

Press-Herald

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A Rare Chance to Help

Next weekend promises to be a busy time around the South High School campus as students, faculty, and community groups combine forces to present an international festival to benefit a Nepalese high school.

To be conducted under the banner of "Operation Nepal," the event will be held at South High School on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On hand will be amusement rides, booths, entertainment, games, and fireworks.

We suggest right now that you put aside some time during one or more of those three days to attend the affair. Take the whole family along.

Funds raised through the project will go to aid Azad High School in Banepa, Nepal, in the purchase of school materials, furniture, equipment, and educational supplies.

"Operation Nepal," which has been given the green light by those official agencies concerned in this country and in Nepal, is the outgrowth of a visit here last year of Ram B. K. Shrestha, headmaster of the small Azad High School. His enthusiasm for a better school system in Nepal sparked next week's event.

The South High program offers many of us a rare chance to participate directly in a program which promises so much help in an area of need.

A Dirt-Cheap Bargain

Alvin Dumler an especially acute observer of trends around the state of Kansas for that state's Hutchinson News, reported the other day with what seemed to be a touch of awe that a full section of land (that's 640 acres, Bub) had brought \$317 an acre at public auction.

"It represents the top figure for dry land acreage to be reported in recent months," Dumler wrote.

We wonder how some of our California friends would like to pick up an acre at those prices and sell it at Torrance prices—say \$80,000 or so an acre.

To paraphrase an old saying, it isn't what you have in the real estate business. It's where you have it.

Opinions of Others

Inflation, in sapping the purchasing value of the earned and saved dollars, is the most vicious form of taxation ever devised.—*Santa Paula (Calif.) Chronicle.*

What was once something known as aid-to-the-poor is now a support system for all families whose incomes don't measure up to the minimum determined by federal officials to provide adequate subsistence. Millions of families in the U.S. . . . heretofore not on public assistance will be subsidized.—*Waltham (Mass.) News-Tribune.*

Perhaps it will be necessary for every American to become a bit of a penny-pincher . . . if we ever are to get men in Congress and in public office to return to a realistic viewpoint of the dollars they are spending. . . . To the people who have to work to pay the taxes, they represent much more than mere figures on a ledger, much more than figures on an appropriation sheet, they represent dollars, a unit of compensation for so much work and creative activity or production. We'd like to get Congress to that view point.

ROYCE BRIER

Public Must Keep Right To Attend Crime Trials

In a northern California county an attorney for two men accused of a brutal murder petitioned the court to hold a secret preliminary hearing. He did this on the ground that such evidence as the district attorney chose to reveal at the hearing could prejudice his clients. It appeared a local newspaper had already printed some allegations contained in the indictment. At this writing the court had not yet acted on the petition.

The case bears an obvious relation to the recent vote of the House of Delegates, American Bar Association, in Chicago, calling for suppression of the main body of news of a criminal investigation prior to trial. This in turn relates to a decision of the United States Supreme Court, which reversed the murder conviction of a doctor in Cleveland because of "prejudicial" news stories in the Cleveland newspapers before and during trial.

Even larger ramifications of this secrecy syndrome can be seen in latter-day public affairs, from congressional committees down to school boards, and legal clouture is only a part of it.

Newspapers have a counter-suppression weapon, in such cases — they can omit the names of arresting officers, judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys from the news stories. No great violence to legitimate news would be worked by such omission, though it would touch the sensibilities of public officers involved in

Opinions on Affairs of the World

the administration of justice.

Newspapers have not so far used this weapon, but it is conceivable they would if the ABA stand succeeds in choking off legitimate news procedures in investigation of criminal acts. The public stake in the administration of justice supercedes the right of an accused adult to be spared the pain of publicity attending the crime of which he is accused.

Further, the sword cuts both ways. The public stake in justice requires also that one wrongfully accused be spared the arbitrary and wrongful action of public officers to convict him. Every year the newspapers upset thousands of such wrongful



HERB CAEN SAYS:

New Political Approach: Mean and Active Apathy

Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the daughter of Teddy Roosevelt, upon being asked what role she will play in the '68 elections: "I think it will be one of malevolent disinterest."

Add wistfully entertaining flicks currently making the rounds: "Closely-Watched Trains," a Czech film of World War II, which brings the surprising news (surprising to me, anyway) that the Czechs are every bit as sex-obsessed as the rest of us. The film could just as easily have been named "Bed Czech."

The one-man gang: Enrico Banducci, owner of the hungry i, put on his work clothes the other morning, grabbed a sledgehammer and absolutely destroyed a Broadway bar called the Swiss Chalet. He wasn't going berserk, although any man in the night club business is entitled. The Swiss Chalet is next to his Enrico's Coffee House, and he is converting it into a fish house to be called Harry's Chowder House, Clam Depot and Inland Pier. The name hon-

ors his late Maitra d'hojel, Harry Smith, but it makes sense in any case since Enrico's real first name is also Harry.

