

Changes in Veterans' Tax Exemption Need New Study

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District

The tax exemption for veterans in California originated in 1911 for the purpose of persuading veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Indian Wars to come to California to live. At that time, the exemption for veterans was not enacted in lieu of a bonus or for any purpose other than enticing veterans to move to California. It was, in effect, a moratorium on taxes until the value of each veteran's property reached a certain level. After it reached a certain value, it was subject to taxation the same as the property of those who were not veterans.

The California State Constitution allows the veteran to own property worth \$5,000, without being taxed, but the State Constitution did not provide for problems which arose after the exemption became part of the Constitution. Under a ruling of the Attorney General of California, if a veteran is married, he is entitled to have \$10,000 in property, \$5,000 of which is for himself and \$5,000 for his wife.

HOWEVER, in administering the exemption for veterans, every County Assessor in California has been following the rule of using the assessed valuation of the real property owned by the veteran, that is, his house and lot. This means that if the County Assessor is assessing real property at 25 per cent of the fair market value, a veteran's home having a fair market value of \$20,000 is assessed as \$5,000.

Some County Assessors in California have been disregarding the veteran's personal property, which includes his household furnishings, money in a checking and savings account, stocks, bonds, etc. Other County Assessors in California have taken the position that personal property owned by a veteran should be included before the exemption is granted. These County Assessors in many counties have used the actual market value of personal property, not 25 per cent or any other ratio less than 100 per cent, but 100 per cent. In other words, they not only included personal property but assessed it at its full market value. The result in thousands of cases has been the denial of any tax exemption to the veteran. Naturally, this has caused thousands of veterans in such counties to complain bitterly.

IT IS THE official and personal opinion of Philip E.

Health Center Slates Infant Care Sessions

The County Health Department will sponsor a seven-session class for prospective mothers beginning Feb. 17 at the department's Torrance office, 2300 W. Carson St., from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The infant care class designed for women who are under the care of a private physician, is without charge.

Program will include: growth of baby before birth, hygiene of pregnancy, care and feeding of the newborn, child safety, and motion picture illustration of childbirth.

Persons attending may register on the first day of the session or may call the Los Angeles County Health Department, FA 8-3310, ext. 21.

Hardie Named to Publicity Spot

Paul F. Hardie, 2756 Onrado St., has been appointed associate director of publicity for the Long Beach Chapter of the National Association of Accountants.

Hardie, chief cost accountant for Rome Cable, division of Alcoa, will direct publicity activities in the Torrance, Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes areas.

Scarlet Fever Tops Contagious Diseases

Three cases of scarlet fever were reported to the Los Angeles County Health Department from the Torrance area for the week ending Feb. 1. One case each of syphilis and gonorrhea was reported also.

Watson, County Assessor of Los Angeles County, that the only solution to this problem of taxing the personal property of veterans is for the California State Legislature to enact one or more new laws which will clarify and make uniform the assessment procedures of all County Assessors. I personally and officially agree with Mr. Watson and will support such legislation when it is introduced in the Legislature. I doubt that we can enact good laws on this subject during the short 1964 Budget Session or any

of the several Special Sessions called by the Governor in 1964, but we will try and if we fail, we will try again in 1965 during the long General Session.

Any new laws regarding the taxation of personal property owned by a veteran must clarify the following points:

1. Should the personal property of a veteran be considered in establishing his exemption in addition to his real property?

2. Exactly what personal property should be included? This means should we include all personal property, or only certain types of personal property?

3. Assuming that all of the veteran's personal property, or any portion of it, be considered in arriving at the veteran's qualification for exemption, what uniform assessment practice should be enacted by the Legislature? Should the personal property be assessed at full, cash market value or at some percentage of cash value, such as 25 per cent, as is the ratio for assessing real property in many counties?

UNDER THE California Statutes as they exist now, there is a distinction made between a veteran and a "California Veteran," called "Cal-Vet" for short. A veteran who is recognized as a California Veteran is entitled, subject to some restrictions, to borrow money from the State for the purchase of a home or a farm under what is commonly called "the Cal-Vet Farm and Home Purchase Program."

