Corporations Spend Half Billion to Figure Taxes

By REYNOLDS KNIGHT

People who wrestled with their income tax forms recently probably would like to forget the time effort and money that went into the operation. But the memory lingers on.

For many, there was an unpleasant surprise as a result of the 1964 law that reduced the withholding rates and left so many people owing larger sums than they had expected. There were also problems of more new provisions to cope with, and more paper work.

All of this may lead to a simplification of certain rules that are especially troublesome, including the new income-averaging provisions. Just the back-and-forth arithmetic alone is enough to stump many a poor taxpayer, and it's no wonder that more and more individuals asked for professional help.

If it's any consolation—though it won't be much—the nation's corporations spent an estimated half a billion dollars last year just to figure their taxes.

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KEEPING TABS—Gemini astronauts Virgil Grissom and John Young may have had that all-alone feeling when they made their three-orbit flight in the Molly Brown spacecraft. But actually they were "bugged" by hundreds of communication engineers of The Bendix Corp. at NASA tracking stations around the world. The interior of the maneuverable spacecraft was probably the most completely monitored "room" in history.

The heartbeats, respiratory rates and other pertinent medical data of the two men were instantly and continuously relayed to doctors through a telemetric and console communications system. If either astronaut had taken a 40-winks nap, ground controls would have set off an alarm "clock" in his helmet—just to make sure that all operations and tests were being run as scheduled during the flight of 4 hours and 54 minutes.

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BITS O' BUSINESS—Natural gas sales last year were up 5½ per cent, to $7.1 billion. Air conditioning and gas-operated engines helped boost the total . . . A Chicago firm has obtained exclusive rights to use "James Bond, Secret Agent 007" on toys, novelties and even men's jewelry. Ian Fleming's hero marches on and on . . . Britain's largest chemical and fiber producer has reduced prices on 70 types of nylon and yarn sizes by 5 to 7 per cent . . .

Suggestions made for new coins to have 95 per cent nickel and 5 per cent silicon, to help ease the silver shortage, but unresolved is whether these coins would work well enough in automatic vending machines. Present dimes, quarters and halves are 90 per cent silver . . . A nationwide drive has been launched to add more than a million new buyers of U.S. savings bonds through the payroll savings plan.

SHALE RESERVES — According to a recent report, advocates of early development of U. S. oil shale reserves now have another ally—the Navy's office of petroleum and oil shale reserves. The head of this office, Capt. Kenneth Lovell, told a House subcommittee that "I look at the thing at the present time as being somewhat in the same condition we were in in 1939 with reference to synthetic rubber, where processes were known, they existed on paper, and some prototype plants existed, but there was no commercial production." He expressed concern over the fact that we do not have commercial production of oil shale at the present time, and added, "The country has gotten itself worked around to the point where we are now net importers of oil."

Another oil shale expert, Hein I. Koolsbergen, president, The Shell Oil Shale Corp., recently described oil from shale as a "welcome adjunct to our present resources — an important strategic and economic asset in today's uncertain international climate."

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THING TO COME — Inexpensive wrap-around device to prevent icing around piers. The protector is a metal sheet that fits around posts like a sleeve, conducts heat upward from the warmer water below the surface, and has an insulating strip at the top to keep the device afloat . . . Cordless power drill for small, exacting work on wood, metal, plastic, or leather, runs on flashlight batteries . . . Plastic baling twine, bulky but light weight, particularly useful to farmers because it resists insects, rot and moisture. Knots do not slip or loosen easily . . . Stereo chemistry models for teaching aids in study of organic chemistry. Aluminum tubing and plastic parts are used for making molecular structure models.

SCIENCE NEWS — A mineral previously unknown on earth has been identified by the use of an electron microprobe, and has been duplicated in the laboratory—it's silicon oxynitride, and was found in a meteor that fell in Pakistan in 1926 . . . Rock paintings have been discovered in a cave in Portugal, and experts say the paintings are between 15,000 and 20,000 years old. Subject matter included a witch doctor and various animals . . .

County War Begins on Mosquitoes

War has been officially declared on mosquitoes by the Los Angeles County Health Department with the beginning of its annual distribution of mosquito killer fish. The war will continue through the month, according to Dr. K. H. Sutherland, health officer.

The tiny guppy - like fish—technically, Gambusia affinis — will be given without charge to any property owner requesting them for an ornamental pool, lily pond, lake or other body of water in which mosquitoes are likely to breed, Dr. Sutherland said.

Fish distribution in Torrance will be conducted Tuesday, May 25, at the Torrance Health Center, 2300 W. Carson St., from 9 a.m. until noon. Distribution centers will operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the county during May.

Anyone coming for fish should supply his own watertight container. This should be of at least one gallon capacity. Dr. Sutherland said.

The only limitation on distribution of fish, the health officer stated, is that they be used only for mosquito control purposes. They cannot be given away as bait or aquarium pets, and, hence, will not be given to children under the age of 16.

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CARNATION FILLET OF FROZEN Sole 1-LB. PKG. 69¢
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