

# -Comment and Opinion-

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1968

## The Cost of Government

Governor Ronald Reagan, when signing the record \$5.7 billion budget for fiscal year 1968-69, observed that "the cost of government in California is still too high."

No doubt this comment will go down as the understatement of the year, as it is not as all-encompassing as it could be. More appropriate would be the comment that the "Cost of government is too high."

For the taxes the people of California pay to conduct government in California constitute only a portion of the earnings they hand to bureaucracy to conduct government not only at the state, but also at the federal and local levels, the latter of which are divided up into support of cities, counties, and special districts.

Looking at the authorized expenditures for the now current fiscal year, a little figuring shows that on a straight per capita basis, every citizen of California is paying \$285 per year to support state government.

Of course, this isn't true. Some are paying more and most less, because taxes aren't paid on a per capita basis, and never have been. But at least, this somewhat startling figure gives a rough idea of what the individual bill would be if there were an individual bill.

Carrying the observation a step further, although the population of California is rated roughly at slightly more than 20 million people, upwards of 10 per cent of this total population are deriving a living from government in one way or another, which means that they are contributing nothing toward meeting the tax bill.

Thus, it is up to the 18 million who are left, on a per capita basis, to support government, and at the same time, support the two million who are not supporting themselves.

Figured on this basis, the per capita tax bill for state purposes alone amounts to \$316 per year per individual, which is more than a dollar for every working day.

Now add to this amount the per capita taxes for federal government support, a figure is lost in the high finance of government, but which is bound to be a lot greater than the

amount for state support, if the taxes on income are any comparison.

And also add the amount per capita that is paid to local government, including the cities, the counties and the hundreds of special districts throughout California.

All of which results in clearing up wonderment at times, why there isn't enough left to pay the monthly bills, and put aside a little, just a little, to make old age a time of life to be welcomed rather than a period of struggling through it on a social security pittance.

The really discouraging aspect of the entire situation is that there's no way out of it, and seemingly no hope for the future. The history of government is one of spiraling expenditure, and from all indications, will continue in the same manner.

The federal 10 per cent surtax adds to the taxpayer burden this year, and if the rising rate of state expenditure continues, as it no doubt will, the drums will soon start beating for more tax increases next year. The increase this year was roughly 12 per cent over 1967-68, yet legislators already are crying because the governor made a few small cuts from the amounts they requested.—HCM.

### Overdue Admission

One good result of massive federal deficits has been that high public officials, apparently unable to sweep all the facts under the rug, have of late been acknowledging that government has been the major cause of inflation, because it has spent so much more money than it has collected in taxes. Even with a tax boost and a \$6 billion spending cut this isn't likely to change too much in the near future.

This is good basic economics to remember when office seekers promise something for nothing at taxpayer expense at election time. Higher wages and higher prices won't help the working man or business keep up with inflationary dollars whose value is slipping away like a snowball in the summer sun.



ROYCE BRIER

## Japanese Industry Light On Gimcracks These Days

There was a news item that the Japanese are putting on the market a battery-operated television with a 1½-inch screen, to be carried in your pocket. This is a harmless piece of technology, though you may wonder how Tiny Tim will look and sound on a 1½-inch set.

We used to think the Japanese only made gimcracks and imitated the larger Western technology. They ceased making the gimcracks in 1941, and imitation, if any, of the larger technology was not good enough.

But all these concepts of one people about another people are highly suspect, and easily form themselves into myths.

On a visit to Japan in 1961, the writer was told by a group of industrialists that the Gross National Product (total annual value of goods and services) was \$40 billion. Three years later it was \$60 billion. In 1967 the figure was \$115 billion. As it is growing by 19 per cent a year, it will approach \$140 billion by Dec. 31 of this year.

This is the third biggest GNP in the world, the American being \$800 billion, the Soviet about \$350 billion.

The Japanese have few material resources. They have no oil, and no appreciable supply of iron ore and coking coal for steel, or other minerals. They must import most of their raw textile goods, including cotton, and their basic chemicals.

Yet they are by far the world's largest ship-builders, and they are near the top in electronics, in chemicals and petrochemicals. Their automobile production and export is rapidly rising, and they supply the Asian mainland with structural steel without stinting themselves. They could make commercial aircraft, but the archipelago is so small they don't need them. No other non-nuclear nation could move so rapidly into nuclear production, but their mood is against it for obvious reasons.

