

Phone Tax Still Clings

Telephone service carries a federal excise tax that is not imposed on any other utility. It is a tax which the nation's telephone companies must bill, collect and remit to the federal government.

During 1959, for instance, the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. collected from its more than 125,000 customers over \$2,000,000 in such taxes. This represented an increase of approximately \$200,000 over the previous year.

This, of course, is \$2 million being drained from eastern North Carolina that could, if retained in this section, have a most healthy effect on the economy.

The telephone bills of telephone subscribers here and throughout the nation could be 10 per cent lower each month, if it were not for the federal excise tax. Carolina company customers paid an average \$12 on each telephone in such tax during the year just past.

It is a luxury sales tax of the same sort that applies to jewelry, furs, and liquor . . . only in this case it is applied to an essential service.

This tax was imposed as a "temporary" wartime measure. One reason was to restrict civilian use of the telephone and to save materials in the interest of defense. This very act acknowledged the telephone to be an essential service. To tax it now as a luxury is unfair and discriminatory. Telephone users have been paying this "temporary" tax for 18 years.

Congress voted last year to drop the excise tax on local telephone service on June 30, 1960. It decided that the tax — the only such tax on a household utility — was unfair and discriminatory.

But now Congress has been asked to rescind the repeal action of last year and continue the tax on both local and long distance service. Not only that, many of the states are hungrily eyeing telephone users as a source of additional revenue.

During 1958 the total telephone tax "bite" on eastern North Carolina subscribers averaged about \$47 per telephone. Stated another way, out of each dollar paid for telephone service, about

30 cents went for taxes. All of these taxes, of course, must be paid from operating revenues which the company receives from its customers.

The need for maintaining sound and progressive government is fully recognized. Taxation is one means to that end. However, facts like these indicate that the telephone excise tax is excessive and burdensome.

Telephone users should not be singled out to carry this unfair load.

This Congress not only should strike out the tax on local service. It also should abolish the tax on long distance calls. Such action could conceivably result in substantial tax savings on the telephone bill of subscribers in this area and add a significant amount to the net available income of eastern North Carolina.

Why not let your congressman and senators know your opinion on the matter?

Our Own Dixie Classic (Greensboro Daily News)

So the Governor's race may be another Dixie Classic or Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament?

It surely may.

Consider these possibilities: Malcolm Seawell, defender of the Hodges Administration program, particularly the Pearsall Plan, will be bucking Beverly Lake, the man who hopes to parlay the lunch counter commotion into political hay. Seawell and Lake may spend all their time slugging it out.

Terry Sanford and John Larkins will compete in the other bracket. They will debate colorless matters (pun intended) like education, highways, Mother, Sin and Home.

Let's speculate a bit. Let's say Seawell whips Lake. Let's say Sanford whips Larkins. Then the championship run-off could shape up between two men from the same neck of the woods — Southeastern Carolina.

It may turn out otherwise? Sure, it may. But any way you view it, a second primary seems in the stars.

And what a battle, what a battle.

Good News

In connection with its April educational and fund-raising Crusade, the American Cancer society has announced that there are one million Americans alive today who have been cured of cancer. Twenty years ago, there were only 180,000 cured cancer patients.

But there is more to the story. The society considers "cured" only those without evidence of the disease five years following diagnosis and treatment. By this standard, it is estimated that an additional 600,000 cancer patients diagnosed and treated within the last five years will live to enter the ranks of those cured. This means that today there are actually 1,600,000 men, women and children cured of cancer, although 600,000 will not formally be counted until five years from the time of treatment.

Twenty years ago, only one out of seven who developed cancer was saved. Ten years ago, it was one out of four. Today it is one out of three. It is estimated that 165,000 Americans will be saved from cancer this year.

This is good news indeed. But, unfortunately, there also is bad news.

The dark side of the picture shows that 85,000 men, women, and children will die needlessly of cancer this year

because their cancers will not be diagnosed in time and properly treated. It is possible to save half of all those who develop cancer through early diagnosis and proper treatment.

But the good news in cancer control is not the result of accident. It has come about through cancer research and education. More and more men and women are having annual health checkups as the best possible protection against cancer at the urging of the American Cancer society.

North Carolina benefits doubly through the Cancer Crusade. Tar Heel hospitals receive, for research, twice the amount that the state contributes to the national drive. Its hospitals are noted for the advances they have made in the fight against the disease.

Let's cut down on the bad news and increase the good news by supporting the 1960 Crusade of the American Cancer society—fight cancer with a check-up and a check.

Morehead City has a number of Firsts to its credit. Here is another: the first city to have a \$2 million bridge built at a site that satisfies nobody.

— Dr. Ben F. Royal

REMEMBER THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER I



The Readers Write

We have received a letter from a Coast Guardsman, but the letter is not signed. Therefore, it cannot be published. If a writer wishes his name withheld, we will do so, but we must know the identity of the writer. Just "A Coast Guardsman" is not sufficient.—The Editor.

THE BLIND MAN

I can't see why any Parent and Teachers organization would resent the following motion, especially when it was made in this order:

We, the Parents of the Smyrna School District believe that our school can be as good as we are willing to make it.

