

The Time Is Now

Announcement this week of sharp hikes in the assessed valuation put on Los Angeles County property could be the moment of truth for our elected officials.

Those levels of government which depend heavily on property tax for operating revenue have reason to be elated at the results of Assessor Philip E. Watson's new assessment. It means, in a large measure, that they can get by with a smaller tax hike and thereby shift the burden of higher taxes to the assessor.

In the case of the city of Torrance, Mayor Albert Isen said yesterday that "the time has come to give the taxpayer a break."

Noting that the city could get substantially more revenue than it had anticipated, the mayor said it was time to reduce the rate.

"Let's face it—if you don't reduce the rate, the tax bills will be higher in the fall," he said.

The chance to reduce the rate and keep the tax bills down also is here for school trustees, college districts, county supervisors, and other agencies depending on property tax for revenue.

Whether the taxpayer gets the break to which he is entitled will be evident during the next few days. But if those elected officials and administrators who compile the figures and set the tax rates consider the sharp assessment hike a windfall, the taxpayer is in for a severe jolt next fall.

The time for the decision, however, is now.

Thanks, But No Thanks

Efforts of State Senator Alan Short of Stockton to put the state into the business of regulating bread prices stumbled and fell during committee hearings in Sacramento last week.

According to the Stockton Democrat, the state's bread prices needed regulating because the size of loaves and the price vary greatly.

A quick check of the bread section of any supermarket will back up the solon's observation on prices and varieties.

We don't believe, however, that the check will back up his conclusions that the housewife needs a new state board to regulate her bakery selections.

As a matter of truth, the great variety of bread is baked to meet the demands of the housewife and members of her family. The bakers would probably be happy to sell lots of one kind of bread at one price and simplify their production lines.

The same could be said for tailors, dressmakers, refiners, auto-manufacturers, and house builders.

That's not the way Americans want it, however, and those state officials who are eager to jump into all lines of private endeavor with their bureaus and boards are well advised to look twice before they leap.

We need fewer government boards and bureaucrats, not more.

Opinions of Others

It seems that the Office of Economic Opportunity has provided a grant of \$179,000 to Community Action, Inc., of Boone, N.C., to publish a weekly newspaper and distribute it free to everybody in four counties, including those who can't read. Weekly newspapers in the area already cover community news. The officials' objection is that not enough people subscribe to them and read them. If the OEO can publish a weekly newspaper in Northwest North Carolina, Washington can develop—gradually, insidiously—a federal press, financed by taxpayers' money and telling the American people only what it wants them to hear. That is not likely? No, it is not likely. It is still possible.—*Asheville (N.C.) Citizen.*

This is the season of the year when youngsters of various ages delight in the flying of kites. It is well to warn the youngsters to stay away from electric power lines and highways. Don't use wire for a kite string or a cord with tinsel or wire in it. Be sure the cord isn't wet. If kites break loose and the cord falls across electric wires, leave it alone. A few words of warning, sometimes, might save a young life.—*West Bend (Wisc.) News.*

When Secretary of Defense McNamara was asked whether he agreed with Westmoreland's public observation that the critics of the Viet Nam war were helping the enemy, he replied: "I have long spoken in favor of free speech in this country. . . . It's what we have fought for for 2200 years, domestically and internationally, and I would not like to see any action taken to in any way restrict it."—*James Reston in his New York Times column.*

Some people still do not seem to understand that no one ever gets anything "free" from any branch of government. Somewhere there must be taxes collected in order to provide the funds that are appropriated. Furthermore, about one third more money must be collected than is finally appropriated—the difference going for "administrative expense." Tax increases are never popular. They are necessary, however, if spending by all branches of our government and all other tax supported bodies as well continues yearly upward trends.—*Sullivan (Ill.) Progress.*

Vietnik Quest



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Family's Silver, Linen, Chef Flown to Nuptials

Leonard Bernstein, William Steinberg, and George Szell are volunteering their services to conduct the Israel Philharmonic during its proposed 20-city fundraising tour of the U.S. in August — Impresario John Kornfield is ready to put up the necessary \$10,000 to underwrite the performance in San Francisco. . . . Julie Christie, having sent Don Bessant packing, is commuting between her rented Sausalito houseboat and Hollywood, whereat dwells Warren Beatty, her new sweetie. . . . Max Awner, browsing through a recent issue of Telephone News, published by Pacific Telephone, was caught by a feature headed "What To Do About Malicious Phone Calls," which concludes "And remember, NEVER give your phone number to an unknown caller!" Especially when he already has it?

—to convert it from a "criminal" proceeding, replete with charges and counter-charges, into a simple admission of failure—are a step in the right direction, unless, of course, you happen to be a private eye. Or perhaps the right direction was discernible back in 1721, when the law in England forbade

lightened England forbade "any woman to impose upon, seduce or betray into matrimony any of His Majesty's subjects by means of scents, paints, cosmetics, washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, high-heeled shoes, or bolstered hips. Any marriage so contrived to be null and void."