How did the Japanese reach this peak in 23 years? You won't get the answer by strolling the Ginza, or making the Tokyo night scene, or riding the 130 mph train from Tokyo to Osaka. Nor let by visiting their farms, though they are still a farming people.

The answer is chiefly toil, foresight and ambition. Their economic ambition is in in-

verse ratio to that of most Western peoples. They won't be sidetracked by political turmoil and loss of production, as the Chinese are, and they don't lay down their tools in doubt of the direction they are taking, as Americans and many Europeans do.

## The Voyager: A Tribute to RFK

(Late in 1963 following the Dallas assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Press-Herald published a tribute in verse penned by Stella Isenhower Flewelling of Torrance. The editors then felt it was the most eloquent of the many expressions offered. Again the Press-Herald has selected the work of Mrs. Flewelling, who is a past president of the California Chapparral Poets—this time as an eulogy to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy who was assassinated in Los Angeles just a month ago.)

O, he was going truly home  
The Voyager . . . Moving . . . Moving . . . on

High over a grieving nation  
While the sun traveled slowly west,  
And the hearts of the world beat softly  
After feeling such great unrest

With its blue and silver glinting  
Through the ominous graying sky,  
The voice of the universe cried out  
As the jet slipped swiftly by.

Assassination shadows crept once more  
Into the hearts and lives  
Of those who loved so selflessly  
Their vibrant father . . . husband . . . son . . .

The Matriarchal Rose,  
Who with her loved-filled, courageous husband,  
Has weathered, safely, life's coldest winter storms  
And yet—is truly Sharon's own true-living Rose.

Ethel, Mother of ten. Attractive, vital, young,  
Whose half-girl innocent, whole-hearted trust,  
Buried deep in honest eyes,  
Was changed into the age-old disbelief of haunting,  
horror filled, hurt-sorrow.

And every wife who saw the sorrow  
in her face  
Laid bare her own soul-grief  
with sympathy.

And O, his second self,  
That stood guard at his father's pier  
With such high courage  
and clean-cut resignation  
That offered prayers begged, silently,  
For new assurance that such young shoulders  
Could stand the strain meant only  
For a wisdomed man of years.  
And the children . . . O, Merciful God, the children!

The solemnity of these heartaches  
Made it difficult to breathe  
except in prayer.

His eulogized words  
"Some men see things as they are and ask why.  
I see things as they never were  
and say why not . . ."

Caught in the speaker's voice  
And lingered in the hearts of all who heard.  
The brother-voice touched every  
listening heart with . . .

"He was a good and decent man  
Who saw wrong and tried to right it,  
Saw suffering and tried to heal it,  
Saw war and tried to stop it."  
Celestial music filled the Cathedral.  
Fitting music and anthems of praise

## George, Ringo In Quiet Visit

Now they tell me: Two of the Beatles—George Harrison and Ringo Starr, plus their wives—have been Long Weekending at Del Monte Lodge in Pebble Beach, have now checked out, just ahead of the celebrity-hunters. George, wearing an orange suit and blue ruffled shirt, played golf badly, but Ringo spent most of his time in his room, so sensitive is he about a big boil on his face. They flew to Monterey from L.A. in a chartered jet—and why Del Monte Lodge? Because the man who runs the place, Aime Michaud, is a hot pop music fan as well as a big backer of the late Monterey Pop Festival, and the Beatles consider him sympatico. Which he is.

Caengetti: Some fantastic going-on at KGO. "Personality" John Broom, running one of the telephony talk-shows, suddenly began berating fellow "Personality" Ira Blue on the air: "If he's read the Warren Report, I'll push a peanut up and down Golden Gate Avenue with my nose." "He has such a warped head he has to wear an orthopedic hat," and so. Ira, listening to this in his car, raced to the studio, ran into an unoccupied control booth, put himself on the air and began attacking Broom. Peace was eventually restored.

I guess that was one funny scene: A cop's car, racing to respond to a robbery call from the Trade Fair, smashed smack into an FBI agent's car—and how many reports in triplicate will that take? . . . Rev. Les Kinsolving, who covered the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, last month, was charmed to make contact with the Baptists' public relations chief, W. C. Fields, who is not alive and drunk in Oakland after all.

