Nebraska City News-Press
PARK NEWSPAPERS OF NEBRASKA, INC
Publishers
Vol 123 No 260 Sunday September 18, 1977
P[illegible] News and Business Office 123 South Eighth Street
Nebraska City [illegible] Nebraska 68410

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Should Congress think?

We suspected as much before and now it s been confirmed The nation's lawmakers are so busy busy busy that they have no time for quiet reflection on the laws they are making

A study by the House Commission on Administrative Review headed by Rep David R Obey, D-Wis found that the average congressman puts in an 11-hour day but only has 11 minutes just to sit and think

With similar precision three minutes are spent with the House leadership 26 minutes with constituents 46 minutes answering mail and 53 minutes conferring with staff

Four hours and 25 minutes of a House member s working day are taken up on the House floor or in committee and subcommittee meetings the number of which has more than doubled in the past 20 years In the same period the length of sessions has almost doubled (from 937 hours to 1 789 hours)

Rarely do members have sufficient blocks of time when they are free from the frenetic pace of the Washington tread mill says the report

The same problem presumably exists in the Senate

It seems worth pointing out that the report was released just about the time Congress was evacuating Washington for its fifth recess this year These recesses which have ranged from three days to a month as in the present case certainly constitute blocks of time off the treadmill

Political fences are in constant need of repair back home of course and this is what occupies most congressmen during a recess But we hope some of them will be able to hang out the Gone Fishin sign at least for a few days

If only congressmen didn t have to pass laws satisfy constituents and run for re-election why they could probably develop into some of the finest thinkers anywhere

AS TIME GOES BY

Porter named

FORTY YEARS AGO
--1937—

Grove Porter, Nebraska City orchardist, was named to the National Apple Stabilization Committee, which was to assist in the nationwide Apple-A-Day to move the surplus apple crop The Otoean," school newspaper at Nebraska City Senior High, received an international first place award for excellence from the Quill and Scroll, an international honorary society for high school journalists Nebraska City grain men said corn prices would drop to about 50 cents per bushel due to the assurance of a good crop and the scarcity of feeders in the last two years The Otoe county board discussed the possibility of establishing a county grocery store for relief clients

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO
--1952—

The city council adopted a resolution protesting the granting of authority to the City of Omaha to dump its garbage into the Missouri River Tons of Omaha garbage were then dumped into the river

Hamburg began its Gay Nineties fall festival Nebraska City's Dean Thiesfeld opened his coaching career with his Sumner sextet winning a 52-0 decision over Anselmo .Mrs Charles Ott's rose bed sank some 20 feet into the ground The bed had been built over an old well

TEN YEARS AGO
—1967—

Glen Brawner, Nebraska City, tied for first in the second flight at Ross' Steakhouse invitational golf tournament . Mrs Henry Abker, Nebraska City, celebrated her 85th birthday at her home She was a former Nebraska City News-Press correspondent from the Otoe community Nearly 600 persons attended the Knights of Columbus Fall Festival in Nebraska City Relatives gathered at the home of Mr and Mrs Fred Newby to honor the Newby's son, E 1 Roger Newby, who completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

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Today In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Sept 18, the 261st day of 1977 There are 104 days left in the year

Today's highlight in history

On this date in 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the Capitol Building in Washington

In 1759, the French surrendered Quebec to the British

In 1810, Chile declared independence from Spain

In 1850, the United States Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act, permitting slaveowners to reclaim slaves who had escaped into other states

In 1931, Japan began military occupation of Manchuria.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold was killed in an airplane crash in Northern Rhodesia

Today's birthday Former film star Greta Garbo is 72 years old

Thought for today I used to talk to myself even before I went to Hollywood, but after I got there I found that I was answering myself back — Irvin Cobb, American writer and humorist, 1876-1944

Second class postage paid at the Post Office in Nebraska City, Nebr Published every evening (except Saturday) and on Sunday

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CIRCULATION RATES Single copy, 15 cents; by carrier, $3 a month in advance by mail in Nebraska City trading area, $28.00; outside trading area $36 00 per year

The Prayer For Today From The Upper Room

In this is love not that we loved God but that he loved us " (1 John 4 10 RSV)

PRAYER Dear Father, help us to wake each morning with a song of praise to You in our hearts And may we be open to You during each day so Your light and love can shine through us to others Amen





Martha Angle and Robert Walters

IN WASHINGTON

Advance slush fund warning

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Members of the House of Representatives are about to reveal, for the first time, financial details of the "slush funds" maintained by scores of legislators — but don't expect any startling disclosures

In recent decades, senators and representatives turned to "office accounts," financed through private contributions from both friends and special interest groups, to pay numerous expenses not covered by official congressional allowances.

