

Tax load biggest for Florida

NEW YORK (AP) — Taxpayers in Florida paid more for every dollar of federal grants received in fiscal 1975 than residents of any other state, the Tax Foundation, Inc., said yesterday. District of Columbia taxpayers paid the least.

The foundation said Florida taxpayers paid \$1.46 for each dollar of federal grants in aid that the state received. Indiana had a tax burden of \$1.41 per dollar of aid; Ohio paid \$1.40 and Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois and New Jersey paid \$1.36 each, the foundation said. All told, taxpayers in 20 states paid more than \$1 for every dollar of aid received.

At the other end of the scale, Washington, D.C., taxpayers paid 28 cents for each dollar of federal grants in aid received. Alaska had a tax burden of 42 cents per dollar of aid; New Mexico, 50 cents; Mississippi, 52 cents; and South Dakota, 55 cents. New York State's burden was 83 cents per dollar of aid.

Two states — Arizona and Pennsylvania — came out even.

The total of grants in aid for fiscal 1975 was \$48.2 billion, the foundation said. New York got the biggest chunk, \$5.7 billion. California was second with \$4.9 billion in grants in aid. Revenue-sharing grants alone totalled \$6.1 billion in fiscal 1975, the foundation said. The heaviest burden in this area fell on Nevada taxpayers who paid \$1.54 for every revenue-sharing dollar received. Mississippi taxpayers paid the least amount, 39 cents, for every dollar of general revenue-sharing received. The formula under which the federal tax burden is allocated was developed by the Tax Foundation.

King inquiry extended by govt.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Justice Department announced yesterday it will expand its investigation into the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. even though it has found no evidence the FBI was behind the killing.

Assistant Attorney General Stanley Pottinger said a five-month Justice Department investigation did not fully "exonerate" the FBI and the new inquiries ordered by Attorney General Edward Levi are not just "cosmetic exercises."

"It is possible that they will find new evidence," Pottinger told a news conference.

"If it weren't possible, I would not recommend that they go ahead. I do not believe, quite frankly, in cosmetic exercises."

He said the department often gets tips about an alleged conspiracy behind the murder of King, who was the target of FBI harassment before his death, and that: "If anyone conspired with James Earl Ray, we want to know about it."

He said the department's Office of Professional Responsibility will review files at FBI headquarters and field offices and interview possible witnesses.

Levi, in a written statement, said he wants final answers on whether the FBI played any role in King's death and whether anyone should be prosecuted for the bureau's "systematic harassment" of the civil rights leader.

He said the department's preliminary investigation reached these "tentative conclusions":

— "There is no basis to believe that the FBI in any way caused the death of Dr. King."

— "No evidence was discovered that the FBI investigation of the assassination of Dr. King was not thorough and honest."

— "Instances were found indicating that the FBI undertook a systematic program of harassment of Dr. King in order to discredit him and harm both him and the movement he led."

But Levi said he wants the expanded investigation to answer "four specific questions" about the bureau's connections with King.

Whether "there is any evidence that the FBI was involved in the assassination"; whether its investigation of the murder was "thorough and honest"; whether any new evidence on the assassination has developed; and "whether the nature of the relationship between the bureau and Dr. King calls for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings or other appropriate action."

The Senate Intelligence Committee concluded that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover considered King a dangerous radical and kept him under close wiretap and bugging surveillance. It said the bureau harassed King constantly and once sent him an anonymous letter suggesting he commit suicide.

Blood purifier banned

HARRISBURG (AP) — The state Health Department yesterday banned what it called an unproven and possibly dangerous device used by a Pittsburgh physician to treat patients for hepatitis, and blood disorders.

According to a citation signed by Health Secretary Dr. Leonard Bachman, the

device, called the Knott Hemo-Irradiator, is not administered in accordance with accepted medical principles.

Jack Ogun, director of the department's Division of Drug, Device and Cosmetic Compliance, said the device is supposed to purify the blood through exposure to ultraviolet rays. A small quantity of blood is taken from a patient and reinjected after exposure.

"However, any radiation strong enough to kill harmful organisms might also damage the blood cells," Ogun said.

A hearing has been scheduled to give the doctor who uses the device an opportunity to support his claims.

Gov. Moore denies taking \$25,000 contribution

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr. denied yesterday ever meeting with, talking to, or accepting a \$25,000 political contribution from Theodore R. Price in 1972.

"I never had a thing from Mr. Price in my life," Moore testified as he took the stand on the eighth day of his U.S. District Court trial. Moore and his former aide, William Loy, are accused of conspiring to extort \$25,000 from Price, president of the Diversified Mountaineer Corp., in exchange for help with a state bank charter.

The 53-year-old two-term Republican governor spoke firmly and looked directly at the jury, using his hands often for emphasis as he answered questions from his attorney, Stanley Preisler.

"I had no telephone conversations with Mr. Price whatsoever," Moore said. "I had no

conversations with Mr. Price relating to political contributions, bank charters... or money."

He said he met Price in 1971 when the DMC executives and others visited Moore about getting a road to a Putnam County race track they owned. When Price repeatedly called him in 1972, Moore said he refused to talk to him.

"I didn't want anything to do with Mr. Price," he stated. "I was uncomfortable around Mr. Price... he was not a person I felt I wanted to develop any close relationship with."

Price was first mentioned to him in 1972 when Moore was approached by Gassaway banker Nolan Hamric at a state Building Commission meeting on June 17, he said.

"This was somewhat surprising to me. I asked what did he know about Mr. Price. He

said he was a person living here in Charleston in the banking business," Moore said.

Moore said he told Hamric to have Price "go ahead and make an appointment."

Price testified last week that Hamric arranged an appointment with Moore. On three visits to Moore's state Capitol office in September and October 1972, Price said he delivered brown envelopes stuffed with a total of \$25,000 in cash. Moore told him, "We have the votes on the state Board of Banking and Financial Institutions to approve Price's charter application," Price said.

When Hamric mentioned Price's name on June 17, Moore said, "I had not seen or heard from Mr. Price before that or after that until in this room a week or ten days ago," presumably when Price testified.

The governor also denied trying to in-


fluence state Banking Commissioner George Jordan or the other six banking board members about Price's application for the proposed Center Banking and Trust.

"Mr. Jordan never discussed with me the pending bank charter as it related to City Center East (the DMC office building in Kanawha City) or the Center Banking and Trust. Nor did Mr. Jordan discuss with me any pending bank application," he said.

"I have never engaged in conversation any member of the board... seeking to influence them," he added.

Moore said his office telephone call record for Oct. 28, 1972, with Price's name and the word "completed" in Moore's handwriting, "means simply that the particular call had been removed from my mind."

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