

Which: Sales or Income Tax?

We in Michigan realize that additional new taxes are needed to balance the State's budget. To date, two major suggestions have been made: an income tax and an increase in the existing sales tax. An income tax, unless it be uniform in nature, and also imposed upon all who earn over a certain sum, will in any event require heaven-knows-how-many new jobs added to the State's payroll.

If the Governor's "soak-the-few" income tax plan is adopted, it probably will be taken into court, on the basis that it is unconstitutional. If the courts sustain it, then it will become an irrevocable "tax upon the few to support the many". And this—like the federal income tax—can only result in an ever-increasing levy upon the few, since the "many" will control the State's election results.

A SALES TAX, argue many, is a tax on

all our citizens; it takes from those who can least afford it some of their money. To be sure, it reaches into every pocket-book. However, it could be amended to exempt, for example, food and clothing.

Yet one of the most valuable reasons for a sales tax system of raising revenues is the fact that it does affect everybody—for only when a tax reaches the vast majority of a State's citizens will those citizens pay greater attention to the amount of taxes they are required to pay. Only thus are the taxpayers afforded a natural control over those who, in government, levy, collect and spend the people's money.

To be sure, while most citizens are willing to pay toward the cost of good and economical government, they do rebel against extravagance. Most Americans also support tax laws that are fair and equitable toward all citizens.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

For another year, Birmingham-Bloomfield concert patrons are going to have to go to a high school in a neighboring South Oakland city to enjoy a 1959-60 program of distinguished artists. We note this in connection with the membership campaign this week of the Community Concerts association of Southern Oakland county. We recall periodic community conversational outbursts regarding why Birmingham-Bloomfield doesn't have a community auditorium. With all our wonderful facilities—from picturesque city and township halls to fine public libraries and athletic fields—it does cause some to wonder why local patrons of the concert stage haven't conducted an active campaign for a community auditorium. Well, some of these days, maybe... Incidentally, those Community Concert series tickets are a good investment for many hours of fine enjoyment.

Michigan State Representative James Clarkson, Democrat from nearby Southfield, has introduced a bill in the Michigan Legislature which, if enacted into law, would require that all locomotive engineers toot their whistles twice on approaching rural grade crossings instead of relying on the bell. Clarkson quite truthfully asserts that the bell doesn't make enough sound to warn people in time to prevent possible accidents. Good work, Jim, if you get the bill on the State's statute books. This is one kind of a toot that everybody can approve.

Ever since Democrat Philip A. Hart was elected to the United States Senate by Michigan voters, has has frequently revealed a facet of his character that is worth praising. We refer to his attitude of humbleness. The size and powers for good or bad that exist in the United States Senate have impressed Senator Hart tre-

mendously. The Senator's humility should stand him in good value in the future; for this humility normally is antagonistic to arrogance and conceit—two characteristics that are quite evident in some of the other United States Senators who sit on the same political side of the aisle as does Senator Hart.

Few men in the history of the U.S.A. have ever been bitten more seriously by the political bug than Harold E. Stassen. You may recall that Stassen first ran and was elected Governor of Minnesota, where he did a pretty good job. Then he wanted to get into the national political picture and tried to get himself nominated by the Republican party as a candidate for President. Failing twice in that, he then moved back to Pennsylvania where he tried a year ago to win the Governorship of the Keystone State, but went down to overwhelming defeat. Now, the indefatigable Stassen is going to run for Mayor of the City of Philadelphia. Yes, Harold certainly personifies political perseverance.

According to most observers of the Nation's political scene, Governor Williams apparently has very little chance of winning the Democratic party's nomination for the Presidency in 1960. Even though he may not be a candidate for that high office, we'll wager that, in the event the Democrats win in 1960, Soapy will get a comfortable political berth somewhere in whatever administration takes over. When Soapy leaves Lansing, this, of course, will require Walter Reuther and his fellow inmates of Solidarity House to groom and elect another Governor—which, in the light of the popularity of Republican Paul D. Bagwell, who may be a candidate for Governor in 1960, may require Reuther et al to work harder to elect their man.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

→ Ketchup is the spice of life to many people.

I've seen it used on eggs and baked beans, and heard that it has gone into cakes and on top of ice cream.

But the other day I saw a new use:

In a local eatery, a woman ordered a bowl of turkey soup, proceeded to dump in at least a third of a bottle of catsup. Stir-

red around, it tinted the broth a slight red color.

Overheard on E. Maple in Birmingham between one teenaged girl and another: "I really think she is a bore—but, she's so popular. That's why I like her!"

They say one out of every five marriages winds up in divorce. The other couples die fighting.

