

THE DALLAS POST

EDITORIALS

This tax reform plan misses the mark

Like everyone we talked to while preparing this week's articles on tax reform, we think Pennsylvania's tax systems are sorely in need of change. And we are not among the voices who would decry any change in taxation as inherently an increase, and therefore evil. On the contrary, a look at communities and states that are prospering reveals in many cases higher tax rates than those paid by northeastern Pennsylvanians. It's not how much tax is collected that matters sometimes, it's what is done with it.

Moving the tax base for local municipalities and school districts from a heavy reliance on residential property taxes to incomes offers some real advantages. By their very nature, income taxes tend to keep pace with increased revenue needs, whereas property taxes - especially with infrequent reassessment - do not.

Income taxes are generally considered to be more progressive; those most able to pay are taxed the most. Property taxes, on the other hand, tend to be applied more heavily to those who have purchased property recently, regardless of ability to pay.

Those things said, we oppose the passage of Act 145. We have several concerns with this bill.

First, it would tax business and commercial property at a different - higher - rate than residential property. We'll leave the constitutionality of that to others; it will surely be challenged in court. We are concerned because it has been tough enough for the economy of this area to get to where it is today and we don't want to see any obstacle placed in the path to greater success. Penalizing businesses is not the route to economic prosperity.

Another major failing of this act, in our opinion, is that it does not force counties to reassess property on a regular basis. In many states, 10 year reassessment schedules have meant higher tax receipts without higher rates, and more equity among homeowners' tax rates.

We also are worried about the costs of administration that this bill will demand. There are numerous provisions that will require monitoring and enforcement, and the act makes no mention of how this will be done or paid for. As simple a question as how the tax collection will be done has not been addressed. Ed Sunday's assessment that the Abington Heights school district may lose \$300,000 in interest income is enough to make this a serious concern.

Finally, we think the public and the Legislature have not been given enough time to study and respond to the proposal. The final language was given to legislators only hours before the close of the last session, and since then too little time has passed for the rest of us to digest the entire bill. It's great that voters will decide this issue, but they need a little more help to understand it first.

Governor Bob Casey deserves high marks for his persistence in pushing a bill he believes in. We, and many others believe in some of the same basic principles that he does. But Act 145 does not achieve the goals it seeks in a reasonable way. It's too complicated and has too many inequities of its own.

We hope the Governor and Legislature come up with a new and better plan, soon. And we especially hope the next time they give us more time and better explanations with which to understand the proposal.



Relaxed posture

This barn along Hays Corner Road in Dallas Township seems to be taking it easy these days. Perhaps its working days are over. (Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

Letters

Urges voters to make an informed choice

Editor:

It has come down to the wire for the people of Dallas Borough to stand up and be counted. Much has been written and discussed in the past year concerning development in Dallas Borough. The fact is that "The Dallas Borough Preservation Association" is expounding managed growth to preserve the environment, wetlands, the reservoir and our semi-rural life style.

Let us not forget several facts before we vote on May 16—

1. Water problems of the past year. Dallas Water Company still has not had a public hearing de-

tailing their plans. (As was mandated last November by the Public Utility Commission.)

2. The school board is floating a bond issue to take care of the new students which will be coming.

3. Sewer rates went up this year and no doubt will climb higher.

4. Traffic which is already bad will become increasingly heavy.

5. The Borough Council ignored a petition signed by 339 voters against the Deer Meadows project. The fact the incumbents did not feel obligated to attend the town meeting of April 26 should also be remembered.

It seems that the voters of Dal-

las Borough have a clear-cut choice.

Know your candidates and what they do or do not stand for! Vote accordingly.

In this predominantly Republican Borough, Democrats can vote only by writing in names of their choices.

The fact is that this is a "primary" election and no candidates should be endorsed by a political party.

So get out and vote for your conscience.

Anees B. Barakat
Dallas

Police Ass'n says thanks for support

Editor:

As Chairman of the Back Mountain Police Association's Sixth Annual Ham and Egg Breakfast which was held on April 23, 1989, I would like to thank all those who made our endeavor a huge success. The proceeds of this annual event are donated to the Luzerne County Association for Retarded Citizens. Special thanks goes to the following merchants and individuals who donated food products and their expertise to making the breakfast possible:

Country Fresh Dairy - Dick Huey, Prop. Trucksville

Gino's Shoe Store, Dallas

Bill's Diner, Shavertown

Burger King, Shavertown

Insalacos Mkt., Dallas

Trucksville Pharmacy, Neil Billeck, Prop.