We also believe that the parents will be willing to work and support it if they were better informed of the needs of the school.

We feel that the best way to keep the parents informed is through the PTA organization.

To insure this we feel there should be some minor changes in the present organization. We wish to put these suggestions in the form of a motion.

1. Nominations from the floor for the office of President, Vice-presi-

dent, Secretary and Treasurer at one meeting, to be voted on the following meeting.

2. The parents of each neighborhood to present a parent's name to serve on the Executive Committee. The duties of the Executive Committee will be to see that the people in their neighborhood are informed on the needs and activities of their school. To gather helpful suggestions, discuss all suggestions, decide on the best suggestions to present to the PTA. It will also be the Executive Committee's duties to form what Committee they feel necessary.

We also wish to put these suggestions in a form of a motion.

These committees be formed by the Executive Committee:

1. Administration and Finance Committee
 2. Literature and Library Committee
 3. Building and Grounds Committee
 4. Sports and Activity Committee
 5. Ways and Means Committee
- I can't see, can you, anything wrong with these motions? If you can, come to the April meeting, Monday night and discuss with us.

A PTA Member

Captain Henry Sou'easter

Looks as though we might be getting some fishing weather. They've been catching sea mullet off the piers over on Bogue banks.

Since there has been some discussion about cars parking all along the front of the school where there are no parking signs, I suddenly remembered that the project of mothers' acting as patrolmen at street crossings is no more. Died a natural death, I guess, soon after it started.

I'm glad. I'm afraid if it had kept up we would have ended up with some killed mothers.

That sewage situation in Hancock Park is pointing up how important it is to some folks to live right on the edge of a town, but not in it.

I personally feel a great deal of sympathy for the folks with stoppied-up toilets, and with the school kids who have to eat in a lunchroom with the stench of an open sewage ditch right behind the lunchroom (the ditch runs between Hancock Park and the school).

But I don't agree with a lot of people who say that "Beaufort is going about this annexation thing in the wrong way."

The town of Beaufort has tried every way in the book to make outsiders interested in becoming a part of the town. Since the first mate and I have come back to Beaufort to live, I personally remember public meetings at the school, meetings at the town hall, voting on the issue, personal invitation and everything else.

The town, for years, has tried to be a good neighbor to those folks. In an attempt to build good will, the town has let its employees go outside of town to open sewage lines when the men were needed in town to do work there; the town has lent street equipment to the out-of-towners, it has tried every way possible to offer fire protection to those folks and still try to keep within the town budget.

Those people outside town remind me of mice who thrive on the crumbs that drop from a banquet table. They stay sleek and fat not because of their own effort, but because they're fortunate to be close to things necessary for them to live comfortably, namely, the town of Beaufort.

Not all the people in that area are against annexation. There are quite a few who want to join the town.

But I'm getting fed up with "Beaufort's going about this annexation in the wrong way." The mice get the banquet table jerked away from them and they scream. The banquet table has been left there too long.

F. C. Salisbury

Here and There

The following information is taken from the files of the Morehead City Coaster:

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1922

The Atlantic View Beach hotel and bathing pavilion was today leased to J. E. Woodland, who will operate the property this season. The lease was made by the Atlantic View Hotel Company who recently purchased the property from Von Bedsworth.

Dr. C. G. Ferree of Elizabeth City arrived here this week and is now engaged in the practice of medicine in this community. He has an office over the Marine Bank.

Clifton Leyton of Sanford arrived in the city last week and has accepted a position with the Morehead City Drug Co. as prescription clerk.

The stock of goods formerly owned by Sam Adler and recently sold to Dowdy Brothers, was this week

sold to Adler Brothers of Kingston and the business is now being conducted by Sam Adler.

Marriages: Audrey Narice, Bug Hill, and Pearl M. Guthrie, Wildwood. C. W. Atchinson, Kingston, and Allie E. Ball, Morehead City. Ernest Izler, Waycross, Ga., and Laura Morgan, Memphis, Tenn.

More than five thousand persons participated in the exercises held at Beaufort last Friday in connection with the annual gathering of the schools of the county. Two thousand school children took part in the parade and the various contests. The schools of the smaller communities seemed to be the attractive feature in the parade.

Smile a While

I want no part of outer space, You keep your moon and star; Give me one bit of inner space, Where I can park my car. —Stephen Schlize

Louise Spivey

Words of Inspiration

HAVE ADULTS BECOME TEEN-AGERS?

Quite a lot of reference to today's youth as the "spankless, thankless" generation is cropping up in print of late. There is also the suggestion that there is a deterioration in the distinguishing attitudes and behavior between adults and teen-agers.

There is a ring of truth in some of the charges. Look about you! Adults attempt to dress like their teen-age sons and daughters! There even appears to be an atmosphere of intense competition within family units . . . with minds and wills of the young and old pitted against one another!

The explanation is offered that the less separation . . . the more conformity between adults and youth . . . the greater accommodation it affords our powerful commercial world.

