

Pa. political feud stops tax relief

By STEVE OSTROSKY
Collegian Staff Writer

Pennsylvania taxpayers may receive some tax relief this year, if the political parties stop their bickering. Republicans again are battling with Gov. Shapp and the Democrats over how much tax relief state taxpayers will get and in what form.

Tied in with the tax relief plans are arguments about supplemental appropriations and how to spend \$35 million in federal revenue sharing funds.

The GOP-controlled House Nov. 20 passed the Republicans' \$255 million tax relief plan 121 to 69 and their \$68 million spending bill 185 to 12.

The Democratic-controlled Senate passed Shapp's \$195 million tax relief plan Nov. 28.

A conference committee must work out the differences between the two proposals by Dec. 31 to make the tax relief hold for this year.

The Republican proposal has three major points:

—Each taxpayer would be allowed to exclude the first \$1,000 of income received in 1973 from the state's 2.3 per cent personal income tax, saving each taxpayer \$23.

—Exclude the first \$1,500 of

income received in 1974 and every year thereafter from the state personal income tax, which would remain at the 2.3 per cent rate. The savings for each taxpayer would be \$34.50.

—Reduce the rate of the corporate net income tax from 11 per cent to 9.5 per cent, retroactive to July 1.

The Democrats' plan has four main points:

—Each taxpayer would get a 10 per cent refund on state personal income tax paid this year.

—A five per cent refund on all business taxes, except those paid by utilities on their real estate holdings.

—Continue assessing individuals and businesses at the present rates of taxation next year.

—Partial and total tax exemption for low-income families under a constitutional provision allowing special tax-relief based on a sliding-scale of income.

The plan provides \$195 million in tax relief, including \$40 million for the poverty program which is a permanent tax cut. The other cuts are for this year only.

Shapp said the Republican proposal would force cuts in several programs. Politically, Shapp has

admitted the GOP plan would force him to seek a tax increase next year, when he is expected to seek reelection.

The Republicans want their program to go through so Shapp will not receive credit for the tax cuts. But the GOP is anxious to approve some kind of tax cut this year rather than next year when Shapp runs for reelection.

House Republicans last week offered a new proposal which would connect tax relief to the economic situation.

The plan would return funds to the taxpayers only if the money was not needed to stimulate the economy.

Shapp denounced the plan and called the GOP position contradictory.

Conference committees have not been appointed yet, but the Senate has appointed conferees and when the House takes the same action, the legislators can begin working on compromises.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas Lamb, D-Allegheny, Senate Minority Leader Richard Frame, R-Venango, and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Henry Cianfrani, D-Philadelphia, are the Senate conferees on appropriations and how to use federal revenue sharing funds.

Lamb, Frame and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Joseph F. Smith, D-Philadelphia, are the Senate conferees on the tax relief conference committees.

By-pass effects studied by University professor

A study of possible effects of the State College by-pass on local water supplies is being conducted by a University professor of geology.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation last month agreed to allow Richard Parizek to conduct the study, despite their assertions that an already completed state study is sufficient.

Centre Citizens Council President Sue Smith said the

study will look into any way construction of the middle section of the by-pass could damage wells by possible pollution.

Smith said she expects the study to be completed around the end of the month, and said another meeting with PennDOT officials is likely in early January.

CCC has been trying to block construction of the middle-section on the grounds it is over-designed and environmentally hazardous.

AP NewScope

Tax relief for senior citizens

HARRISBURG—With "satisfaction and concern for our elderly people," Gov. Shapp signed a law yesterday providing \$45 million a year in rebates for the rent and property tax of disabled and senior citizens.

The new law expands a 2-year-old act which provided up to \$200 a year in refunds on the local property taxes paid by widows over 50, couples over 60 and disabled persons.

Now, widowers over 50 and, for the first time, renters in the same age categories, are eligible. In addition, the revised law increases the amount of income an elderly couple can have to qualify for the maximum rebate from \$999 to \$2,999.

Moreover, in determining how much the family has, the new law says only the income of the head of the household and spouse are to be considered. Before, income of a relative living in the same house was included.

One group left out of the bill are persons between 50 and 65 who were never married or divorced.

