

The Dallas Post

EDITORIALS

Now the tax reform ball is in your court

They came, we saw, now who will conquer? Seventy or so people turned out for last week's community forum on local tax reform, a reasonably good showing as these things go. They heard a range of views on plans to shift the local tax burden from property to income, and to allow voters a say in the process. But nothing is yet set in stone, and the door still is open to anyone who wants to influence the outcome.

While each speaker, from a top Senator's aide, to a school superintendent, to the spokesman for the teachers' union, was for some change, they parted company on some details. One point of departure was how many opportunities voters should have to give thumbs up or down to budgets and taxes. In one camp are supporters of a referendum any time a budget's growth exceeds the inflation rate, and on any large building project. In the other are the folks who don't quite trust the public to act responsibly, and who fear that an active minority of naysayers will block passage of necessary spending. But no one mentioned the states where elections are held on every budget, every year, and schools and government continue to function. Granted, there have been and continue to be some dicey votes, but by and large people understand that simply voting against everything isn't in their best interest.

There is, of course, no guarantee that elected representatives will act responsibly either, and the bloated federal debt is the prime example of that. Perhaps if the public had been able to vote on the federal budget each year it wouldn't be in the sad shape it is now.

The real point, though, is that local tax reform isn't yet a done deal, and you still have a chance to add your voice to the debate. Call or write Senator Charles Lemmond and Representatives Phyllis Mundy and George Hasay to tell them what you think should be done. But don't wait too long, because the momentum is building to get a bill out this summer, perhaps in a few weeks.

The addresses and phone numbers of your government officials are listed on this page.

Troubled times, and not much we can do

Has there ever been such a confusing set of events taking place around the world simultaneously? At the same time South Africa is stepping relatively peacefully from the shadow of apartheid, tens of thousands are brutally murdered in Rwanda. As Israel and its Mideast neighbors grope their way to an unsteady peace, the Khmer Rouge have returned to slaughter their fellow citizens in Cambodia. And, while Poland and a handful of other former Communist states bravely plod toward free enterprise, the "nations" of the former Yugoslavia destroy one another and their beautiful homeland. And there doesn't appear to be a thing we can do to help or hinder any of it, despite the recent reckless talk of invading Haiti.

During the Cold War, Americans' eyes were focused on the former Soviet Union and its massive armies and stockpile of missiles. Every conflict was viewed as an outgrowth of the supreme struggle between the two great powers, which frequently armed and supported one side of the other. But now we know it wasn't that way at all, these uncivil wars were and are mainly internal affairs, spurred by the same causes that have always caused them: Greed, inequity, envy, and the lust for power.

The main difference between these times and all before them is in the speed and scope of communication. We now see clearly the brutality of man against man, even as we enjoy the security of a system that values life and order, and provides at least minimal comfort for the vast majority of citizens.

It would be convenient if we could impose our values and order on others, but we can't. They must learn for themselves, often in the most cruel manner imaginable. Our best hope, and theirs, lies in doing what we can to encourage open, democratic dealings, and spurring the development of free markets that need the cooperation of all citizens to function.

Do you agree? Disagree?

Editorials are the opinion of the management of The Dallas Post. We welcome your opinion on contemporary issues in the form of letters to the editor. If you don't write, the community may never hear a contrasting point of view. Send letters to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612. Please include your name, address and a daytime phone number so that we may verify authenticity. We do not publish anonymous letters, but will consider withholding the name in exceptional circumstances. We reserve the right to edit for length and grammar.

Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - May 25, 1934

L.B. SQUIER LEAVES LEHMAN SCHOOLS

L.B. Squier, supervising principal of Lehman Township schools for the last four years, resigned this week to accept a similar position at Nicholson succeeding Edwin Kehrli who was elected superintendent of Wyoming County schools a month ago.

The world's mightiest amusement entourage, the Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Combine Circus, with its gigantic 1934 program of new world-wide wonders, many of which have never appeared in America, is scheduled to exhibit in Wilkes-Barre, June 8.

You could get - Salmon, 2 tall cans, 35¢; Hellman's Mayonnaise, qt. jar, 51¢; cantaloupes, 2/19¢; new beets, bnch. 6¢.

50 Years Ago - May 19, 1944

FIRE DESTROYS THE RUGGLES SAWMILL

The Payne property on Lake St., Dallas for many years the site of the Adelman Lumber Co., was sold Wednesday in Orphan's Court before Judge Andrew Hourigan to A.C. Devens, Dallas miller, for his high bid of \$9,500.

