

# Commentary

## Families are winners in new tax-reform plan

By EDWIN FEULNER

Many opponents of President Reagan's proposed tax-reform plan have condemned it as just another big payoff to the rich—the old class-warfare baloney.

Just 5.8 percent of the country's households had incomes above \$50,000 in 1982. Yet, these people collectively paid 35.6 percent of all personal income taxes collected that year, some \$98.7 billion.

Because the 1981 tax cuts stimulated an explosive burst of entrepreneurial investment, the wealthy have actually been paying more than before the tax rates were cut.

What we really should be asking is not how the proposed tax-reform plan will affect those who already have made it, but how it will affect the less fortunate, especially the working poor. And in this respect, the administration has earned bragging rights.

Careful analysis of the plan shows that without exception those living at or below the edge of poverty will receive an important boost from the new tax regime. A single person without any dependents for example, will be able to earn 37 percent more under the plan - \$4,900, rather than the current \$3,560 - before having to pay taxes.

What does this mean to a young person right out of high school, earning the \$3.25 per hour minimum wage on his or her first job? It means he or she probably will earn \$3,900 or so that first year, assuming a 40-hour work week from June through December.

Under the current law Uncle Sam would claim a share. Under the proposed plan, however, Uncle Sam wouldn't be entitled to anything that first year. While not a lot of money would be involved, every cent counts for a young married person just starting out.

Married couples also would be able to earn 37 percent more, with the tax-free ceiling increasing from \$5,830 to \$8,000. If opponents of the president's tax plan can find something wrong with that, I'd like to know what it is.

How about "real" families? Current law has a married couple with two dependents paying taxes as soon as combined family income reaches \$9,575, though the government's poverty threshold for such a family is \$11,400. So we have the spectacle of the federal government taxing a poor family into continued poverty, which is about as illogical and inefficient as anything I can think of. The tax reform plan would end this obscenity.

The really big winners from the tax reform plan - despite the class warfare talk from AFL-CIO headquarters and elsewhere - are families. The very real increases in the "zero-bracket" amount that people can earn before the tax meter starts running and the doubling of the personal and dependent exemptions would redress some of the inequities now faced by single heads-of-household and large families. This marks a significant and laudable shift in tax policy.

Research shows that the majority of families would see their taxes fall under the plan, with the poorest families benefiting the most. This is a major plus.

(Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation, a Washington based public policy research institute.)

### OPINION

## Americans rate TV lower than churches

By CLYDE DUPIN

The most recent Gallup Poll ranks religion as the highest rated institution. The American people still have a great deal of respect and trust in the church. According to the new Gallup Poll, 55 percent of those surveyed have a lot of confidence in our religious institutions.

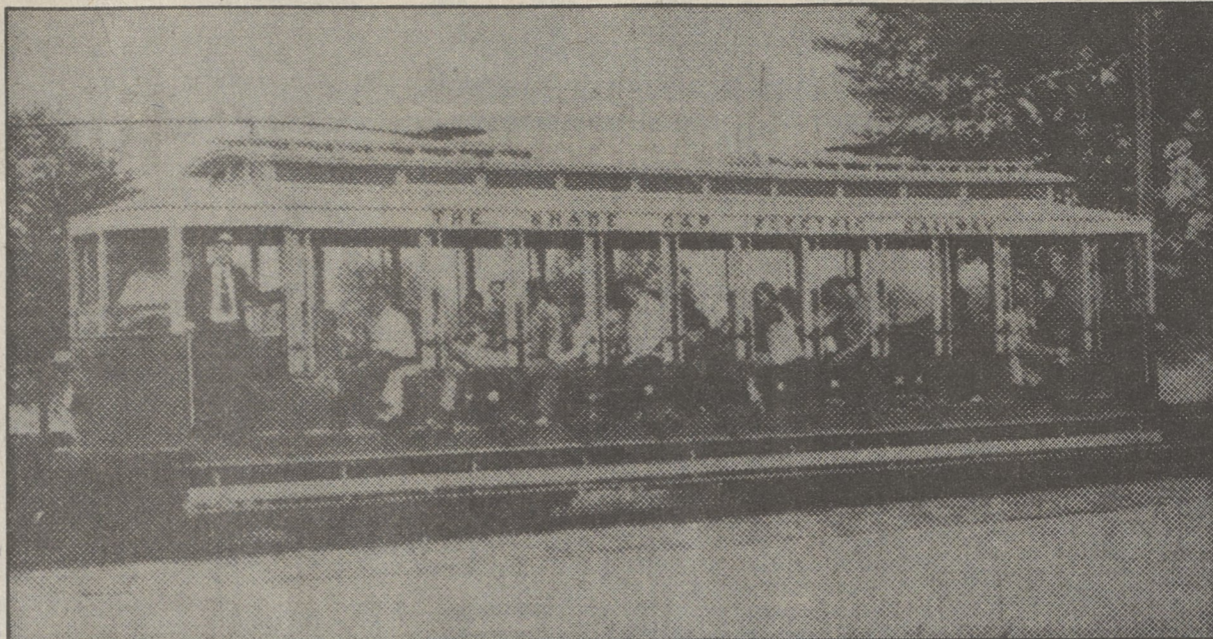
The mid-summer survey ranked television as the institution that Americans trust least. Only 29 percent expressed a high level of confidence in television. The public confidence in newspapers and organized labor continues to fall.