Sign on the back of a station wagon parked at Tahoe's Crystal Bay Club: "SMOKE NOW—PAY LATER." It unnerved me so, I didn't even smoke in the shower that morning.

On the other side of the Report From Our Man In San Francisco

cultural street, San Francisco music-lovers have a new idol: Seiji Ozawa, the 33-year-old Japanese who has been signed as the next "Permanent" conductor of the S.F. Symphony (permanent in quotes, since they come and go at a furious rate these days). At the conclusion of his most recent concert here, the overflow audience let out a football-like roar, drowning out the last notes of the Tchaikowsky Fourth, and charged the stage in the kind of frenzy usually inspired only by Nureyev or the Beatles.

There's a touch of the hippie about Ozawa, too. He wears hair very long and combed forward in a wing-like effect, and his attire runs to turtleneck sweaters, very tight pants, an intricate silver chain around his left wrist, and a French blazer on which he wears a button inscribed "Viva Vera!" (Vera being his Eurasian fiancée). But on the podium, the tiny conductor is a dynamo; I think he must be transistorized, for if he had ordinary tubes he'd be nine feet tall. Musically, he's the most exciting thing to hit San Francisco since Luisa Tetrazzini sang "Last Rose of Summer" before a crowd of 100,000 at Third and Market—and that was back in 1915.

Eastward Ho: Bill Graham, owner of the Fillmore Auditorium (rock capitol of the West), is dickering to buy N.Y.'s big old Village Theater and turn it into a psychedelic ballroom to be called Fillmore East. . . . Hey there, late-late movie fans: Key Luke, Charlie Chan's No. 1 son, is alive and may be seen on Blue Chip Stamp highway billboards, holding aloft an electric iron. Alas. . . . The recommendations of Gov. Reagan's Survey on Cost and Efficiency—compiled by a group of big businessmen interested in economy—may be purchased for \$25 a copy. I think I'll wait for the movie, starring Jimmy Stewart. Reagan plays his best friend. . . . Customer to bartender at Joe's in Fallsdale:

"Gimme a mental martini—you pour the gin and I'll think vermouth."

Those around here who never thought the hippies would develop any political muscle are beginning to guess again. The new Peace and Freedom Party, which just qualified for the Calif. ballot, not only has been organized the hippies like mad, they've also hooked up with the Black Panthers—a significant development since hippies in the past have shown little interest in (or identification with) the plight of the urban Negro. The unifying word is still "Love"—but in the future you may see it painted on the side of a Molotov cocktail, flying fuzzward.

Dave Falk, vice-pres. of the big Roos/Atkins chain, went to Los Angeles for a convention last week—and since he arrived late in the afternoon, he asked his cabbie at the airport: "You know a good place for dinner?" "Sure," replied the driver, "but it's about 45 minutes from here." Dave: "That's okay—what's the name of the place?" Cabbie: "San Francisco." What's a good man like that doing down there in Upper Baja California?

Quote

A beautician says that plenty of sleep is an invaluable aid to good locks. It would seem that a considerable number of people suffer from insomnia.—Olin Miller in the Duncannon (Pa.) Record.

Three mothers complained because they never had a chance to wear their wigs anymore for their teenage daughters always had them on.—Opal Moody in the Drumright (Okla.) Derrick.

The people have a constitutional right to be discourteous. But nobody has the right to throw bottles, stones, and bags of animal blood.—Mayor Joseph Alioto of San Francisco.

I offer this measure as a unique opportunity to wipe out a useless board and cut state expenditures by about \$300,000 a year. This is a stacked board with six members representing the dry cleaners and a grand total of one member representing the public.—Assemblyman John T. Knox (D-Richmond), on bill to abolish state board of dry cleaners.

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Screams Growing Louder Over State Income Taxes

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — One of the biggest issues in California politics today, other than the war in Viet Nam, is the huge increase in state income tax that will hit the pocketbooks on April 15.

But, unlike the VN war, where there are a lot of suggestions from both directions, no one has any plans to do anything about the personal income tax bite.

Of the 120 members of the legislature, the seats of 100 are up for reelection and, so far, 97 have plans to seek another term. Most all of them are concerned about the mail they're receiving on the income tax but the concern is about as far as they go.

The boost in the income tax was a part of the overall tax increase bill of 1967 — largest enacted in any state. It was necessary to pick up some deficits in state government that had been developing over the years.

