



BRICKLAYING IS IMPORTANT COURSE AT HOLMES HIGH—Students display the results of their work in bricklaying at Holmes High School. Errol Flynn, instructor, stated that these and other projects are built by first and second year students who attend the class three hours each day. The course includes various introductory classes as well. After two years of bricklaying a student should be qualified as an apprentice bricklayer. Pictured above with two projects are, from left to right, Linton Fleming, Donald Hassell, Simon Copeland and Richard Moring.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Says

WASHINGTON — As I have pointed out in recent commentaries, the strains on the Federal budget are becoming intense with expenditures far exceeding revenues. This critical issue is already occupying a great deal of the time of the Administration and it certainly will be of concern to the next Congress.

The problem is complicated by reason of the fact that the leadership of the country often seeks to pursue goals that are in apparent conflict. The President is quoted in an interview with a Washington Star News reporter on November 5th as saying that insofar as his administration is concerned, there will be "no solutions of tax problems that require a tax increase." Even so, it is evident that the Administration is at least toying with the idea of recommending a reduction in federal income tax to relieve individuals of their local property tax burden. This could come as a proposal to give credit instead of a deduction on a federal income tax return for the amount paid in local property taxes. There is also some thinking of typing federal-aid-to-school grants to reductions in local property taxes. The point is that with current Federal revenues already running billions of dollars annually behind expenditures, any new loss of revenues or greater outlay could worsen the fiscal crisis.

It is no secret either that President Nixon has pledged his support to new legislation providing tax credits to parents who send their children to parochial or private schools. Aside from the constitutional and emotional issues involved in this proposal, and these should not be discounted, tuition aid alarms most tax experts. Already the tax code is im-

mensely complicated, and such credits would probably make it more so. Tuition credit would probably involve new Federal controls over this sector of education. From a revenue standpoint it is difficult to say how costly the plan would be, but the yearly loss of revenue would likely increase if the Supreme Court upheld such credits.

The national sales tax or value-added tax has been kicked around a long time. It is said to offer an easy way to find a great deal of new revenue. Its proponents now suggest that there would be less howl over this tax than there would be over increasing the income tax. But as many have pointed out, it would hit the poor harder than the rich, and it is questionable whether the country would accept this tax any better than any other levy. It could worsen inflation at a time when we have had to invoke wages and price controls, and it might make it easier to adopt wasteful Federal programs that have a more difficult time of winning

passage under the current revenue system. News sources indicate that the White House may have discarded this proposal for the present. Aside from these observations, tax reform as a concept has strong public support. Almost everyone seeks some way to lighten his tax burden and hopes that a change or two in the Revenue Code will benefit him. As a consequence, a great many tax changes are likely to be proposed when the

new Congress assembles in January. Senate Majority Mansfield and House Ways and Means Chairman Mills, it will be recalled, offered a sweeping tax reform measure last June. It would have virtually eliminated all tax deductions in certain stages by 1976. That bill got nowhere in the last Congress, but if it is introduced in the 93rd Congress, it would open a major debate over taxation.

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THINK SAFETY FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY

The Christmas-New Year holiday season is the brightest and happiest of the year but it frequently is one of the most dangerous as well.

The Consumers Insurance Information Bureau says that for a safer holiday season, celebrants should think of the twin danger areas, Home and Highway.

Home decorations, particularly where real evergreen is used, are a potential source for fire. Keep all decorations away from heat and flame. Use only lighting approved by the Underwriters Laboratory, shown by the UL label. Discard any lights with worn wires and loose or broken sockets. Do not use flammable ornaments or decorations on trees or mantel pieces.

A live tree should be kept out-of-doors until needed. Then, it should be placed in a stand containing water. A fresh diagonal cut on the trunk about one inch above the original cut will help the tree

absorb water and stay fresh longer. The tree should be removed soon after Christmas and certainly as soon as it shows signs of drying.

The country's highways are also a particular danger over the holiday season. Weather and extra partying contribute to high traffic tolls during this period. In 1971, more than 1,400 people lost their lives as a result of motor vehicle accidents during the Christmas and New Year holiday weekends.

The Bureau says that alcohol is involved in at least 50 percent of all fatal accidents. It suggests that party goers eat a meal beforehand and, as a rule of thumb set a limit of two drinks an hour.

CIIB, sponsored by the National Association of Insurance Agents, recommends extra precaution at home and on the highways throughout the year but especially during the holiday season.

Deflating your tires in order to get additional traction in snow is an "old wives' tale." Deflating your tires means decreased traction in snow or ice.



R **IT IS ALWAYS DOCTOR APPRECIATION WEEK**

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