

A LULL BEFORE THE STORM? An Editorial

Have most of you Allegany County Tax-Payers forgotten how close the County Board of Supervisors came to passing a County Sales Tax, a little over a year ago? Do you think they have forgotten it—or is this just an interim period—a "Lull before the Storm"?

Does a Leopard change its Spots? Do you think for one (1) minute that the "Hell-bent-for-Sales-Tax Supervisors have changed their minds one bit? Do you think that the appearance, of what seems to be such "easy-money", is going to fade those \$ (Dollar) Signs in their eyes?

Don't be an ostrich! Look at what is happening in the Counties surrounding us. We have printed an Editorial from a weekly paper in Chautauqua County that speaks for itself. There are rumblings emanating from Cattaraugus County about a proposed Sales Tax.

The "Evening Tribune" in Hornell has done a superb job in Steuben County and the surrounding area in keeping the public informed on the "Sales Tax Situation" there over the Holiday Season.

They have had the "intestinal fortitude" — or plainly speaking—the "guts"—to Editorially oppose the proponents of the Sales Tax and have given good Valid reasons for their stand. This, at the risk of much financial loss in income from future legal advertising and printing, as well as business from other sources.

It was reported that Corning Supervisor Ralph Overstrom (Steuben County) commented, that he did not understand what the proponents of a Sales Tax for Steuben meant when they said that the additional revenue would result in a reduction of county and—or town taxes. "It hasn't happened anywhere else they have instituted a sales tax, they still pay county and town taxes at the same rate, and in some counties they want to increase the county taxes besides."

Why would it be any different here in Allegany County? What is the need and justification for a County Sales Tax? Hasn't the tax rate averaged out the same throughout the County as it was last year? Isn't it much lower than in many, many other counties?

Do the majority of the Taxpayers want a Sales Tax? If the Board of Supervisors feel this is true—we challenge them to put the proposition up to a Public Referendum to see how the people feel about it!

If the people don't want a Sales Tax—who does then? Obviously, a hard core of a "Supervisor Clique" from Allegany, Steuben, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties is conspiring in a concentrated effort to pass simultaneously, Sales Tax measures.

Does this sound impossible? Why then did Supervisor Earl Wilson of Tuscarora in Steuben County say recently that he and "other interested parties" from Steuben, Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties have held several inter-county meetings to discuss a sales tax? Did he let the cat out of the bag?

Does it sound as if we are just "Whistling in the Dark"? Not by a jugful! Very recently we received a phone call from a reliable source in a neighboring County that the "Hell-bent-for-Sales-Tax" Supervisors are hard at it again in Our County.

We immediately started checking around—only to find out that when those doors are slammed shut on an "Executive Session" of the Board of Supervisors—The Public and Press are barred from entering—and the truth of what happens inside is barred from leaving.

However we managed to find a "little Bee" that escaped from "under a bonnet" that buzzed in our ear to tell us that the above warning could be considered to be "pretty close to the truth"!

Just what does go on behind those closed doors? Could it be that a Sales Tax proponent has told "The Boys" that the best time to spring the deal—is right after election—so the people will forget it by another election time?

Let's do something before its too late—and we wake up in the morning to find a County Sales Tax in effect!

Turning Back The Pages

(Taken from the Files of The Andover News)

50 YEARS AGO

January 23, 1914

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Miss Maude Heath of Smethport and Henry Alvord of Andover were united in marriage on New Year's Day.

T. J. Gilbert was installed as Noble Grand of Andover Odd Fellows Lodge Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Hattie Conley was installed Worthy Matron of Anna W. McArthur Chapter OES, Monday evening.

John Howe visited his daughter, Mrs. William Brown of Oil City last week.

Miss Genevieve Loughhead left Thursday for Washington, D. C., where she entered the Nurse's Training School of the George Washington University.

40 YEARS AGO

January 19, 1924

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Fraternal heads in Andover include H. E. Robinson, Master of the Grange; Carlyle Myers, Noble Grand of the Odd Fellows; T. J. Gilbert, Chief Patriack of the Encampment; Robert Brundage, Master of the Masonic Lodge and Jennie Carr, Noble Grand of the Rebekahs.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Trowbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Livermore, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Livemore and Mrs. Will Clark were in Charlotte last Friday to attend the funeral of Mrs. F. W. Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Thorne and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bennett were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Scott of Cuba.