By far the most common use of those funds was to finance the printing of newsletters used in mass mailings to the legislators' districts. Other typical items included coffee machines for office employees and flowers for hospitalized constituents

These expenditures provoked little controversy, but a significant minority of the House membership — reliably estimated at 10 per cent of the 435 representatives — used office accounts as "slush funds" to pay for vacations, personal travel, membership dues in private clubs, liquor and parties.

Those abuses generally were confined to the House, where the funds could be maintained in complete secrecy The Senate adopted a rule in 1968 requiring disclosure of all money received and spent through office accounts

The information pertaining to the House also should have been available to the public years ago because in late 1974 Congress passed a law requiring that office account contributions "shall be fully disclosed in accordance with rules promulgated by the (Federal) Election) Commission "

But the commission, aware that it was dealing with a political "hot potato," proceeded slowly and cautiously At one point during its protracted deliberations, a spate of news accounts described the abuses of the office accounts and suggested voluntary disclosure

Thomas B Curtis, then chairman of the commission and a former member of the House himself, obliged his nervous erstwhile colleagues with a letter assuring them that they were "under no legal obligation to report until the commission issues its regulations "

The tentative regulations finally were approved by the commission in late July 1975 — more than two years ago — but Congress included in the law establishing the commission a provision giving itself veto power over all proposed rules.

Complaints from the Senate about the tough new guidelines forced the commission to withdraw the initial version, redraft it and submit a revision two months later, at the end of September 1975.

The new approach still didn't satisfy the Senate, which vetoed it in early October Two months later, the commission sent to Congress a third version, but while it was awaiting the approval of the Supreme Court ruled that the commission itself had been unconstitutionally established.

Congress didn't get around to legally reconstituting the commission until May 1976. Five days after being reincarnated, the commission again proposed, for the fourth time, its office account regulations But Congress adjourned for the year before it had a chance to consider the new rules for the requisite 30 "legislative days," thus again delaying implementation.

Early this year, the commission sent the rules to capitol Hill for a fifth time and on Ajpril 13 they finally attained the force of law. Disclosure forms, due on Oct. 15, will be mailed this month to all members of Congress

But it really doesn't matter anymore The public reports will only cover transactions since the date the regulations went into effect, and the political operators in Congress have been on notice for more than two years that mandatory disclosure was coming.

"It wasn't just 'handwriting on the wall,' it was a neon sign hung on the side of the Capitol," says one House veteran. "Any fool who didn't have sense to take advantage of the long delay and clean up his office account deserves whatever embarrassment he receives."

Too steep a price?

Business must pay for tax concessions

NEW YORK — (LENS) — As President Carter prepares this month to fulfill an election pledge to reform the tax system, he has rediscovered the truth of that famous passage in Edmund Burke's 1774 speech on American taxation "To tax and to please, no more than to love and to be wise, is not given to men "

For though the proposals the White House will send to Congress are not yet final, Wall Street and industry lobbyists are already attacking those elements of the tax package they fear will go against them

Kites flown by Michael Blumenthal, the secretary of the Treasury, and others have alerted them to the probability that business will have to pay a price for concessions to its demands for relief on the double taxation of dividends and a cut from the present 70 per cent to around 50 per cent in the highest marginal rate of income tax This, it seems, will include legislation against tax breaks on the overseas profits of multinational companies with American headquarters, and also higher tax rates on capital gains Those who stand to lose more than they gain are predictably calling this too steep a price to pay for the concessions they want.

Since the Revenue Act of 1921, realized capital gains have been subject to preferentially low rates of tax On a long-term capital gain, now defined as the gain on an asset held for at least nine months, but to be lengthened to 12 months in 1978, the tax rate is generally half that on earned income

There is edginess on Wall Street that this investment "incentive," called a "loophole" by its critics, will be withdrawn or cut back in President Carter's proposals This goes some way to explain the summer slide in the Dow Jones industrial average

Brokers hooted Blumenthal when, in a recent speech to them, he committed the administration to cut back "drastically" on the tax breaks for capital gains They fear this will lock shareholders into investments and make it harder for entrepreneurial companies to raise fresh venture capital

Candidate Carter won many more votes than he lost when, at the Democratic party's convention in New York last summer he described the United States tax system, most extraordinarily as a "disgrace to the human race " There is broad public support for the stated ambitions of his tax reforms

