

# "Inside The State Capital"

By James L. Emery

## INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX PROPOSAL

You may recall Governor Carey's unsuccessful proposal of early last year to increase or impose sales taxes on a wide variety of services, products, and activities enjoyed by the public. These included bowling, theatre, concert and movie admissions, gasoline, haircuts, interior decorating and a great deal more.

That tax package was eventually abandoned but now the Governor's Economic Development Board has come up with a new idea that is just as unacceptable. They want to impose a four per cent state sales tax on all insurance premiums.

This tax proposal would produce an estimated \$400 million in new tax revenues if approved and the Assembly Republican Ways and Means Staff, in analyzing the implications of the proposal, estimates that the average insurance buying family in this state would wind up paying between \$42 to \$52 dollars in taxes on insurance annually if these proposals were to be enacted. That is an average estimate but the figure would rise considerably if, for example, there were several youthful drivers in the family and the family consequently had to pay a higher-than-average automobile insurance premium.

This latest suggestion from the Carey administration, coming only weeks after the Governor signed the state budget and repeatedly pointed out that it was a "no tax" fiscal plan, is hardly reassuring. Do we really need this new \$400 million in taxes? I say that the answer is definitely NO and I do not intend to support this proposal if it ever gets to the floor of the Assembly for debate.

Consider this fact: the Governor's budget is based on an estimate of revenue growth this fiscal year of only 7.4 per cent. That is an extremely modest estimate with each percentage point of difference representing about \$100 million in state revenues.

We already have statistical information indicating that the Governor's estimate is going well below actual growth and this underestimation means that millions in unbudgeted revenues will flow into the state treasury without passing any new tax package, let alone a \$400 million tax proposal.

The tax collection figures for March of this year as compared to March of last year show a growth not of 7.4 per cent, but of 13.1 per cent. Our estimate for the whole of the 1976 year is now for a growth rate of 10 per cent overall, well over the 7.4 per cent on which our budget is based.

Translated into revenues, a year-long percentage of growth at 10 per cent would mean that over \$350 million would be in the state treasury by the end of the fiscal year beyond what was anticipated in the state budget passed in March. True, there are likely to be further expenditures in the state supplemental budget taken up at the end of the session but there is no reason for such expenditures to be anywhere near that amount. There will also be new revenues coming in from a reactivated state lottery and several bills have already been passed in the Assembly that would add still more revenues if ever signed into law.

Just a few weeks ago, for example, a bill passed the Assembly imposing a heavier tax bite on so-called "exotic-wagering" at Yonkers and Roosevelt Raceways that its Democrat sponsor said would yield an additional \$20 million in taxes annually for the state.

I see no justification for the Economic Development Board's proposed sales tax on all insurance premiums and I hope that reaction to the idea from the public will be loud, strong and decidedly negative.

With the Legislature in recess



### 50 YEARS AGO

April 16, 1926

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Frank Brundage, 71, died April 11 at his home in Hornell. Burial was in Canisteo, Tuesday P. M. He was born in Greenwood and is survived by his widow; one daughter, Mrs. Guy Wood and one sister, Miss Belle Brundage, both of Andover.

The Literary Society of Andover High School will hold a Bake Sale April 17 at B. C. Williams Store. The Senior Class was organized Monday and the following officers were elected: President, Louise Folsing; Vice President, Grace Burdick and Secretary and Treasurer, Fern Greenle.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Baptist Church will serve a Roast Beef Supper at the Church, Wednesday, April 21. Price \$5 cents. The State Road Maintenance Gang commenced work Monday morning.

J. N. Wentworth took five head of registered Holstein cattle to Le Roy, Saturday for Harry Boyd who purchased the cattle from local breeders last week.

William Joyce has purchased the Henry Eggert farm on South Hill and will take possession in the near future.

The new residence of Burrell Williams on Elm Street is ready for the stucco with which it is to be finished. J. L. Williams and K. Burdick are the contractors.

Roland Stephens is driving a new Oakland Sports Roadster. The Oakland Coach which he purchased last Fall, has been sold to F. J. Raufenbarth.

The Seventh Day Baptist are moving the house recently purchased of the Adams Estate on Dyke Street to their lot on Greenwood Street. M. G. Edwards of Woodhull is doing the work.

Mrs. James P. Cannon, Mrs. E. S. Horan and Mrs. T. K. Regan entertained at a bridge luncheon at the Murry Tea Room in Wellsville in honor of Mrs. R. E. Temple Thursday P. M.