Ruggles sawmill at Beaumont, valued at \$8,000, was completely destroyed early Thursday morning when it was racked from end to end by flames. Five fire companies were called, but before any could arrive, the building was burnt to the ground.

The first open air spring concert of Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Co. Community Band composed of Back Mountain musicians will be given Sunday at 2 p.m. under the direction of Howard Cosgrove.

40 Years Ago - May 21, 1954

UNUSUAL CONTESTS AT SWEET VALLEY

With one exception - Dallas Township, where the vote was a tie - Sen. T. Newell Wood carried all Back Mountain Townships in the hot primary contest for State Senator Tuesday. He also carried the 6th Legislative District by 1,074 votes and the 5th by 1,557. His plurality in six townships and one borough in the Back Mountain area was 861.

Robert M. Scott, Trucksville has made 15 doll beds for the Library Auction July 9, and 10. All are nicely painted and decorated. Volunteers are needed to make bedding. Each little bed needs a mattress, pillows, sheets and a spread.

Wood-sawing, and wood-chopping contests for women as well as men will be a feature of the entertainment following the Sweet Valley Memorial Day Parade, May 31. Activities will take place on the new school grounds.

30 Years Ago - May 21, 1964

GAS STATION WILL CHANGE OWNERS

Mrs. Mary Dale, formerly of Allentown, will assume duties as a librarian of the Back Mountain Memorial Library September 13. She comes to Dallas from the Allentown Library. She received her degree in Library Science from Western Reserve Library School.

A service station in the middle of Dallas is due for a change of hands beginning of June, according to proprietor Raymond Malkemes. The Atlantic refining people have not renewed his lease on the premises, but so far have not announced the name of any potential occupants either. The property is a landmark, it was originally the site of the famous Raub Hotel.

The Fine Arts Fiesta of Wyoming Valley begins May 21 and continues through May 25. All performances and exhibits are free to the public.

Now playing, "Captain Newman, MD," with Gregory Peck and Tony Curtis at the Forty Fort Theatre.

20 Years Ago - May 23, 1964

PRESS AWARDS FOR AREA NEWSPAPERS

J.R. Freeman, editor-in-chief, Greenstreet News Co. and Carl Davies, editor of Mountaintop Eagle, won awards in the Keystone Press Awards competition. Awards were presented during the PNPA convention in Harrisburg.

Misericordia graduated 209 students at the 48th Annual Ceremonies. Music major Thomas Lewis was the first male student in the history of the college to receive a baccalaureate hood.

The Sisters of Mercy will open a kindergarten at Mercy Center, Dallas when school begins in September.

Back Mountain Baseball for Boys will open their season May 28 for the Back Mountain Girls Softball League, a new program in the area. All games will be played at the field behind the Dallas Township School and will begin at 6 p.m.

RU-486?

NO.

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J.W.J.

The silent president's clouded legacy

By J.W. JOHNSON

The recent passing of Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, was more unsettling for many Americans (including this one) than most realized until after he was gone.

So much of our history, and how we now view ourselves, seems to be wrapped up in the complicated, convoluted person and Presidency of Richard Nixon.

I have met and talked with six presidents, the first of which was Nixon, and with the dubious distinction of having done so a few days before he resigned in 1974. I met him again 19 years later (last year) in Washington...whereupon he recognized me and autographed his latest book for me...so much for my 15 minutes of fame.

As I've thought about him since his death, and witnessed the almost gratuitous outpouring for him at his funeral, it seems that Nixon was right.

There is a group of silent Americans—I refuse to believe, as Nixon proclaimed, they are a majority of Americans. And that silent group was felt, if not heard, throughout the land recently, when one of their own was laid to rest.

Indeed, when Richard Nixon said, after losing the election for Governor of California: "you're not going to have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore, he spoke for millions of Americans...who don't speak for themselves...who, in fact, don't participate in republi-

can democracy...who, instead, stand on the sidelines, mouthing bad things about those who do...indeed, the silent ones who are among those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Still, Nixon, and despite an almost painful introversion of personality, did thrust himself into the public arena...where he was eventually seen to be one of the silent ones...participating in his daily life by memo, and in his private life by conspiracy and crudity.

And lest we forget, and notwithstanding the renowned American credo of forgive and forget, it would do us well to remember that the man who was so honored recently, was also the man who very nearly destroyed the nation's constitutional government.

At every turn, and ignoring many opportunities to stand tall, Nixon instead lied, abused power, broke the law and slunk behind the coats of his subordinates. More to the point, and to the day he died, the only regret he expressed was that he got caught.

