400. Suppose you are married and have one child for whom you can claim an exemption, then you would figure like so: 3 exemptions at \$600 each \$1,800 Specific exclusion 400

\$2,200 So you would be required to file a declaration if your income could be expected to exceed \$2,200 and would include over \$100 from sources other than wages. The declaration may be a joint one with your spouse or a separate filing. Any tax paid on a separate declaration may be used to pay the tax due on a joint declaration; likewise any tax paid on a joint declaration may be used to pay the tax due on separate final returns.

Declarations of estimated tax are made on form 1040ES. These forms are available at your local office of the Director of Internal Revenue.

Your estimate and one quarter of the tax is due on April 15, 1955. Payments are due on June 15th and September 15, 1955, and January 15, 1956. On any one of these due dates you can file an amended estimate and change the amount of tax you are paying. Also, suppose that you are not required to file an estimate on April 15th. Suppose also that later in 1955 you have sufficient income to be required to file an estimate. Then you file on one of the above dates and pay your tax in installments spread over the remaining due dates.

All coniferous trees have two kinds of flowers, male and female, on the same tree according to the National Arborist Association.

LETTER BOX

The Journal welcomes letters from readers for this column. If you submit your name must be signed to all articles intended for publication, however, by request, it can be omitted from the letter appearing in print. (Contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper.)

The Plattsmouth Journal, Plattsmouth, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Furse:

Due to your generous cooperation—and that of Mrs. Wolever — The Journal contributed mightily to the success of the 50th reunion of the Class of 1904, Plattsmouth High School, last May.

You may recall that I expressed to you, as I did to President A. W. Huebner of the School Board, and to Supt. T. I. Fry, the hope that our class had initiated a new tradition for PHS to follow out in succeeding years—that of permitting the alumni of 50 years ago to join each current class at graduation.

I am suggesting that The Journal take up this matter with the school authorities at an early time. Many more members of my class would have been with us on this happy occasion if more time had been given to the idea. I was too far away to give it the necessary attention.

I am further suggesting that The Journal take the initiative in the succeeding years to bring the old classes back to our Alma Mater for a day when they can again relive their happy days at Plattsmouth High School. Just one more means of drawing the Plattsmouth community together.

Thank you for giving this idea your careful consideration. Yours cordially, E. F. Tighe (Los Angeles, Calif.)

WOMEN WORKERS

The number of women working outside the home has increased over the past few years until it now equals the peak set in World War II. The Labor Department estimates that about 20,000,000 women are in the U. S. labor force at this time.

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