"The signing today of the expanded Senior Citizens Property Tax Assistance Act makes Pennsylvania the unquestionable leader among the 50 states in efforts to aid our elderly people," Shapp said.

Chrysler delays truck plant

HARRISBURG—Chrysler Corp. says the nation's energy problem has caused it to put off a decision on completing a \$160 million car and truck plant at New Stanton.

Gov. Shapp released Tuesday copies of a letter from John J. Riccardo, president of Chrysler Corp., who said:

"I want to assure you once more that it is not a question of if we will equip and operate the plant, but rather of when it will be most opportune to do so.

"I hope and trust that the situation will clarify soon so that we can move on with the plant as quickly as possible."

In September, Riccardo told Shapp, who was visiting in Detroit, that Chrysler hoped to make its decision by the end of October so the plant could be ready for production of 1976 models.

Construction of the facility, which was expected to employ some 5,000 workers, has been off and on for the past five years. So far, Chrysler has spent \$35 million for land acquisition and site development. A shell of the building is up; the remaining phase of construction includes equipping it.

The Westmoreland County facility was designated a swing plant with the capability of producing any of the corporation's models of cars or trucks.

Mining contract battle looms

PITTSBURGH—The United Mine Workers moved on two fronts yesterday to take on the coal operators in next year's critical contract negotiations.

Delegates to the UMW's 46th constitutional convention gave control over the contract to the men in the mines for the first time in the union's 84-year history, and moved to set up a strike fund that could support a long walkout.

UMW President Arnold Miller reiterated at a news conference that he had already told the industry that if it was not willing to bargain in good faith and thought the miners would settle after a brief walkout, "we may be willing to go out for six months."

The convention's action adds weight to Miller's increasingly militant position in that approval or rejection of a new contract with the soft coal industry will rest in the highly-volatile coal fields.

In the past, miners have been quick to walk-out. They

traditionally live by the rule of "no contract, no work," even if it means defying the courts and their own leadership.

Miller said the energy crisis and the rising demand for coal will strengthen the union's bargaining position.

UMW blasts fuel exports

PITTSBURGH—An official of the United Mine Workers said Tuesday that while the government continues to make "ominous noises it has done nothing about the thousands of barrels of fuel which leave this country each month.

"There were about 1.7 million gallons of oil and gas exported during September and October of this year," said union Vice President Michael Trobovich. "That is five times the normal export rate."

Trobovich said the companies are exporting more now because they can get a better price overseas for the petroleum, which he said has gone up "by \$22 per barrel recently."

"It's easy for people to get on TV and tell the nation to lower thermostats, cut speed and shut down gas stations on Sundays while profiteers are making money on oil exports."

"The bureaucrats in Washington," he said, "are the ones to stop this," but as yet have not moved in that direction.

"We shouldn't have to depend on any foreign country for our energy because of the abundance of coal we have in the United States," Trobovich said.

He said coal miners are willing to play a major role in helping the nation through the current energy shortage, but that the miners' safety could not be neglected in the process.

Skylab crew observes comet

SPACE CENTER, Houston—Skylab 3 astronauts aimed powerful cameras yesterday at Comet Kohoutek, a visitor from deep space that is streaking toward a Christmas-time loop around the sun.

"She's still coming at us," said Gerald P. Carr as he focused on the speeding comet 120 million miles away.

Carr and his crewmates, Edward G. Gibson and William R. Pogue, were to study the comet four hours yesterday, using four different instruments. The data may help scientists learn the composition of the comet.

The astronauts were in the 20th day of their 84-day mission. The Kohoutek photographs yesterday were the first extensive Skylab 3 studies of the comet, which is still a fuzzy dot in the distant heavens.

Kohoutek is thought to be a 15-to-20-mile-wide iceberg of frozen dust and chemicals wandering through space from beyond the orbit of Pluto, the most distant of the sun's family of planets. It is streaking inward at more than 110,000 miles per hour and will loop the sun on Dec. 8 before speeding out to deep space again.

Observing the rare deep-space visitor is one of the major research efforts of Skylab 3.

Kohoutek is expected to be about 100 times brighter than Halley's Comet. It is already visible in the morning skies to ground observers using binoculars. After it passes within 13.2 million miles of the sun, it will be visible in the evening sky.