The proposals, it is said, will on balance be helpful to business, but the administration cannot afford politically to leave itself vulnerable to the charge that its moves represent a "handout to big business" or "Robin Hood in reverse "

It has also to keep in mind President Carter's pledge that the federal budget, which is set for a deficit of above $60 billion in the fiscal year that starts in October, will be balanced by the end of his first term

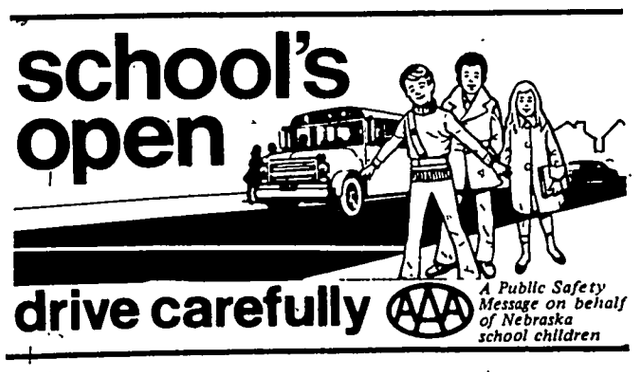
Both economists and political aides in the Administration argue that in the real world business must expect to give up something in return for a further lowering of the tax rate in the highest income brackets, which went as high as 90 per cent in the 1950s, and for a lighter burden on their shareholders, whose returns are now taxed twice, first as corporate profits and then again as individual income when the profits as distributed as dividends

Yet an irony remains. The ensuing legislation will take at least a year, and probably longer, to wind its way through Congress, and the poorer the performance of the American economy during this period the better will be business's chances of winning amendments in Congress for still more generous tax treatment.

Whatever happens, business can look forward to a fair hearing from the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, who will handle most of the tax reform proposals at their legislative stage.

But neither Congress nor the administration can do much directly to influence the tax policies of state and local governments and it is at these levels , not the federal level, that the American tax system is most in need of reform.

Two-thirds of all taxes are collected by the federal government, but state and local taxes have been rising at a much more rapid pace during the past 30 years and these are the taxes that are most weighted against the poor, paticularly in the Southern states





Ivan D.E. Beaumont

THE BUCK ENDS HERE

Big cat is real thing

The big fish in the lake at the fairgrounds is the real thing and Sid Suedmeier of Nebraska City has a picture to prove it.

The newspaper picture and story show Sid's father, Ernest, with the 50-pound cat taken from the Auburn lake about two years ago.

"The rule is real," Sid says. "If you catch him, you gotta put him back."

The elder Mr Suedmeier, retired from the gas company at Auburn, caught the Big Cat with a doughball for bait on a 12-pound test line. He played and pulled for 35 minutes before landing him.

He's still fishing....but hasn't had the second chance.

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The walnut trees —

Harry Roos stopped in the other day to ask about removal of walnut trees from Riverview Park. We checked with Sev Sorensen, chairman of the Tree board, and no walnut trees have been cut down or removed.

A study is being made on the trees with the end result that there will be a number of dead or dying walnuts to get the ax. That study is a necessity to provide a guide on the proper way of tree maintenance.

An earlier report showed that at Riverview park there are 197 walnut trees (they make up 55 per cent of the tree population) with a $200,000 value. The report also showed that only 34 per cent of the walnuts are good growing shape, while only 12 per cent are dead or dying. That study was made by the University Extension Forestry Department.

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Makeing a comeback —

J Ray Duncan has been on his back long enough, he feels, and is looking forward to getting his strength back and returning to the post he loves so much, Adam Schellinger Post No. 8.

Ray suffered a stroke recently and that retarded the strength in his right arm and leg. An optimist always (he's really a Rotarian) Ray tells about his therapy in his usual "give 'em hell, Dunc" tone and is looking forward to the first Wednesday of the month for the Legion meeting.

Ray retired after many years at the News-Press, but has been a frequent visitor to our office.

Sure has been quiet around here.

Same at the Legion meeting

Hurry back, Dunc

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The mailman —

Congratulations to Harold "Shorty" Groves on his retirement from the U.S. Postal Service The story about Shorty and his job were featured recently in the News-Press.

Shorty is well known to all of us for his trumpet. The Legion meeting without "taps" by Shorty is pretty dry.

As the story said, he's played with a lot of bands. We remember him best with Sonny Hill on the trombone They played most of the evening at dances without music sheets.