If there be any hint of truth in the suggestion as to a flagrant deterioration of respective ideals and standards between parents and youth . . . it should sound an alarm! We are all well grounded in the fact that the welfare and destiny of our nation is dependent not only upon our spiritual strength . . . but the integrity of our homes!

High ideals and exemplary behavior of parents have been woven into the fabric of our country since its founding.

How can we lead the young children in our homes if we, ourselves, do not hold on to the dignity and distinction of being parents, in the true sense of the word, to our families?

— Mrs. Tom Carter

QUOTES

You pray in your distress and in your need. Would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.

When your religion gets into the past tense, it becomes pretense.

Labor is a pleasure in itself. — Marcus Manilius

Any ideology which forces men and women to accept conclusions, except upon the basis of their own thinking, shackles the freedom of mankind.

The fellow who is always fed up with his job is apt to wind up hungry for one.

Advertising is the art of persuading a consumer that what you have to sell is worth more to him than his money.

Behold I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. — Malachi 4:5-6

Under 21

Girl Requests Advice On Visiting Disc Jockey

By DAN HALLIGAN

Dear Dan: A boy I know, actually he's 23, is a disc jockey at a local radio station and works from 8 p.m. to midnight. He's in the studio all alone and has asked me to visit him whenever I feel like it. I've known and liked him for about three years and would like to visit the studio but I don't know if I should.

My mother says I can, providing I leave at 10 o'clock. I'm nearly 18 and even though I should know my own mind, I don't about this. Can you please help?—Donna C.

Dear Donna: The poor guy may just be lonely and be looking for company but if he wants to show you the workings of a radio station, he should make the invitation for daytime hours. If you still want to visit him at night, take a girl friend along.

Dear Dan: My mother has an advanced case of cancer and right now is in bed at home after having been in the hospital for the past several weeks. She needs constant attention and we can't afford a nurse. I'm only 15 but it

looks as if I'll have to drop out of high school for the rest of the year and do the nursing because my married sister says she can't.

She actually can but she says she has to stay home with her year-old son. Daddy has to work, so I just don't know what to do. Can you tell me anything?—R. S.

Dear R. S.: One thing I can tell you is not to ask your sister again, if that's all she thinks of your mother, then let her stay home. I don't know what the law is in your state about school attendance but I'm sure if your principal knows about your situation at home, he'll be able to figure out something that will allow you to complete your studies at home.

After all, you've only got a couple of months remaining in this school year and it would be a shame if you couldn't finish at this late date. Good luck and I hope your mother improves.

To those Under 21: Dan Halligan will be glad to give you his opinion on your problems. Write to him at Box 120, Williston, North Dakota, and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Security for You . . .

(Editor's Note: This is the second of three columns explaining the special federal income tax privileges older people can claim in figuring how much tax, if any, they must pay between now and April 15.)

By RAY HENRY

How can people 65 or older figure the federal income tax they owe on pensions and annuities they collected in 1959?

Like many tax questions, there's no simple answer.

The reason: Some of the retirement payments are tax free. Some are fully taxable. Some are partly taxed. It depends on the type of payment received.

First, take the payments which are tax free. The big ones are Social Security, Railroad Retirement annuities, pensions and compensation from the Veterans Administration.

Thus, if you had this type of income in 1959, you don't have to enter it as income on your tax return if you're required to file one. If your taxable income in 1959 was less than \$1,200—regardless of how much Social Security, etc., you received—you don't have to file a tax return.

Now, take the retirement payments which are fully taxed. They are: Private annuities or pensions—such as company pensions—to which you didn't contribute while you worked.

Thus, when you're figuring your 1959 income tax, you have to include on your tax return as income any pension or annuity payments you received last year to which you didn't make any contributions.

Third, take the retirement income which is only partly taxed. This is private pensions or annuities based on contributions made by both you and your employer.

There are two rules on how such income is taxed:

The first rule applies to a pension or annuity from which you'll receive in payments, within three years after you retire, an amount equal to what you contributed.

If your retirement payments come under this rule, none of the payments you receive are taxable until you've been paid an amount equal to what you put into the pension or annuity. After that, you must report the payments on your return and pay any required tax on them.

For example: Suppose you're now getting a pension of \$100 a month and your total contribution while you worked was \$2,500. At the \$100 a month rate, you'll receive a total of \$3,000 in payments during the first three years of retirement. The first \$2,500—your contribution—of this total is tax free. But, any money you get after that is taxable.

Incidentally, this rule usually applies to persons who've retired and are receiving federal Civil Service retirement payments.

The second rule applies to annuities or pensions from which you will not receive in payments during the first three years of retirement an amount equal to what you contributed while working.

Under this rule, as long as you receive payments, part of each year's payments will be taxable and part won't.

The way in which the tax is figured depends on your life expectancy, total expected payments, total contributions and yearly payments.

If your pension or annuity payments are covered by this rule, you should consult the nearest Internal Revenue office which can provide you with the proper formula and life expectancy tables.

(Editor's Note: You may contact the social security representative at the courthouse annex, Beaufort, from 9:30 a.m. to noon Mondays. He will help you with your own particular problem.)

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