I don't see why that wouldn't work today. For one thing, it would knock half the TV commercials off the air and save many a marriage right there.

"To stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but it is morally treasonable to the American people." No, Lyndon Johnson didn't say that, Teddy Roosevelt did. I don't know whether he meant it, but he said it — and, to employ another TR'ism, isn't it bully? . . . Cold war nightmare: The man in the White House makes a call on the hot line and a recorded voice says "The number you are calling is not in service at this time." Little things that ruin the day: You wave another driver across an intersection and he doesn't wave back, smile or even nod (doc, am I getting paranoid?); you shave, shower, put on your best suit and drive toward downtown for an important date — and halfway there, you discover a dime-sized patch of unshaved bristle on your

When the Kaisers travel, they travel first class. For the wedding of Henry Mead Kaiser (Henry J.'s grandson) and Margaret Jane Fuller in La Crosse, Wisc., the 100-odd members of the Kaiser family arrived there in a fleet of private jets. Patriarch Henry J. sent his personal chef from Honolulu, well ahead of time, to oversee the rehearsal dinner — and, adds the Milwaukee Journal, the chef brought along the family's own linen, china and silverware. Also, accdg. to the Journal, the Kaisers had their own limousines and chauffeurs shipped to La Crosse. "They're all such wonderful people," said an awe-struck friend of the bride's, "they live no differently from anyone else in their circumstances." Well put.

The various proposed changes in U.S. divorce laws

Morning Report:

Alexei Kosygin is an improvement over Nikita Khrushchev who was better than Josef Stalin but the Soviet Union still has a way to go before it gets the full drift of the Western world.

Joe never came to the United Nations. Nikita came and pounded his shoe on a desk. Alex attended but left before the Israeli delegate finished his speech and on the next day showed up after the American delegate had completed his.

I am sure that by Communist standards, this was done to show how resolute the Soviets were in the present dispute. But by our lights, it proved just the opposite. Over here, in an argument, you listen to the other fellow even when you are sure he is dead wrong.

Abe Mellinkoff

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Price Tag Is High When We Seek Government Aid

By HENRY MacARTHUR
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — In the face of widespread criticism over cuts in the 1967-68 budget made by Governor Ronald Reagan, some of the hard facts of life were brought out by Gordon P. Smith, Reagan's director of finance, in a speech made before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

Smith said governmental costs of the state of California rank eleventh in the world, and that 10 years ago, the total cost of government in California was approximately \$125 per capita. Today, it amounts to \$250 per capita.

"While the state budget increased over 200 per cent during the past 10 years," he declared, "the state's population increased only 40 per cent."

Turning to causes of the tremendous increases, he stated:

"The principal cause of the astronomical rise in domestic government costs has been a gradual erosion of private will, personal initiative, and self reliance on the part of too many Americans."

"It is obvious that far too many of us look to our gov-

ernment to serve our needs, rather than looking to ourselves. As a result, a large measure of our personal freedom has been sacrificed, and it has cost us dearly.

"Paternalism has crept into our government structure itself, for today, we find our local governments depending more and more upon the state for financial aid, and the state depend-

Sacramento

ing more and more upon the federal government for financial assistance.

"Fifty years ago, the basic responsibility for providing governmental programs rested at the local level, where public services are best carried out and more effectively controlled by the people.

"It is a sad commentary that a reversal in government is seen, whereby annual federal costs are over \$140 billions, and are twice as much as state and local costs combined.

"Although national population increased only 100 per cent during the past 50 years, federal costs have risen 13,800 per cent and costs 7,700 per cent and

local costs over 2,000 per cent.

"The domestic programs of the federal government have gone far beyond that ever envisioned by the creators of this nation."

He pointed out that government in America was originally intended to serve the needs of the people, rather than itself, and questioned the wisdom behind the soaring governmental enterprise.

California now is confronted with five basic fiscal problems, Smith declared.

These include paying off the cash debt left by the previous administration; reducing a budget that has soared beyond the ability of the people to pay for it; adopting a sound and adequate tax program; revamping major programs such as Medi-Cal and welfare to reflect public responsibility more accurately and relieving the inequitable and unjust burden on property taxpayers.

In a community faced with this situation, it is easy to see why reductions in expenditure, unpopular though they may be, are necessary, for fiscal survival if nothing else.

ROYCE BRIER

Kosygin's World Views A Case of 'Prethought'

Any serious analysis of Premier Kosygin's presence in America, before the United Nations Assembly and at the New Jersey summit meetings, is bound to suggest he is not a dominating figure in the Soviet Union.