The 1967 law boosted the rates and narrowed the brackets at which a wage earner moved from one bracket into another. But more important for the middle-class taxpayers, it substituted tax credits for exemptions for family dependents. Instead of an exemption of \$3,000 for a married couple and \$600 each for children, it provides net tax credits of \$50 per couple and \$8 per dependent.

Consider the case of the man with a wife and four children earning \$12,000 a year in adjusted gross, with \$3,000 in deductions for mortgage interest, taxes and medical expenses. Under the old system, he would have deducted \$5400 in personal exemptions (\$3,000 for a married couple, \$600 for

each dependent) and paid taxes on \$3600. This would have come under the rate of 1 per cent and his tax would have been \$36.

Under the new system, the man begins computing his tax on the \$9,000 figure. The first \$4,000 is based on a 1 per cent rate, or \$40; the next \$1,500 at a 2 per cent rate, or \$30; the next \$1,500

at 3 per cent, or \$45; the next \$1,500 at 4 per cent, or \$60; and the remaining \$500 at 5 per cent, or \$25.

The grand total comes to \$200, from which the taxpayer may deduct \$50 for himself and his wife, plus another \$32 for his four children.

Many taxpayers thus are shocked to find that the increase — billed during the 1967 session as a 70 per cent increase — is going up by two to seven times.

"We were told last year the tax was going up 70 per cent, or even 100 per cent," Senator Hugh M. Burns, D-Fresno, president pro tempore of the senate, said. "But I'm having a hard time finding the guy who is only going up 100 per cent. Most of them are 300 or 400 per cent."

That outlines the problem but what are the state's lawmakers doing about it? The answer is that they are viewing with alarm and seriously considering, and that's about all.

"I've heard a lot of talk," said Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, D-Inglewood, "but that's all. I haven't heard anything in the way of a proposal."

Any changes made in 1968 wouldn't take effect until 1970.

Unruh's counterpart, Assemblyman Robert T. Monagan, R-Tracy, the Republican leader in the assembly, said it's not at all likely anything will be done this year.

Senator George Deukmejian, R-Long Beach, was the author of the tax increase bill last year and his office is receiving many calls on the subject now.

"I've heard nothing official from the administration about considering any changes," Deukmejian said. "I realize a lot of people are unhappy."

"The big problem is that the people have to pay in a lump sum," he said. "It's the same as property taxes and people holler when they have to pay in a lump sum."

"If we had a withholding tax, it wouldn't be so drastic," Deukmejian said. "You don't hear people screaming as loudly about the federal income tax even though it is much bigger, because it's taken out each week."

Thus Deukmejian, who is an opponent of withholding the same as Governor Ronald Reagan, has delivered a near-elocuent pitch for withholding.

The void of action on doing something about the income tax carries through to Reagan's office. A staff aide said nothing is being considered on the income tax itself. It's possible, the secretary said, that some changes might be made in the personal income tax as part of an overall reform of taxes, but only in that context.

"I warned them last year that they could raise the sales tax and never hear a whimper but, once they touch the income tax, they are in trouble with the people," Senator Burns said.

AFFAIRS OF STATE

New Effort Made to End Business Inventory Tax

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

An initial move toward repeal of the business inventory tax has been made by Assemblyman John G. Veneman, R-Modesto, who has introduced a bill providing for exemptions of 15 per cent from the total assessed by the counties.

"This is the important first step toward eventual repeal of the business inventory tax," Veneman said. "The bill implements the provisions in last year's tax program which set aside \$39 million for inventory tax relief."

Under last year's program, the legislature allocated the \$39 million to reimburse local government to carry out the first phase of what is planned to be the eventual repeal of the tax, and this amount is estimated to be approximately 15 per cent of the total business inventory tax assessed in March of each year by local government.

Although the state funds were made available, the legal machinery for making the subventions to local governments was not effected in 1967, and this is what Veneman's bill proposes to do.

He summarized his measure as follows:

1. Beginning on the 1968-69 tax year, 15 per cent of the value of business inventories will be exempt from local property taxation.
2. Local governments will be reimbursed for the loss in revenue as follows:
 - a. Cities, school districts and special districts will be reimbursed by the county after computing their exact loss in revenue.
 - b. Counties will be allocated \$39 million from the state property tax relief fund, on a lump sum basis, for their own replacement revenue and for replacement revenue for other local units. This will be made on Aug. 31 of each year.

3. Inventories include goods held for sale or resale, including raw material, work in process, and finished goods. Motion picture and TV negatives, films, and tapes are included as inventory, as are animals and crops held for sale or used in the production of food and fiber.

He declared that the business inventory tax "has long been recognized as an inequitable tax, and damaging to the economic future of California."

Whether the eventual repeal of this tax, which is opposed by individuals and leading organizations throughout the state, will depend on a major overhaul of the entire tax structure in California remains to be seen.

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