Protestants expressed slightly higher confidence in the church than Catholics. Among Protestants, 73 percent expressed confidence in the church; and 70 percent of the Catholics expressed confidence. Less than 10 percent of either group express weak or little confidence in religion.

It may be surprising that with this high confidence in religion that America seems to be in a moral crisis. This moral crisis is demonstrated in many areas of our society. Our divorce rate is now the highest in the world. Last year, there were 1,500,000 abortions. During the past decade, violent crime in the United States has increased 174 percent. Child pornography is the fastest growing income producer in the pornography business.

The good news and bad news seem to be inconsistent. The need among religious leaders is to proclaim a strong life-changing lifestyle as taught in God's Word. The Bible message still has life changing possibilities.

(Clyde Dupin is editor of a national column entitled "Religious Viewpoint.")



## Remembering

### Breezy

This is an open air trolley car just like those that used to run to Harveys Lake. This one operated on weekends through October from the twin towns of Orbisonia and Rockhill Furnace. It was owned by Railways to Yesterday. The motorman at the front of the trolley is Ed Miller of Pittston.

## Only yesterday Shavertown dad, daughter listed in 'Ripley's' book

50 YEARS AGO - AUG. 30, 1935

Two teachers were appointed to fill vacancies at Kingston Township High School. William White, Scranton was named Commercial teacher at a salary of \$1,350 annually. Miss Verna Ridehoffer, Forty Fort was appointed to teach seventh grade.

Harveys Lake picnic grounds planned its third annual Children's Day. On this day children between the ages of 4 and 7 received free ice cream, chocolate milk, soft drinks, pop corn, peanuts and pretzels. Rides cost one cent.

Mrs. Mable Stang, Shavertown and her father the late Augustus Allen were mentioned in Ripley's collection of strange facts. Mrs. Stang and her father, who was born when Washington was president, had combined lifetimes that covered 139 years, and all the United States presidential terms.

Engaged—Marjorie Post and George F. Janaushik. Married—Geraldine M. Culver to Earl Pierce.

Deaths—Jefferson Kocher, Harveys Lake; Mrs. Charles Dotter, Noxen.

You could get—Bananas 4 lb. 19c; grapes 2 lb. 19c; big loaf Victor sliced bread 6c; hams 33c lb.; gum drops 10c lb.; peaches 6 lb. 29c; Eight O'Clock coffee 17c lb.

40 YEARS AGO - AUG. 31, 1945

A fawn which was found deserted on the Mehopy Mountain early in June was to star in the picture "The Yearling" produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Fred Salsman of Golden Hill, Wyoming County had found and kept the fawn.

Princeton Public Library and Rutgers University Library donated 136 volumes to the Back Mountain Library.

Relatives of Clarence Morgan, who had been a prisoner of the Japanese since 1942 received word that he was in good health and expected to arrive home shortly.

You could get—Mild cheese 34c lb.; mackerel 25c lb.; butter 48c lb.; sweet corn 29c doz.; Bartlett pears 2 lb. 29c; cabbage 3c lb.; sweet potatoes 3 lb. 29c; Palmolive soap bath size 10c; Octagon soap 2 bars 9c; bread 11c loaf.