Officer refuses questioning

HARRISBURG—A state police lieutenant, formerly in charge of criminal investigations in the Philadelphia area, yesterday refused to answer some 10 questions put to him by a House investigating committee.

The questions ranged from basic queries about his career to interrogation about state-owned surveillance equipment and veiled allegations that other troopers, including Commissioner James D. Barger, have performed illegal wiretaps.

Lt. Angelo J. Caracci, a 24-year State Police veteran now assigned to the Punxsutawney barracks, responded to nearly all questions by saying: "I refuse to answer on the advice of counsel."

His wife Catherine also was subpoenaed by the special House committee probing law enforcement in Pennsylvania.

Judge threatens to fine union

PITTSBURGH—Judge Richard T. Wently yesterday said he will fine the union representing striking bus and trolley drivers \$7.50 a day for contempt, if their three-day walkout continues.

The fine, scheduled to go into effect 8 a. m. today, is being appealed to Commonwealth Court, said Joseph J. Pass Jr., attorney for Division 85 of the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union.

Pass said the union also is appealing an order to submit to arbitration and is appealing the entire Common Pleas Court proceeding to federal court.

Judge Wently has been presiding over more than three days of complicated legal wrangling that began even before the drivers walked off their jobs with the Port Authority Transit 12:00 a.m. Monday.

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The following courses will be offered in the STS Program in the Winter and Spring Terms

Winter Term 1974

STS (Engr.) 410 Technology: Its Character, Role and Function
MWF 3, 206 Hammond Instructors: R. Heinsohn and D. Parke
What is technology? The object of this course is to answer this question by uncovering the essential nature of technology through authentic involvement as well as written and oral exposition. The course is intended for students who are not science or engineering majors and is motivated by the pressing need for non-technical students to comprehend technology, so that they can place it in proper perspective, evaluate its impact on contemporary life, have a basis for opinion and decision on the technical matters which daily face us.

Spring Term, 1974

STS (Em Sc) 420 Energy and Modern Society
TTh 14, 169 Willard Instructors: R. Gordon and F. Vastola
The course provides perspective on current national energy problems by providing an introduction for the general student to the technical, economic, social and political forces affecting energy. Resources are indicated to be quite ample and the critical problem is to make these resources available in an environmentally and economically acceptable fashion. The pervasive impact of public policy in affecting the energy system is explored; as well as the contributions and limitations of new technology as a solution to the problem.

STS (EM Sc) 421 Materials and Modern Society
TTh 15, 209 Willard Instructors: F. Aplan, E. Miller, and J. Tilton
This course examines the role of mineral materials in modern society. It begins by investigating the historical development of iron and steel technology and the major scientific advances on which this technology is built. Following this introduction, the impact of human needs, as well as other economic and geographical factors, on the location and growth of material industries are considered. This leads, after an analysis of the various systems for materials production, to an examination of the benefits and the problems that materials and their production have created for man.

STS (Phil) 435 The Interrelation of Science, Philosophy and Religion
TTh 3, 351 Willard Instructors: G. Fleming and S. Goldman
The goal of the course will be to achieve some understanding of the contemporary interrelation of science, philosophy, and religion, first by examining their mutual interaction in the course of the history of western civilization. More particularly, the course will approach the contemporary science on western views of nature, man, and God. The second part of the course will examine current research in physics, biology, psychology and sociology and attempt to delineate the shape of adjustments to come in our conceptions of the nature of nature, God and man.

STS 460, 3 credits Science and Public Policy
TTh 14, 167 Willard Instructors: G. Brandow and R. Roy
Students look at the all-pervasive importance of science policy in modern societies and the mechanisms and processes by which it is made. If you want to find out how your life in U.S. society is really being shaped by science and technology, you better get this on your schedule. Taught by faculty involved in the process.

STS 498A Science as Art — Art as Science
By Appointment Instructors: W. Kinser, T. Benson, C. Hausman, and H. Henrich
A pilot workshop course designed to acquaint science students with the aesthetic dimensions of their discipline, the artist and the scientist with the social-aesthetic nature of technological objects as they appear in society and the art student with the rigor, honesty, and skepticism of science. This course will also attempt to help trace the elements and nature of creativity. (Students wishing to enroll should first get permission of the instructor, Professor Kinser.)

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