

EDWARD J. HALEY

Funeral Director

24525 Northwestern Highway
(At 10-Mile Rd.)

BIRMINGHAM

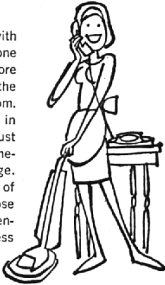


By R. L. KILPATRICK, Manager

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Auto Executive Raps Excise Tax As 'Burden'

The present 10 per cent excise tax on new passenger cars places an "unfair burden" upon automobile buyers, a spokesman for the auto industry testified before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Richard E. Cross, chairman of the board of American Motors Corp. and a director of the Automobile Manufacturers Association, declared that the automobile "has the status of a necessity in today's living, and it takes one of the largest single shares of the consumer's income."

"The discriminatory singling out of the automobile for an additional cost burden not imposed on other necessity products at all or to a much smaller degree has a heavy and unfair impact on the car owner's purse," Cross told the committee in its re-evaluation of the excise tax structure.

HE STATED that repeal of the tax would benefit the entire car buying population. Studies have shown, he said, that the passenger car excise tax "is, in effect, paid by all car owners and users of automobile transportation, regardless of whether they buy new or used cars."

This was so, Cross testified, because of the interaction between the prices of new and used cars. Cross also emphasized the desirability of making repeal of the new passenger car excise tax retroactive to the first public announcement of consideration of specific legislation. The excise tax per new passenger car today averages \$225.

Cross declared that the auto excise tax "which places an artificial impediment in the path of increased sales" appears outdated at a time when emphasis is being put on economic growth.

HE ADDED that greater auto sales, aided by elimination of the tax, would increase the number of job opportunities in the auto and related industries.

"There are few areas where the removal of a discriminatory tax would have as broad and as favorable an impact on economic growth," he said.

The auto industry, Cross maintained, accounts for sustained growth in other industries. He cited automotive consumption last year of 22 per cent of all steel, 61 per cent of all rubber, 38 per cent of all zinc, 14 per cent of all aluminum and 50 per cent of all lead used in the United States.

He also noted that hundreds of thousands of small businesses are engaged in manufacturing, distribution and servicing of automotive products.

Cross said excise tax repeal would increase purchasing power by \$1.7 billion, and on the economic principle that tax cuts give additional impetus to the economy over and above the immediate effect that it ultimately could produce a \$5 billion benefit.

Airman Cited

Airman 3rd Class Walter Wick, son of the Charles Wick of Mark Crt., has been awarded the American Spirit Honor Medal at Amarillo Air Force Base. He has been in the force three months.

2-B THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC Sept. 3, 1964



A Flighty Friend

Mrs. John H. Fleming of 32215 Auburn Drive, Birmingham, gave help to a baby robin when he needed it. Now, reports Mrs. Fleming, the bird is nearly as tame as a housepet and follows her around wherever she goes. Which goes to prove, "A bird in the hand..."

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EXHIBITS

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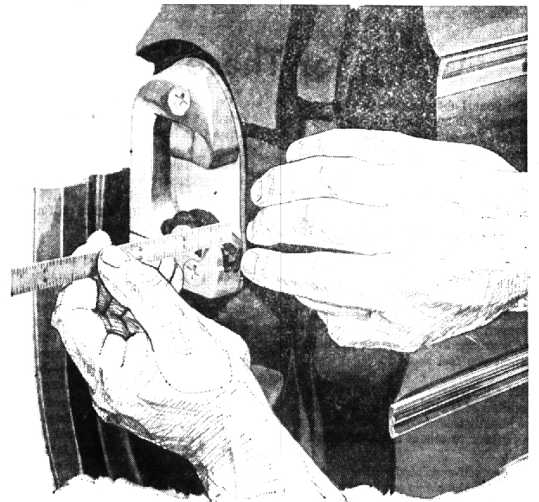
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