30 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 2, 1955

Six new teachers were appointed to Westmoreland jointure: Barbara Clark, Clinton Brobst, Mary Vanden Hout, Mary Jackson Shangraw, Janice Zoyviak and Ethel Brace Williams.

William C. Amos, former resident of Upper Demunds Road was being seriously considered for a place on the permanent panel of "Life Begins at

Eighty" the Channel 34 television show out of New York. Amos was 90 years old.

Engaged—Doris Turner to Albert Vosburg.

Married—Dorothy Culver to Thomas R. Williams.

Deaths—Ann J. Davis, Dallas.

You could get—Smoked hams 59c lb.; shrimp 3-5 oz. cans \$1; Kraft White American Cheese 2 lb. 99c; honeydew melons 39c ea.; yellow peaches 5 lb. 35c; tuna fish 4-6 oz. cans \$1; ice cream 1/2 gal. 79c; frozen strawberries 39c lb.

20 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 2, 1965

Three new teachers were appointed and lengthy discussion given to the new building program and overcrowded conditions at Dallas Area Schools. Martha Longmore, English teacher; James Morgan, Social Studies teacher and Leonard Kozick, Geography teacher were appointed to the staff.

A Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters helicopter port was being built on Red Rock Mountain. The pad would be used to land helicopters water bombing forest fires on state land.

Engaged—Jacqueline Sue Jenkins and John Sheehan, Jr.; Betty Cyphers and John Mokyehic.

Married—Susanne D'Esopo and Conrad S. Welitchko; Flora Sue Anderson and William Lewis Weber.

Birthdays—Margaret Dilg, Shavertown, 85 years; Mary H. Dendler, Idetown, 95 years.

Deaths—Catherine Clark, Shawanese; Sally Hirner, Meriden, Conn.; Andrew Teno, Broadway.

You could get—Sirloin steak 89c lb.; frying chickens 29c lb.; franks, 2 lb. pkg. plus 8 Vaughn's rolls \$1.29; boiled ham 89c lb.; charcoal 10 lb. bag 55c; tomatoes 10c lb.; potatoes 3 lb. bag 39c; coffee 79c lb.; 8 pkg. Scott napkins 99c.

10 YEARS AGO - SEPT. 1, 1975

Harveys Lake taxpayers called for a grand jury or district attorney investigation of project transactions concerning the engineering firm and contractors involved in construction of the sewer system in that municipality.

Helen Maher, former officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Nurses, was named Lake-Lehman High School nurse.

Married—Sandra Long and Joseph M. Zoeller.

You could get—Whole chickens 49c lb.; chuck roast 98c lb.; Mueller's noodles 39c pkg.; Charmin tissues 4 roll pkg. 59c; Morton frozen dinners 3-\$1; honeydew melons 79c ea.; lettuce 3 hds. \$1; carrots 2-1 lb. pkg. 29c.

### LETTERS

## Long live polka music!

DEAR EDITOR:

Hat's off to the folks at WVIA TV 44 for realizing that Polka Bands and lively polka music are enjoyed by thousands of fun-loving people in our area.

Stanky & The Coalminers, a well-received six-piece polka band from our area appeared on TV 44 in an hour-long prime time special "live" as part of Campaign '85.

WVIA TV 44 personalities stand before the cameras giving their

usual obnoxious pleas for dollars, "In Support of this type show on Channel 44". Let's agree TV 44 needs dollars.

The viewers response...Overwhelming!

The goal...Surpassed! I've seen it before. Way back in 1977 when Stanky & The Coalminers last appeared on TV 44.

The pledged and memberships came in that year too! Prior to Stanky's Polka Music

Show, the folks at 44 had a difficult time getting the phones to ring in support of some Dr. Who show.

After Stanky's Polka Music Show, the folks at 44 run an Elvis Movie and the phones return to their semi-dormant state.

Ah, But, throughout Stanky's Polka Music Show, the music and the phones are Alive!

The TV 44 viewers were obviously showing their support for this type show on Public Television.

But, what do the folks at 44 do. "Perhaps we should make Stanky & The Coalminers an annual event here on Channel 44", was one announcer's comment.