Perhaps the greatest crime committed by the 37th President of the United States, is that he permanently, and with mean spirited self interest, diminished greatly our faith in the political process.

He forever tarred the office of the president with a brush of indifference to the idea of constitutional government; to a separation of powers; to truth, justice,

and the American way; to simple, honorable behaviour by simple, honorable persons placed in incredibly complex and trying situations.

It's almost as if Nixon himself dropped an atomic bomb on American politics; the radioactive glow of his actions can still be seen today in the cynicism about politics in general.

He spent the last 20 years trying to rebuild his place in history, with speeches, books and occasional diplomatic missions around the world, Nixon, and with political lovemaking, sought to cloud the lens of history with an afterglow of good citizenship.

If he truly wanted to prove his innocence, he should have rejected the pardon offered by President Ford and stayed around for a trial. And if he wanted forgiveness, he should have admitted his guilt and said he was sorry.

He did neither.

Instead, he died recently, clinging, it would seem, to the notion that he had at least partially redeemed himself. From this chair, he should rest in peace, and he deserves the respect of someone who has been in the arena.

However, he does not deserve the respect of someone who made a positive difference. Whatever positive differences he made are outweighed by what he stole from the American people.

He stole faith in our system...and for that, may history always remember him.

Library news

Fascinating wetlands display visits library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The display case at the Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring an interesting arrangement of Wetland items borrowed from Sandra Tamanini of Harveys Lake. Sandra became interested in the Wetlands with an idea she read in the Ranger Rick magazine. Most of the items in the display are found in the wetland areas. She became a 4-H leader in a town and could not use animals for the 4-H project so a nature project was allowed. She acquired a book from a friend which gave her many ideas to work with. The town had lots of wetland areas and they were able to collect them and some also from her former town.

Shown in the display is a deer skull, snapping turtle skull, turtle shell, turkey feather, shelf mold which forms on dead trees; which they sculpted with and drew hand prints and dates on them. The display includes a large basin with

the dirt which represents the surface of earth; then goes through a sponge and runs down the river and has been filtered through the process. The roots in wetlands are designed to purify the water. There is a root in the display which is tangled naturally which she found in South Carolina. They adopted a wetland in their former town and cleaned it up and checked the water. They checked the fish, explored the plant life and found some species that only live in wetlands.

A pamphlet tells what you can do such as set up a display in your library and explain the purpose of wetlands. There are posters of fish with the display and a wreath made mostly from items from wetlands. She goes to schools and teaches about wetlands. She has been interested in wetlands for five years and calls it a fun hobby. Her children, Elia, Sarah, Leo and Juda are all interested in the project and study with her. This display is very timely and will

be at the library until June 8.

The recent issue of Good House-keeping magazine features the library cookbook "Chefs and Artists" in the regional cooking section. The article features a special recipe from the cookbook and the information on how to order a book from the library. To date, we have received orders from Sanger, California; Huntington Beach, Calif.; Orrington, ME; Reading, PA; Carnegie, PA and Houston, Texas.

The Summer Reading Program will begin on June 27 with sign-up in the children's room.

New book at the library: "Winner Take All" by Sean Flannery is a novel about the Cold War and Russia and the United States. These countries plan the mightiest war game ever staged "Operation Pit Bull" a mock battle to be executed off the coast of Brazil. Pilots and sailors will hone their skills, use new weapons, and world peace will be protected.

Federal Officials

Senator Harris Wofford

(Democrat)
Telephone
Scranton: 347-2341
Washington: (202) 224-6324
Address: 116 N. Washington Ave., Suite 3K, Scranton PA 18503

State Officials

State Sen. Charles D. Lemmond (R)
(717) 288-3925 or 287-0475
701 West Market Street, Kingston PA 18704-3496
Lemmond's district includes the Back Mountain.

State Rep. George Hasay (R)

287-7505 or 542-7345 or 474-2276 or 477-3752
369 South Mountain Boulevard, Mountaintop PA 18707
Hasay's district encompasses: Harveys Lake, Lehman Township, Jackson Township, Lake Township, Franklin Township, Ross Township, and Dallas Township's north voting district.

State Rep. Phyllis Mundy (D)

283-9622 or 655-3375
Suite 107, 400 Third Avenue, Kingston PA 18704
Mundy's district encompasses: Dallas Borough, Dallas Township except for the north voting district, and Kingston Township.

Senator Arlen Specter

(Republican)
Wilkes-Barre: 826-6265
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