Flash: Lloyd's of London will no longer underwrite any California doctor who performs only surgical procedures. That's because of the whopping judgements handed out here in malpractice cases, thanks to the insidiously effective efforts of Melpractice Belli, Big Bad Boccardo and other top extorters. Furthermore, America Mutual Liability, which insures most doctors hereabouts, raised its rates sharply as of May 1—with increases of 58.2 per cent for surgical specialists and anesthesiologists! Will this whopping boost be passed on to the patient? Who else?

Were challenged by the simple American words  
"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory  
of the Coming of the Lord!"

The light-catching African Mahogany coffin  
Brought a near-gasp of recognition  
In remembrance of another day . . .  
a Rosewood casket—my fathers!

And as the funeral train  
Wound through the waiting crowds,  
Each saddened heart vowed once again  
To catch and hold the sanctity  
of our nation

Above the petty human ills  
That prejudices man against man.  
For after darkness comes the dawn,  
And after dawn new hope.

From every walk of life they came . . .  
Paying homage to a fallen American.  
Long hours turned into longer hours  
As the train slowed for lifted hands  
and heavy hearts.

A lone man knelt and prayed.  
A single bugler blew a mournful "taps."  
Two children held a sign to say  
"Good-bye to Bobby."

Number 4903 pulled into Penn Central Station.  
Regal; quiet, weary, and draped in black . . .  
Carrying a native son home.

Strains of reverent song filled all the bright-night air.

And for those who saw the after-twilight cortege  
Moving over light-reflecting, dampened streets,  
With the Capitol Dome illuminated . . .  
Resurrection City in the shadow  
of the whispering trees . . .  
Past Lincoln Memorial and across the wide Potomac  
The memory will always remain . . .

They will never forget his resting place . . .  
Sen. Robert Francis Kennedy lay  
Under the blossoming Japanese Magnolias.

"I am the resurrection and the life . . ."

Summer rain had fallen gently,  
Nature-tears in sympathy,  
While sobs of weeping women cried . . .  
All night-life yielded tenderly.

A full moon ventured out to see,  
As loved ones knelt to pray,  
Another track . . . another Train . . .  
Went slowly on its way!

O, he was truly going home . . .  
The Voyager . . . Moving . . . Moving on . . .

Stella Isenhower Flewelling  
June 10, 1968

### SACRAMENTO REPORT

## State Might Test Vehicle Emission Control Devices

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—Another approach to the smog problem has advanced a step in the assembly with the passage of AB 690, by Assemblyman James A. Hayes, R-Long Beach.

This measure would provide for a year-long test by 75 state automobiles, including those used by the California Highway Patrol, of exhaust emission.

The Long Beach assemblyman said he had hopes that the measure would resolve and settle the controversy over whether smog control devices are now available to meet the strict requirements necessary for improving the quality of air in California.

"We have been faced," he said, "with conflicting testimony as to what can, and what cannot be done in the way of controlling exhaust

emissions from automobiles. "AB 690 calls for strict standards and for the purchase by the state of devices that will meet these standards.

"The devices will be installed in vehicles operated by the highway patrol, the department of general services, and the division of highways.

"After the installation, each of the 75 motor vehicles will be inspected every 5,000

miles, or every four months, whichever occurs sooner, and the data and information obtained over one year, will then be furnished to the legislature for the purpose of use in adopting future legislation.

"This will be unbiased and useful information, and will be something not heretofore available. It is information that is vitally needed if we are going to make effective steps toward improving the quality of our air.

"Unless we do something along these lines in the next few years, the state may not be in a position to grow, let alone take care of the needs of the people who now reside in California."

Hayes pointed out that the problem is compelling and immediate.

"Agricultural damage last year to crops in California from air pollution was nearly

\$150 million, he declared. "Tens of thousands of people are ordered by their doctors to leave the smog basins because of the severe pulmonary and respiratory problems caused to them individually by polluted air."

The testing provided for in AB 690 will be complicated and detailed, Hayes pointed out.

"The procedure will prohibit tinkering or manipulation by anyone administering the program, and will further provide complete and convincing evidence to the a u t o m o b i l e manufacturing industry, as to just how the results of the tests are reached.

"In the past, manipulations with the test procedures had resulted in a procedure known as the averaging concept, which meant that any test result virtually was meaningless in its effect on control of air pollution. Averaging is entirely eliminated from the provisions of this new bill."

It can readily be seen that answers to the smog problem can't be obtained on a hit or miss basis, and that the answers which are going to count will have to be sought over a long period of time.

However, Hayes' measure is at least a step in the right direction toward solving a problem which menaces not only the economy of the state, but the lives of its people as well.

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