The original reason for this distinction between a veteran

who is not a California Veteran and the veteran who is so designated was that California did not give a bonus to veterans after World War I but many other states did give a State bonus after World War I. The preference for the so-called California Veteran was intended to take the place of a State Bonus in California at the end of World War I.

Finally, none of the above remarks should be construed that I am in any way opposed to fair treatment for all veterans.

JA Center Opens House To Visitors

The Junior Achievement business center at 1530 S. Prairie Ave. held open house for more than 400 visitors during Junior Achievement Week.

Visitors watched the JA companies in operation. Products manufactured this year by the youthful achievers include coaster sets, plastic key chains, blinker lights, chip and dip bowls, magazine racks, etc.

This year there are 29 JA companies operating in the

Safety Council Awards Drivers Of Top Record

Vernon Brittain, 3205 W. 178th St., was one of 20 Los Angeles City School district drivers honored by the National Safety Council for having a minimum 10-year record of accident-free driving.

The 20 drivers also received City Board of Education certificates of merit for their safety achievements.

During 1963, Los Angeles school drivers traveled 1,213,864 miles with no fatalities or injuries reported.

Southwest Los Angeles area and 4,862 nationally.

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Mild & Gentle. Green
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Liquid Diet
225 Calories Per Can.
Ass't Flavors.
18 oz. Cans
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STUART HALL—3 Hole
Punched, Wide or
Narrow Rule—500 Sheets
79c

AJAX
LAUNDRY DETERGENT
(for Automatic Washers)
with Ultramarine Bleach
5 lb. 3 1/2 oz. King Size
98c

Whitman's Chocolates
Assorted Centers
Chocolate Covered
IN DECORATED HEART BOXES

Ribbon Heart
Assorted pastel
colors, embossed
gold color. 1 lb. **1.89**

Fancy Flange
Gaily decorated—
Milk & Dark
Chocolates. 1 lb. **2.98**

Satin Corsage
Large Ribbon
& Flower. Col-
ors. 1 lb. **2.79**

Red Heart
Gold embossed
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Decorated Foil
Flower and Rib-
bon Decorated...
Colors. 1 lb. **2.19**

Orchid Corsage
With "Sampler"
Assortment. 14 oz. **4.00**

Deluxe Foil Heart
With "Life-Like" spray
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Scalloped Lace
All soft centers—
4 assorted colors. 1 lb. **3.50**

Red Foil Heart
With matching ribbon bow. 1 lb. **2.25**

Whitman's "Sampler"
Decorated Cello Wrapped
1 Pound 2 Pound
2.00 4.00

"Hi-Flying" KITES

2 Stick Kite **13c**

TWINE
1 lb. **9c**
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"Yo-Yo's" by DUNCAN
Tournament **33c** Imperial **79c**
Butterfly **49c** Butterfly **79c**

BRACH'S Chocolates
Assorted Delicious Centers
covered with Pure Chocolate.
IN HEART BOXES

Deluxe Heart
3 assorted designs,
matching
ribbon. 1 lb. **1.49**

Cover Girl Heart
Milk & Dark Chocolates
— Red or
Pink foil. 1 lb. **2.59**

Flower Top Heart
Large flower, leaf &
matching
ribbon. 1 lb. **1.95**

Lace Flower
Lace trimmed edge, flow-
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2-piece sets in attractive
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Training Pants
Double thickness, triple crotch.
Blue or Pink
Prints. 2 to 6 **3 for 1.00**

Girls' Panties
Adorable styles in pastel colors,
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Assorted shapes and pastel
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Reg. 59c ea. **2 for 49c**

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Hi-bulk Orlon-acrylic &
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... relief of colds, sinus
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98c—24's **73c**

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Mouthwash & Gargle
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8 oz. 57c Size **45c**

JERGENS
LOTION with Dispenser. Beau-
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Cough Drops — 3 Assorted
Flavors... Pak of 3 **19c**

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Shrinks Hemorrhoids — re-
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Feminine Belt
Self-locking clasp. Reg. 90c **29c**

60 Ft. Plastic Garden Hose
2.98

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S.E.—Designed for port-
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Reg. 1.00 **2 for 1.00**

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