Robert Chamberlain, Trucksville

Gus Stella, Shavertown, Chief of Food Preparation

Basil Barbacci, Dallas, Food Preparation

David Wehrer, Harvey's Lake, P.D.

Of course, I would be greatly remiss if I did not also mention the fine support presented by members of L.U.Z.A.R.C., the Back Mountain Police Association, as well as our brother officers throughout Luzerne County who turned out to support this worthy cause.

Each year, thanks to the support of the Back Mountain Community our breakfast gets better and better. To all those special people, I extend a sincere thank you for your generosity and support.

Paul M. Sabol
Chief of Police
Kingston Township Police Department

Only yesterday

50 Years Ago - May 12, 1939

HARVEYS LAKE FIRE GUTS TROXELL HOUSE

Five local schools to give diplomas to 140 seniors.

Flames destroy the old Troxell house at Outlet, Harveys Lake, owned by W.L. Evans of Wilkes-Barre.

Clarence LaBar succeeds Ernest Line as phys ed teacher at Dallas Borough High School, and Julia Dolton of Somerset, Philadelphia was named home economics and English teacher.

Showers curb forest fires but woods are still dry. Engaged - Florence Wentz and James Davenport.

Dallas Borough nine defeats Lake team 6-5.

40 Years Ago - May 13, 1949

KINGSTON TWP. GETS \$175,000 BUDGET

Mrs. Harry Haycox is named chairman of the solicitation to collect items for the library auction.

Zoning code is to be explained at the public meeting of Dallas Township May 17 at Dallas Township High School auditorium.

Kingston Township School Board Monday adopted a tentative budget for the year of \$175,708.44.

The committee in charge of Sweet Valley Volunteer Firemen's Parade is receiving entries daily for the Memorial Day event from organizations throughout the Back Mountain region.

Wed - Mary Delaney and Thomas Garrity; Henrietta Jane LeGrand and Charles Ciro Cucchio.

Dallas batters trim Carverton exploding for 16 hits to collect 11 runs to defeat their opponents 11-5.

30 Years Ago - May 7, 1959

LINDA GREY NAMED MAY QUEEN

Linda Grey will be May Queen at Lake-Noxen building of Lake-Lehman Jointure.

Citizens of Columbia Avenue, Memorial Highway and Lake Streets ask Dallas Borough Council for abatement of noise created by motorcycles in a neighboring motorcycle business.

Daughters arrange open house for Mrs. Kocher on Mother's Day. Engaged - Alice Joanne Sidler and James William Tethers, Jr.; Louise Williams and John M. Fink. Rev. Charles Gilbert will retire from the Methodist ministry to his home in Mt. Zion.

20 Years Ago - May 8, 1969

LETTER POSTAGE TO RISE TO 7 CENTS

Opposition to the proposed Back Mountain Expressway was voiced by Dallas Borough officials.

Rep. Frank J. O'Connell, Jr. urged PennDOT to consider grooving to correct hydroplaning on the Luzerne-Dallas Highway.

Glenn Johnson seeks Lehman Township supervisor post.

Postal rate hike of six to seven cents for a letter is proposed for July.

Engaged - Joyce Ann Stevens and Carl Tupper.

Wed - Laura Ann Naperkowski and Kurt German; Karen Ann Snee and Maris J. Ziemelis.

Lake-Lehman nine edges Dallas 3-2.

Dallas golfers lose to Spartans 13 1/2-4 to drop from first place.

10 Years Ago - May 10, 1979

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL TAX UP BY 8 MILLS

Dallas Township plans Spring Cleanup May 14, 15 and May 21 and 22.

Lake-Lehman School District's tentative budget would hike tax by eight mills.

Howard Grossman and Jean Fadar discuss plans for the 1979 Back Mountain Folks Art Festival at College Misericordia June 2 and 3.

Dallas Christian School plans to expand.

Engaged - Lynne Michelle Hess and Rev. Allan Jonathan Cease.

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church Women's annual antique show and sale is great success.

Back Mountain Kiwanis plans its second annual rodeo.

