

In Tax Report

Czech Freedom Fighter To Speak Here Monday

Dr. Paul Rusick, organizer and leader of the first anti-communist underground movement in Czechoslovakia, will address a public audience in Torrance, next Monday at 8 p.m. at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. His subject will be, "Reds Crush Czech Freedom; U.S. Freedom Threatened."

Now an American citizen living in Los Angeles, Rusick graduated from the Medical School at Charles University in Prague, where he was trained to be a plastic surgeon.

He gained prominence, however, as a leader in Czechoslovakia's fight for freedom. In describing his experiences, Rusick says he became a marked man as soon as the communists took power in Czechoslovakia. "As an extremely dangerous political enemy," he adds, "I was hunted down by the communist secret police, imprisoned, and condemned to death at one of the largest public trials ever staged in Prague."

Tickets for this meeting are available at the door.

Study Group Asks State Withholding

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Recommendation for imposition of a withholding tax for payment of state income taxes, long opposed by Gov. Ronald Reagan, was a prime feature of a report submitted to the governor Monday by his advisory commission on tax reform.

Pressure has been on the governor during his more than two years in office, both from Republicans and Democrats, but primarily from the minority

party, to lift his opposition to withholding, principally on the ground withholding would provide about \$100 million additional revenue to the state, with an over-all tax increase.

In addition to the withholding proposal, the commission's report is loaded with additional controversial matters, including a previously suggested "service" tax, which involve a five-per-cent levy on utilities.

IN ALL, Houston I. Flournoy, state controller and chairman of the commission, indicated the

implementation of all the proposals would bring in some \$914 million in revenue to the state, more than \$500 million of which would revert in initial relief to cities and counties for property tax relief purposes.

Another controversial recommendation proposes a state-wide ad valorem tax on property through pooling of the first \$2,880 per \$100 of assessed valuation of educational purposes. This, it was claimed, would not be a new tax, but a device whereby funds would be allocated to

schools on the basis of popu-

lation, rather than point of origin. In other words, it would serve to obtain extra revenue from wealthy, low-rate districts for the benefit of the poorer and more populous districts.

The commission proposes "bloc" grants to cities and counties of California, providing some \$335 million property tax relief initially, which it said could be accomplished "with no appreciable increase" in state taxes.

THE COMMISSION would increase the home-owners assessment exemption from \$750 to \$1,000, and indicated proposed revisions in the veterans' tax exemption to equalize them with other home-owners.

Expansion of the sales tax, it was contemplated, through a utilities tax on sales of electricity, gas, water, telephone, telegraph personal care services such as cleaning, laundry, barber and beauty services; transportation, such as auto repair greasing, parking and rental; and recreation, such as

spectator sports, club and fraternal dues, radio and television repairs, would increase the sales tax take to the point where the bloc grants could be met.

Revision of the state's personal income tax laws are in order, the commission said, with restoration of the exemptions removed in 1967 in favor of tax credits, which is found to have worked a hardship on large families. It proposed allocation of 10 per cent of all personal income taxes be allocated to local government.

THE COMMISSION'S report, it was observed, has little new in it, and in fact, proposed increases in taxation, rather than all-around "relief." No proposals were included to make certain that should the package ever be adopted by the Legislature, city and county governments could not deflect the minor benefits provided by increasing their own tax rates in the future.

Attempts to extend the sales

tax to service and utilities have been made previously. The Legislature with some regularity, has sent them down the drain, and in all probability, will do so again, as the concept of relieving a few property taxpayers, and imposing additional taxes on everyone in another field, is not held to be politically acceptable, at least in many quarters.

Conference for Teachers Set

Wade Andrews, a West High business teacher and work experience coordinator, will be attending a training program entitled "Occupational Curriculum Development in Business Education."

The course is to assist the teachers in training students for entry-level jobs and to prepare them for not one but many jobs. The course will be presented at Los Angeles State College for five Saturdays beginning April 12.

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