On the final day of school, certain teachers can be heard to mutter over their work, "2-B or not 2-B." These are the 1-A teachers.

There's nothing about a desire to fight that an enemy can't fix.

Only an ordinary man need fear being replaced. A creative man has no such fear.

A reckless driver is a guy who has a car that can outrace yours.

Join the Easter Parade—After Church



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Birds Get Spring Meals from Sumac

One of our best and most lasting sources of bird food is found in the fruit of our common staghorn sumac.

During late winter and early spring, seed-eating birds are hard-pressed to satisfy their growing appetites. As the long winter ends, the supply of soft berries, wild plant seeds and fallen grains has grown scarce. Sumac fruits are abundant and colorful. They are so hardy that they frequently remain on their branches until they are displaced by the new season's growth.

Staghorn sumac is so named because each year's new crop of twigs is covered by a fine, dense coating of velvety hairs. This creates an effect resembling a stag's horn seen in the "velvet". The bark on old trunks is dark and rough; on younger branches it is covered with numerous yellowish-brown dots.

Sumac flowers abundantly during the month of May, sending up pyramidal clusters of small greenish-yellow blossoms. As the season advances, the tiny flowers turn into bunches of rich red velvety berries as much as eight inches long. The compound leaves are borne on hairy stalks have 11 to 31 leaflets.

CECIL HILLINGTON, in his "Shrubs of Michigan," lists four other species of this common shrub. The one to be avoided is poison sumac, the most poisonous shrub in our range. All these plus our common poison ivy belong to the genus "Rhus." This family is widely dispersed

with staghorn sumac (Rhus typhina) the most common species in our lower peninsula. It is easily distinguished from the poisonous variety (Rhus venosa) by its toothed leaves and velvety-red fruits. The latter is found in swamps, has leaves with their edges only slightly irregular and undisturbed and outworn lands.

Staghorn sumac is a hardy shrub which may reach the proportions of a small tree. It spreads rapidly and is suitable for home planting if space is not at a premium. Dry, gravelly and sandy soils is its preference. It frequently follows roadsides and covers large areas of disturbed and outworn lands.

IN AUTUMN it is certain to start the color show. Present on the same plant one may see orange, crimson, rose and purple mingled with the silver and green of the underside of the leaves.

So impressed were the American pioneers with the striking beauty of staghorn that they early sent it back to the Old World to be used as an ornamental. From its fruits they made a cooling lemon-like drink, while its twigs and leaves were used as a tanning agent for the finest of leathers. The Indians smoked its cured leaves mixed with their tobacco.

When our migrating robins and blue birds return, sumac berries tide them over the spring food shortage. Catbirds, brown thrashers, cardinals, sparrows and many other seed-eaters are equally fond of this versatile fruit.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
March 26, 1909

"Samuel Bortle is the happiest man on Ann street, being the very first to have installed electric lights to light up his pleasant little home. There is one thing that Samuel will insist on and that is to have the best of everything that is going."

"Seen Edward Smith, Jr., and his new Shetland pony." They make a happy pair. The pony is a gift from the boy's parents, and the pony is from the Watkins' pony farm.

30 YEARS AGO
March 21, 1929

"Beggars must learn considerable in the way of every day psychology. Although in the city the seasons make little difference, the warm spring days have brought the professional beggars to Bir-

mingham."

John E. Martin, Atty. 727 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit 2, Mich.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland, at a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, on the 14th day of March, 1959.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of DOUGLAS M. CARBUTHER, deceased.

Dorothy M. Carbuther having filed in said Court a petition praying that she be appointed executrix of the last will and testament of said deceased, and said Court, after due consideration of said petition, do hereby appoint said Dorothy M. Carbuther, executrix of the last will and testament of said deceased.

It is further Ordered that notice be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks previous to the date of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and published in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

15 YEARS AGO
March 23, 1944

"Most men have a hobby that dominates their leisure time thoughts. So, if you want to engage Harry E. Bisset of Henrietta street, in lively conversation, just get on the subject of hunting; deer hunting is his specialty."

"Friends soon learned why a guest at a recent wedding reception couldn't drink the toast proposed by the toastmaster. He found the punch so good he just drank it all before the toast was properly done. So his response was rather dry."

John E. Martin, Atty. 727 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit 2, Mich.

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Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of HAROLD H. CORSON.

John Roberts Corson having filed a petition praying that an instrument filed in said Court be admitted to its last will and testament of said deceased, and said Court, after due consideration of said petition, do hereby appoint said John Roberts Corson, executrix of the last will and testament of said deceased.

It is further Ordered that notice be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks previous to the date of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and published in said County.

And it is further Ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks previous to the date of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and published in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

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