He is a man who wields great influence in certain councils in his own country. He may wield more influence than any other individual in Moscow. But his influence lacks the national force of that of President Johnson, who is not a dictator, either, but is unquestionably the dominant figure in the United States at present.

The nearest we have approached to dictatorship is the Lincoln Administration and the Roosevelt Administration after the 1936 election, and prior to the Supreme Court packing episode. All other Presidents

have been severely restricted by organized political resistance.

But Premier Kosygin, regardless of personal qualities, which appear considerable, is manifestly a member of a collective authority which administers the world (and domestic) policy of the Soviet Union.

This limitation was evident immediately when the

World Affairs

Premier began addressing the Assembly. The elements of Soviet policy governing the Mideast and southeast Asia were rigidly projected and clearly prefixed by Moscow consultations before Mr. Kosygin left home.

All his answers and ideas read like an editorial in 'Pravda,' which is nothing if not a minute reflection of prescribed Kremlin poli-

icy. This was even more conspicuous during the press interview, a procedure most trying for a President, though he has the freedom to calculate his course, and set forth his beliefs and intents.

On the surface Mr. Kosygin was a marvel of self-containment. He did not stutter as many a Governor must at delicate questions, or evade as many as a President must. He knew what he must say, and he said it, without hesitation or time for meditation.

He had three main themes: Soviet dedication to peace, Israel must withdraw from conquered territory, the United States must cease intervention in Vietnam. The last two are conditions for peace as Kosygin views it.

He took the three positions from various approaches, but all arrived at the same goal. Moreover, his position at the press meeting differed not at all from his position before the Assembly. Examination of the phraseology (as interpreted), would surely reveal no significant variations in the Kosygin wordage separated by several days, and President Johnson's reaction indicated the Kosygin wordage in private talks was identical with his public positions.

Note also his instant answer on Svetlana, daughter of Stalin, a Soviet exile to America with a status extraneous to world policy, but of sharp meaning to the Soviet society.

There is hardly a doubt Kosygin consulted with Kremlin associates as to how his presentation was going and probably the uncertainty how and when to meet President Johnson depended on authorization from Moscow.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Israeli's Six-Day War Now 'Instant History'

Fastbacks: Bantam Books is the first under the wire with the story of last month's war in the Middle East. "Strike, Zion: Israel's Six-Day Battle of Survival" is the result of writing, editing and book production on a most a newsmagazine schedule. Other works on the Arab-Israeli conflict have been announced.

"Strike, Zion" was the code name the Israeli general staff gave to its contingency war plan. This is the story as recorded in Israel by William Stevenson, Canadian TV producer of documentary films. He wrote much of it in the Tel Aviv Hilton between dashes, his publishers tell us, to battle scenes by jeep and by helicopter. Stevenson is quoted:

"I'm not Jewish. . . . But for once it was good to report something I felt strongly about. . . . I haven't felt this way since the Battle of Britain." Leon Uris ("Exodus") contributed an essay to Stevenson's document on the perspective of the war as related to Jewish history.

"Six Days in June: Israel's Struggle for Survival," a paperback edited by Robert J. Donovan, has been announced by New American Library. And "Lightning Out of Israel," an Associated Press day-by-day record and analysis of the events of the conflict, will be issued on July 18 by Prentice-Hall.

"The Sun Stood Still" (a reference to Joshua's command at Gideon), by Roderick MacLeish, a Westing-

house TV broadcaster who also was in Israel during the fighting, will be published by Atheneum. MacLeish's book will not be a rush job. According to its author, it will seek beyond the immediate political and military facts of the war and "attempt to penetrate the history and psychology that ultimately caused the third Arab-Israeli conflict in less than 19 years."

General Moshe Dayan's brilliant direction of the Israeli military victory has aroused new interest in his book about the victory of 1956, "Diary of the Sinai Campaign." Harper & Row publishes the hard-bound edition; in the wake of recent events, Schocken Books has ordered a new printing

of its \$1.95 paperback edition.

On the occasion of the University of California centennial, Ansel Adams has created a photographic essay, "Flat Lux," which McGraw-Hill will introduce in October. A tribute to the institution that has grown from a small regional college to one of the world's most distinguished universities.

Also from McGraw-Hill in the fall: "India, India," billed as a controversial report by the Australian-born San Francisco journalist Lisa Hobbs, whose "I Saw Red China" was a success of a few seasons ago.

On Simon & Schuster's autumn list: "The Great International Paper Airplane Book," by Howard Gossage and Jerry Mander, described as "the official fly-it-yourself book of planes from Scientific American's first international paper airplane competition."

"Beardsley," a biography of the 19th Century illustrator by Stanley Weintraub, begun before the much-publicized exhibits of Beardsley's work in London and New York, has been issued by George Braziller, Inc.

My Neighbors



"Honey, what do you have against my having a checking account?"