

Unfair tax

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ment. We have good highways, good schools and are considered one of the most progressive states in this country.

We do, however, have one tax that is an unfair tax, capricious in its application, and probably the most disliked tax in our state. I am, of course, referring to the intangible tax.

This tax was instituted in 1868 and was instituted at a time when capital was not as important and when the economy was more labor intensive. It is a tax that discriminates against capital and is out of step in the computer age of the 20th century. It is a tax that discourages investments and savings.

Because of changing tax laws, tax shelters, thrift plans and other investment vehicles, as well as computerized transfers of money, it no longer efficiently collects what it was designed to do. It's peculiar application hits very hard at retirees and new businesses and most all discourages people from moving to North Carolina.

Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and North Carolina all have an intangible tax. Ohio will eliminate its intangible tax on Dec. 31, 1984, and Indiana is phasing out its intangible tax. Georgia and Kentucky have a lower rate of intangibles and lower income tax than our state.

The General Fund of the state of North Carolina has an estimated surplus of \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 this year. It is only fair that the taxpayers in North Carolina share in this excess revenue, particularly since their taxes were raised by \$219,000,000 in 1983.

The Legislature needs to know how the citizens of the state feel and I would encourage every taxpayer to contact his legislator by personal conversation, telephone and letters to encourage him to repeal this most unpopular tax. It can only be done if the taxpayers let the legislators know how they feel.

Let's take another step to make North Carolina the best state in the Union.
James M. Culbertson Jr.
Asheboro

RJR supports NNPA program

R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc. continued its support of a minority scholarship program in journalism with a gift of \$12,650 to the National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) June 15.

Speaking to the 44th annual convention of black newspaper publishers in Philadelphia, Marshall B. Bass, RJR vice president, said the program is helping "to further strengthen the already influential black news media in this country."

"It was just 12 years ago that the National Newspaper Publishers Association brought to Reynolds Industries' attention the gap between their needs, as publishers, for black journalists and the number of trained graduates available."

"Together that year, the company and the NNPA moved to solve that problem by creating the R.J. Reynolds Scholarship Program in Journalism to offer financial assistance to qualified students at any accredited department or School of Journalism."

Reynolds Industries has renewed the scholarship program twice, in 1977 and

again in 1982. A total commitment of more than \$200,000 has been made by the company to educate 60 journalism NNPA's scholarship committee. Students are selected by the NNPA's scholarship committee.

CAMPERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

The Winston-Salem Chronicle and The Boy Scouts of America are campaigning to raise money to send Scouts to summer camp (Camperships). A part of each Chronicle subscription sold by the Scouts will be donated to help pay the cost of sending the Scouts to camp. If you are renewing your subscription and want a portion of it to be donated to the Scouts, then a Campership coupon (see page) must accompany your order.

Below is a progress report on the campaign. Each week, watch as the Scouts strive to reach their goal of 500 points. Each point represents a \$1 Campership donation.

	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	250	300	350	400
#801-St Paul United Methodist Robert McCollough												
#811 Piedmont Park Mack McConnell												
#818-Zion Hill Baptist Church Marshall McDuffie												
#857 Kimberly Park Coal Keaton												
#868 1st Baptist Church Shedrick Adams												
#869-Mt. Zion Baptist Church Lonzo Funches												
General (Troop not designated)												
Campership Points	50	75	100	125	150	175	200	250	300	350	400	500

Chronicle

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competed against larger and more well-established papers such as the *Philadelphia Tribune*, the nation's oldest black paper which publishes four editions a week, and the *Los Angeles Sentinel*, which has a circulation of 50,000. Papers from Chicago, Houston and San Francisco also competed. The *Chronicle's* circulation is about 5,000.

"We've done well to be so little," said Johnson. "It's nice to be the little guy and come out on top." Christopher H. Bennett, publisher of the *Seattle Medium* and the *Tacoma Citizen*, is president of the NNPA, whose membership consists of black newspapers throughout the nation.

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Notes

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release called "the real record of accomplishment and goals of the Reagan Administration."...

Not only are the Republicans on a national level meeting with black groups to form agendas and to plot strategy, but the same holds true on the state level. Last Saturday, Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Martin met with black Republicans from across the state to develop his strategy for the upcoming election and to attempt to draw black voters back to the Republican Party....

Black family crisis

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mastery," a set of interpersonal skills, and acquire social and technical ability. The ultimate socioeconomic and political function of the black family, Billingsley asserts, is to perpetuate the continued existence to black people, to provide the necessary cultural, social and intellectual foundations to preserve the community's integrity, and to help to promote the improvement in the immediate material environment in which blacks must exist.

In "The Strengths of Black Families," Robert Hill observes that black families manifest stronger kinship bonds than white families, a social trait illustrated "in the higher frequency to which black families take relatives into their households." Hill argues that this tight kinship network provides crucial emotional and economic strength which is missing in a middle-class, nuclear family unit.

Moreover, the extended family creates great flexibility in family roles, in part dictated by economic necessity. Children learn to assume key responsibilities at an earlier stage of development than white suburban youth. And surveys of low-income black families also indicate a "high achievement orientation," according to Hill. A majority of black working class and poor parents provide support for the children to succeed in school, contrary to Moynihan's thesis.

Dr. Manning Marble teaches political sociology at Colgate University in Hamilton.

Infant mortality rate

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But federal nutrition programs targeted to pregnant women and their infants reach far less than half of those eligible. And a combination of budget cuts and the lack of a clear federal policy means that many medically needy pregnant women and children don't have access to Medicaid.

Clearly, there is a vital need for a comprehensive prenatal care program that closes the black-white infant death gap. The tragic toll of preventable deaths and illnesses should no longer be tolerated. Federal action is required, not further study.

John Jacob is president of the National Urban League.

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