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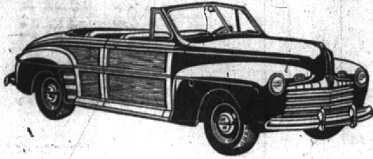
By GENE ALLEMAN

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Three financial proposals, each having far-reaching consequences, are to be voted upon by Michigan citizens on November 5. Two of them would amend the state constitution, while the third would authorize the spending of \$270,000,000 in bonus payments to Michigan war veterans. All three ballots, moreover, would affect the Michigan taxpayer—perhaps more than he anticipates. As we see it, a strong likelihood exists that the state legislature will be forced in 1947 to levy additional taxes, of the bonus proposal and the sales tax amend-

ment are both approved at the November election. One amendment to the state constitution would earmark one cent of the sales tax for schools and local governments. One-half of this earmarked revenue would be divided among cities, townships and villages according to their population. The other one-half would be turned over to public schools which now receive \$60,000,000 in state aid and would be divided according to the school's annual census of children 5 to 19. This constitutional diversion of

sales tax revenue, according to present conditions, would approximate from \$37,000,000 to \$43,000,000 a year. The figure used most often is \$40,000,000. State tax officials are said to be of the opinion that loss of \$40,000,000 in state revenue would be disastrous and that additional taxes would be forced. They talk of an additional cent to the three-cent revival of the state realty tax, such as the four mill property levy which prevailed prior to 1933; or a new form of taxation. It is a cinch that none of the three proposals will be popular with the taxpayers who are too often inclined to demand more and more state services but balk like a Missouri mule to any suggestion that extra taxes are needed to pay for them. Here's a "catch" in the sales tax amendment. It is little understood. Public schools would get 18 1/2 per cent of the tax revenues IN ADDITION to their 4 1/2 per cent share, as received during the 1945-46 fiscal year. Or in other words, public schools would get nearly 60 per cent of the sales tax dollar. The right would be frozen into the state constitution. The state legislature wouldn't have a thing to say about it!



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What about the state's obligations for welfare, highways, colleges, prisons and other public service needs? That's where the new tax enters the picture. State experts insist there is no choice. The Michigan Real Estate association, which serves 1,600 affiliated brokers, is hostile to the idea of a revival of the state property tax, but is favoring the sales tax diversion for local governments. The latter would take some of the

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Another amendment, Number One on the November ballot, would permit public expenditures on public airports. The attorney general's office has held that the constitution does not permit public disbursement for an internal improvement of this type. The amendment would remove this barrier. It would open the way to matching of local funds by the federal government. We have not heard of any organized opposition to the proposal. In fact, there is strong sentiment in favor of it. The other financial proposal is the veterans' bonus of \$270,000,000, as submitted by the state legislature. In putting this proposal before the voters on November 5, the legislature has restated the question entirely of how the bonus is to be financed. State Senator Don VanderWerp of Fremont, chairman of the senate finance committee, believes that the bonus will be mislaid into the belief that a bonus of this size can be financed out of a "vast surplus" existing from sales tax receipts. Here is how VanderWerp explains it: As a matter of fact there is no sales tax surplus and we do not anticipate that there will be one. While the sales tax receipts have reached an all-time high, so have the state's expenses. As is true with individuals, the state is paying more for everything it buys. The cost of personal service (wages) has also soared to new highs and with between 16,000 and 17,000 people on the state payroll this is no small element in the increased expenses.

"Another important element to be considered is the fact that all the state institutions have a backlog of equipment replacements and used equipment that will total approximately \$50,000,000. Because of the war conditions the state was unable to meet the demands for replacements and personnel requirements during the past four years, so that materials, equipment nor personnel were available. This backlog of needs must be met immediately and the requests will be laid before the budget department and the finance committee of the next legislature. They must be granted if the state institutions are to function properly."

It is VanderWerp's conclusion that Michigan voters, in casting a vote for the bonus proposal, may be voting a tax on themselves—"a tax on yourself you did not expect."

The same conclusion might be made, as we see it, for the freezing of 60 per cent of the sales tax for the public schools, plus 18 1/2 per cent for local governments.

**Strictly Fresh**  
It has been learned that bulldozers were used to smash up \$4600 war radios for sale as junk. The news didn't get a good reception. A Cleveland charwoman was caught in theft of her employer's valuable linen blueprints for pillowcases. She apparently made some slips. Housing conditions being what they are, you're fortunate to have a roof overhead. Some people just have overhead. The American Meat Institute hopped all over the Deconfort, Board for restoring price ceilings on meat. It's the ceilings, the packers argue, that put the moo in black market moola.

**Kerensky Back**  
Alexander Kerensky, who ruled Russia during the upheaval after the Czar was deposed in 1917, is back in his New York home after a visit to Australia. Kerensky, 61, writes and lectures.

**ARE HANDS MAGIC?**



No. The surgeon's knife is skillful only because a highly-trained brain "magically" guides the hands.

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One of the dangers of foreign systems of compulsory socialized medicine is that the doctor's success may depend upon his political connections—not his healing skill. His "post-graduate study" will be in politics—not in medicine.

The public (that's you) will be the bill under either system except that under compulsory socialization something new is added—the high cost of political administration.

The better way to protect yourself against hospital cost and serious illness expense is to join voluntary group hospital and medical insurance plans and to urge your congressman to support legislation that provides for better facilities for medical care.

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