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A happy ending —

Mr and Mrs Aaron Rose had a visitor last week, her nephew Jack Kastner, formerly of Burbank and now a New Yorker.

They hadn't seen Mr Kastner for a number of years and when they lost contact, the search seemed to fizzle. That is, until Mrs Rose called the News-Press and asked about a newspaper in Burbank Kastner worked at one time.

Our newspaper reference book didn't have him on the management list, so we suggested a letter to the paper asking about him

Mrs Rose did one better. She wrote a Letter to the Editor.

It got action. There were some calls and a few weeks later Mr Kastner stopped in Omaha on a California to New York flight, then visited for a few days in Nebraska City.

There were some happy days in the Rose home last week.

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The optimist —

"Cousin" Paul Knoll is a true optimist. He disregards the forecast for rain, reads his Horoscope from Bob Poggemeyer, dons his straw hat and drives away in his convertible...with the top down (He has been known to get "caught")

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The stooped position —

Jim Eilers, son of Mr and Mrs John Eilers, spent an enjoyable six weeks in Japan during the summer on a Lions youth exchange program

The NCHS student reported on his trip recently at the Optimist club and did a fine job of recording his trip and telling others about it.

He discovered quickly that he was "noticeable" among the Japanese. His six-foot frame puts him head and shoulders above the oriental people

He also discovered something else while living with two different families — unless he stooped as he entered doorways, he walked into the upper part of the door frame

And he discovered he was "recognizable" among Americans because when he returned to the U.S he stooped as he went through the jet's hatch

"The plane crew about cracked up," Jim reported "They knew I had been in Japan "

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The diehard —

Back in the depression years, a government census taker was making the rounds in Minersville asking all sorts of personal questions

Henry Schemmel wasn't home (probably at the still) so the paper was left with a note on mailing it to the government

A few days later the census taker got the form and one answer set him back

"What is R F D ?"

Mr Schemmel's answer "Ranklin Felano Doosevelt "



HEALTH

Lawrence E. Lamb, M D

Questions about hysterectomy

By Lawrence E. Lamb, M D

DEAR DR LAMB — My doctor has informed me I need a hysterectomy and I would like to ask a few questions

Will there be any changes in the body other than not being able to have periods? Will I have a tendency to gain weight? Should sex relations be the same except for not having to worry about pregnancy? I've never had a problem

Will I still get nervous and jittery when it would be time for a period normally? Will I still get migraine headaches? I only get them near my periods Will I have to be on any medication and if so for how long? Will I have to use a lubricant? I don't need one now

I have four children and have always had heavy periods. So I'm looking forward to this operation and I'm positive I'm going to get along fine and feel better for it. I like sex

DEAR READER -- With the healthy attitude you have you should do very well At titude has a lot to do with how well women do after such operations.

If the uterus alone is removed and the ovaries are left in place, undamaged by surgery you should continue to react as you always have except for the absence of menstruation The uterus is not an endocrine organ It does not form hormones Female characteristics are related to female hormones from the ovaries, and after they quit functioning, the adrenal glands The uterus has nothing to do with it

Confusion arises from two facts The doctor may remove the ovaries at the time of a hysterectomy In that case the woman may need replacement female hormones depending upon the amount of hormones and type produced by her adrenal glands The other fact is that women who need a hysterectomy are often approaching the menopause The ovaries would quit functioning about that time with or without an operation Ovarian function stops just as surely as if the surgeon removed them

If a woman's ovaries are healthy and still functioning and are not removed simply removing the uterus should have very little effect on the body at all If your ovaries are left in you should be the same except for a lack of periods Unfortunately that will include the nervous tension you speak of and the migraine headaches

Since you are approaching that age whether your doctor plans on removing your ovaries or not you will be interested in the facts about the menopause I am sending you The Health Letter number 5-12 Menopause Others who want this issue send 50 cents with a long stamped self addressed envelope for it to P O Box 1551 Radio City Station New York NY 10019

Some doctors believe that when a hysterectomy is needed in a woman approaching the menopause it is better to remove the ovaries too The idea is based on the fact that the ovaries will not serve any further useful purpose once they have become inactive with the menopause They remain only as a possible source of cancer The advantages of a few more months or even a couple more years of ovarian function compared to the dangers of ovarian cancer may not justify leaving them behind Ovarian cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to detect early and to treat The hormonal functions of the ovaries can be adequately replaced

(Dr Lamb answers representative letters of general interest in his column Write to him in care of this newspaper P O Box 1551 Radio City Station New York NY 10019)

Berry's World