Road repairs scheduled

Matthew R. Collura, Luzerne County Maintenance Manager, has announced the following work schedule for Department forces for the week of May 8, 1989:

Brush Cutting - SR 4011 in Fairmount Twp.; Upper Demunds Road in Dallas Twp.

Ditch Cleaning - Manor Drive in Kingston Twp.; TR 29 in Plymouth & Lehman Twp.

Pothole Patching, TR 118 in Lehman Twp.

Farmers can join watershed program

Farmers in the Fishing Creek Watershed of Luzerne County troubled with Nutrient Management Problems on farmland, may be eligible for cost-share assistance provided through the Chesapeake Bay Program.

For anyone interested in participating in this program, the Luzerne County Conservation District will be holding a sign-up period from May 2 thru 17, during regular business hours, at the Agricultural Service Center, 71 North Market Street in Nanticoke. Farmland eligibility can only be determined if you sign-up.

Questions can be directed to the Conservation District Office by calling 825-1703.

Letters invited

The Dallas Post encourages readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters for publication must be signed and include a telephone number so that we may verify authenticity. We will not publish anonymous letters. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612. Letters received by Noon on Monday may be included in that week's issue.

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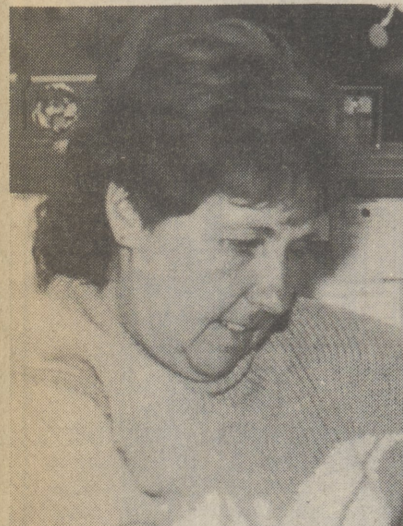
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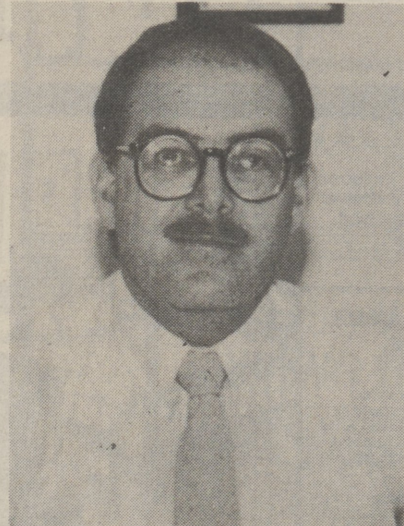
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The Post asks: "Would holding weekend elections attract more voters?"



Flossie Finn
Guidance
Dallas

"If it were on the weekend it would probably hurt the turnout. Election Day has become a tradition and to change would not be popular."



Robert Roberts
Administrator
Kingston

"I believe more people will stop on their way to or from work or while they are out if it's during the week."



Mary Ann Zier
Homemaker
Idetown

"The way it is now is best. I wouldn't want it changed. There's plenty of time to vote during the day."



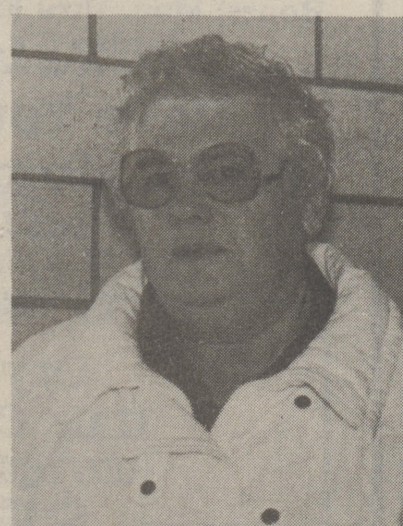
Lou Isaac
Teacher
Kingston Township

"That's a good question. I believe there would be less voters out if election was on the weekend. Many families go away or hate to give up free time."



Linda Johnson
Homemaker
Beaumont

"It's best as it is now. People wouldn't give up the time because they like to do things with their families on weekends."



Mabel Jenkins
Retired
Shavertown

"I don't think so. Most people are involved in activities elsewhere over the weekends."