Mrs. Robert Moran went to Rochester Tuesday where Mr. Moran is working for the Eastman Kodak Co.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Robinson, daughter, Ruby and C. A. Robinson were in Greenwood Thursday to attend the funeral of N. E. Coston.

W. F. Snyder was in New York City Monday and Tuesday in the interests of the Brown and Bailey Condensory.

30 YEARS AGO

January 12, 1934

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Arthur Wagner, 62, died in his sleep Sunday morning. Survivors are his wife and four children.

H. S. Thorne will serve on the Grand Jury at the January Term of Court.

Mrs. Victor Dailey and Mrs. John W. Cannon were Smethport, Pa., visitors the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Butler were week-end guests at the home of her uncle, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Perry of Westfield, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bixby and Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Potter attended the funeral of Mrs. Flora Crittenden at Oswayo, Thursday.

I. H. Gilfillan and A. O. Kemp returned Wednesday from a 3-day business trip to Arcade area.

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THIS IS AN EDITORIAL THAT APPEARED IN THE Jan. 9 1964 EDITION OF "THE CLYMER INDEPENDENT" in neighboring CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY. This is where the Press and most of the Taxpayers didn't find out about a proposed County Sales Tax until on Thursday—with their Board of Supervisors scheduled to meet—and hopefully pass the Sales Tax—that next day—on Friday!

BLACK FRIDAY — Republican Deception Thwarted.

Twenty-three Chautauqua County Supervisors (twenty Republicans and three Democrats) last week brought discredit upon themselves and shame to their constituents when they tried to secretly cram the repulsive sales tax down the peoples throat without proper notice. These men must not have quite caught the spirit of Christmas, for on the very next night they met without announcement at the home of the Board Chairman in Bemus Point and plotted their unscrupulous act. Then denying that such a proposition would come up at the organizational meeting when an alert reporter discovered their rendezvous, they scrapped representative government to carry out their infamous scheme.

As always, when narrow minds prevail, the power of a free people and a free press was miscalculated. Some two hundred and sixty persons, representing as good a cross-section of the county as could ever be wished for, quickly assembled and refuted the Board. Much the same was done in 1958, when many of the same Supervisors were on that board. Contrary to some reports, the meeting went exceptionally smooth, and despite the determination of the opponents of the sales tax to quench it, they conducted themselves in a most gentlemanly and businesslike manner. Everyone can be proud of the honorable proceedings on the part of the citizens of Chautauqua County who were forced to prepare their defense in so short a time.

Just who or what is pulling the strings in this county that make the Republican Supervisors jump like puppets, we do not pretend to know for sure. If we have a County Republican machine, or if the state is trying to place undue pressure, it is time the Supervisors stood like men — and we don't mean "yes men" — to the threat of an underhanded group and the damage they can do. Democrat Supervisors Fred Cusimano and Daniel Larson of Jamestown, Joseph Gerace of Busti and Republican Julian Buesink of Mina, are to be congratulated on their stand for the rights of the people and against their colleagues.

That the people were not represented according to their wishes, was apparent during the meeting. A review of the proceedings brought to mind what might be considered a remedy to the situation of "clique" rule. First, that Supervisors unopposed at an election should be limited to two terms in office. Second, that all proposals for action by the Board should be prefiled at least one month in advance of the vote, and copies given to the press and radio of the county. Third, that a broad look should be given to the arguments of the proponents of reapportionment. It hardly seemed fair to see a man representing a thousand persons and another representing many thousands — both having one-vote. The idea of having one vote for each thousand persons represented might not be such a bad one after all.

Despite the opinions of a majority of the people, it looks now as if the proponents will still try to get their scheme across — this time by sweet talk and scare tactics. If they worked half as hard standing up to the tyrants who are pushing for more "easy money" as they do in trying to force them upon their constituents, a raise in taxes and big "bossism" could be thwarted here and now. The old saying goes "cut off a politicians source of easy revenue and you leave him powerless." Chautauqua County has the golden opportunity of setting an example by standing firm in the fight against new and higher taxes — NOW — while the eyes of the state are upon us!

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS BASIC TO ALL YOUR AMERICAN FREEDOMS! Only as your Newspaper is free to print the facts, can you be free to know them. Only as you know the facts, can you act wisely in the best interests of your Community, as you see them. In America, there is plenty of room for opinions. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO KNOW THE TRUTH!

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