Hats off to Stanky & The Coalminers Polka Band for putting on such a fine show.

I've discovered this fact years ago. Perhaps the folks at 44 discovered this fact Monday night. I surely hope so!

Bob Zampetti Wilkes-Barre

## Let's pass around the chance to make money

(This is a letter written to Ray Hillman, Chairman Back Mountain Fair)

DEAR EDITOR:

I am a parent of a Boy Scout member of Pack 281, Dallas. For the last 5 years our troop of 30-40 boys and their families have assisted the fair with parking.

This project not only involved the boys in a community project but allowed us funds to guarantee these boys their week of summer camp with good troop equipment and at least one other group activity without having them out selling yet another candy bar.

This year we were not approached and on inquiry discovered that the Lake-Lehman High School Band has

been awarded it. I admire Mr. Milauskas and his band as much as any Back Mountain resident. I do feel though that Back Mountain should recognize the fact that other activities and organizations are working with and for our youth also and are as important to their present and future lives that most of these organizations although volunteer require financial support.

Mr. Hillman, I will not allow myself to think that this change was made because you are from the Lake-Lehman District. I feel our troop has been lucky to have had this project for the 5 years and if this position is now to be a revolving one to allow other deserving groups to benefit - I will look forward to

seeing announced in the future that organizations that are interested in it apply annually for consideration. Possibly next year I might see the

Dear Friend On behalf of the Lake-Lehman All Sports Booster Club may I take this opportunity of thanking you for your donation to our 'Chance' stall at our Craft Show and Flea Market held on Aug. 3.

Our projection shows that we raised approximately \$1,000 which will be spent on acknowledging our exceptional athletes who have attained District or above honors. It

Dallas Band Sponsors or Soccer Association etc.

A Disappointed Parent Shirley Gingo

## Thanks for donations

will also help to defray costs our students incur when they attend Sports Camps. We also aid our Sports Programs in purchasing equipment which is not covered by school funds.

Again we thank you and appreciate your assistance.

Christine J. Shafer Chairperson Craft Show-Flea Market Committee

### LIBRARY NEWS

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK  
Library correspondent

An unusual happening! The Back Mountain Memorial Library has some tomatoes growing in the new flower arrangements at the front entrance of the library.

The Garden Club of Wyoming Valley held a business meeting here in May and donated some small plants to us which we planted in with the flowers out front, and, much to our surprise and most of our patrons, we have tomatoes on the plants. A little fact in with our fiction.

The children's summer reading program concluded with a party on Aug. 16 where the children were able to redeem their book bucks and purchase nice gifts. Refreshments were served and musical entertainment was provided. The snow cones were very popular, if a little messy. Thanks to Will and Franklin's for the crushed ice used to make the sno cones.

"Everybody Loves a Winner" is a quote from a book review featured in Publishers Weekly regarding "Iacocca", an autobiography by Lee Iacocca. We have two copies of this book in the library and both copies are available only by reservation. It is a very popular book. This book, the publishing event of 1984, the year's No. 1 best seller, is still going strong and is now available in large print. Iacocca, living embodiment of the American Dream, is a household name.

This is the fastest-selling hardcover book ever, and has been serialized in Newsweek. This story is a provocative and involving memoir. Iacocca, now available in large print, is on order for the library, one of the first purchases made from the recent \$1200 Dallas Lions Club donation to be used exclusively for large print books.

The library has received a very unique gift for which we are grateful. Mrs. Rose Marvel, husband of the late Thomas Marvel, president of Offset Paperback, donated this gift in memory of her husband. It is a Lexikothek Phonobox by Bertelsmann with an encyclopedia type book complete with much written history and 72 discs to be played on the phonobox in conjunction with the written word.

Along with this is a set of cassettes from the U.S. Dept. of State teaching basic German and the Foreign Service Institute basic German course teaching book. The discs and the history are written in German, so the German teaching course is almost a must. This gift is an elegant addition to our reference department.

Some recent large print additions include: Eden Burning by Belva Plain; Murder in the Supreme Court by Margaret Truman; The Case of the Careless Cupid by Earle Stanley Gardner; Come Pour the Wine by Cynthia Freeman; Touch the Devil by Jack Higgins; All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot and The Healing Heart by Norman Cousins.