The Henry Eggert Auction on South Hill last Wednesday was well attended although the weather was rather unfavorable. Sales were under the management of Auctioneer Scott, but the sale of the farm which was between two bidders, was deferred until later at which time William Joyce purchased it. The Eggert house has been residing on the Hill for 12 years.

Miss Lenore Dean who spent a week's Easter vacation at her home on South Hill, returned to her school work in Cleveland, Sunday.

John Wahl succeeded in moving Leo Horan's furniture by truck from Andover to the Horan farm last week.

Harry Boyd and Mr. Price of Batavia, were buying cattle in the Lane School District last week.

Mrs. W. J. Redmond and son

until April 27, I have had the chance to turn my full attention to district business during most of this period. I have just completed three "Speak-Out" sessions in Livingston, Allegany and Ontario counties where I had the opportunity to meet and talk with a number of area residents concerning a wide variety of state and legislative-related matters. I found the sessions held in Dansville, Wellsville and Canandaigua to be most worthwhile.

On Thursday, April 15, I travelled to Washington, D. C. with several other area legislators to meet with Central and Federal officials concerning the future of the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad. I have recently been named to an Ad Hoc Assembly Committee to deal with that important subject and I will report on our trip in a future column.

Daniel of West Greenwood were callers in Hornell, Monday.

John Bell of East Valley was a business visitor on Greenwood Hill Saturday.

Paul Leonard of Rexville and Glenn Lewis of Young Hickory have been spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Lewis of East Valley.

Miss Mary O'Leary returned to her duties as teacher in Elizabeth New Jersey after spending the Easter vacation at the home of her father, J. A. O'Leary.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Howland, Mrs. Florence Slocum, Mrs. Berta Myers and Mrs. Maggie Muller were in Allentown to attend the evening session of the Rebekah District Convention.

Mrs. Charles Magee died at her home in Denver, Colo., March 31 at the age of 70. She was the daughter of the late Joseph Krusen of Andover. She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Mary Lager of Kansas City and Mrs. Ida Hammond of Andover and one brother, Charles Krusen.

Miss Emily M. Blodgett of Connersport, Pa., and Clarence Cook of Andover were married April 4.

A reception was held at the Baptist Church for the Rev. J. H. Seeley Tuesday evening with a large attendance. A program of musical selections and talks by Rev. Walter Green, A. W. MacDonough and Prof. O. K. Simpson was enjoyed. After which refreshments were served.

Supervisor Levi R. Tubbs, a former resident and principal of Andover, now is Supervisor of the Salamanca School District. The Board governing the Supervisory School District will select the Superintendent next Tuesday for the coming year. The Salamanca Inquire hopes that the Board will see fit to reappoint Mr. Tubbs whom all have come to know so well and feel that he is one of our substantial citizens. Mr. Tubbs, in the time he has been here in Salamanca, has always taken an active part in the civic advancement of the community, in its religious life of the community and the welfare of the students over which he has charge. To lose him as a citizen of the community would mean a great loss to all these organizations that he has been so active in.

Good work by the Andover Fire Department Friday morning saved the residence of Attorney C. L. Early from destruction by fire which originated in the second story of the building. The fire was in the attic that had not been opened only when the house was shingled in 85 years. There is no electric wiring or heating stoves in that part of the building. Smoke and water damaged the household goods badly but to the building itself the blaze was extinguished so quickly that the damage will not be great. The total damage will be from \$500 to \$1,000, fully covered by insurance.

Mrs. Nina Stebbins Palmer, died at her home in Almond, April 17. She was a daughter of the late John A. and Phoebe Stebbins, born July 16, 1856 at Caspovava, Pa. For several years she lived with relatives in Independence and on September 14, 1896 she married Henry D. Palmer who died. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery in Almond. Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Crandall, Miss Alice Clarke, Samuel and Anna Laura Crandall all attended the funeral.

Myles McInnis died at his home in Wellsville, April 16. Mr. McInnis came from Ireland a century ago and lived in Andover for 10 years then went to Wellsville where he has lived for the past 40 years. His wife, Mary Cleary died a few years ago. He is survived by the following children: Mrs. Edward Kitzman of Andover, Mrs. J. B. Lynch of Hornell, Mrs. M. Donnellan of Hornell, Mrs. Kathryn Torres of Wellsville, Paul of Buffalo, Mrs. A. W. Walsh of Brooklyn; one brother, Patrick of Olean; two sisters, Mrs. Edward Gallagher of Olean and Mrs. Thomas Haley of Angelica. Burial was in Wellsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brown are preparing a son, Edwin, for Sunday, April 18.

Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Brewster are observing their 50th wedding anniversary today, April 20.

Our first real "April Showers" occurred this year on Wednesday afternoon. It was accompanied by a slight thunder storm.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Logan are parents of a son, Warren Reginald born April 20.



Why do you want to take food stamps away from needy college students?

G. S. - Alaska

My bill to reform the food stamp program would not affect students from poor families who are already eligible for stamps, but only those who come from non-needy families. The use of food stamps by college students who are not poor is a gross exploitation of the young Americans of that age. It is a waste of money and a burden on farmers and in the Amazon Forest, and who are forced to subsidize the profligate of their peers who are seeking more stamps. It is a waste of money in the future by investing now in higher education.

What reasons can the United States make to the U.N. General Assembly concerning attacks on Zionism?

D. L. - Ontario

The United States should review the extent of its participation in, and financial support of, the General Assembly's political activities. Instead of being a leading force for inhibiting the spread of hatred, the United Nations has now become a major vehicle for inciting the most virulent form of anti-Semitism in the world. Adolf Hitler. In so doing, it has forfeited any right to be taken seriously as a peacekeeping body. I do believe, however, that we should continue to be active in such non-political arms of the U.N. as the World Health Organization, where the U.N. continues to perform a useful function.

I know you disagree with forced busing, but isn't this the best way to work for an integrated society?

M. E. - Vermont

I do not believe that public schools should be used for the public's shortcomings or to make up for them. Rather, public schools exist to awaken the young minds and develop basic skills, such as reading, writing, and calculating. By politicizing the school system, the day may come when any elected official having gained control over the administration of the schools, will have a free hand to mold them into a tool of its own politics. I believe we should beware of such a possibility.

A newly painted set of street policemen appeared at the corners on Main Street in our Village Wednesday.

Herman Snyder and Menzo Burdick are both driving new Ford's recently purchased from the Joca Ford Dealer Guy S. Wood.

Hiram Boyd has bought the Timothy Rogers residence on North Main Street. Mr. Rogers is moving to his house on Hill Street.

A new kitchen is being built in the rear of the City Restaurant being necessary to accommodate the increasing volume of business.

John P. Dean and Anthony Dougherty, both of South Hill have purchased milking machines of P. C. Lynch of Andover, which are now being used by Carl Burdick of Elm Valley.

Miss Charles, daughter and son Charles and daughter, daughter of Andover and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Howard all children of Petrolia, were callers at the Charles Cole home in Elm Valley, Sunday. Mrs. E. A. Clair, Miss Mary Boyd, Mrs. H. D. Rogers, Mrs. George Vickers, Mrs. Florence Slocum and Mrs. David Slocum were in Hornell, Tuesday evening to attend a meeting of the White Shrine.

Dr. Clarence W. Hardy sailed April 14 aboard the S. S. George Washington as a hip surgeon, enroute for Bremen, Germany and other ports. Dr. Hardy has recently returned from a similar voyage to Panama Canal Zone.

Miss Marie Welch returned to her teaching in Utica after spending her Easter vacation with her mother of Mrs. Ellen Waich.

Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Hardy of Tecumseh, Michigan, returned to D. Hardy of Elmira. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hardy and family of Independence were weekend guests of their mother, Mrs. G. A. Hardy.

P. F. and J. A. Padden returned to their work in Morrisstown, N. J. Sunday evening after spending the weekend visiting relatives in Wellsville, Hornell and Andover.

Miss Mary Frisby was given a surprise birthday Monday after

day. Miss Gates, daughter and son of Mrs. J. H. Hornell were the out-of-town guests.

E. C. Williams and William Childs went to Buffalo, Tuesday to drive in a new Two-Ten Chevrolet Truck for use in the Village Bros. Motor Express Line.

### 40 YEARS AGO

April 16, 1936

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers. Miss Bertha Gates, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gates of Pleasant Avenue, completed her 3 1/2 years training as a nurse at the Wellsville Hospital, Monday. Miss Gates is home for a few days before returning to the hospital to assume duties as a Professional Nurse.

Miss Mary Alice Walden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emery Walden of Hornell, and John Henry Potter of Troupsburg, were married at the home of the bride's parents, April 2.

Ralph Burnett was the only Andover candidate for Trial Juror for the Term of Court April 20.

Last Friday night was the regular Annual Meeting of the Andover Fire Department. The following Officers were elected for the coming year: F. S. Potter, President; E. D. Baker, Vice President; B. B. Ham, Secretary; A. L. Rogers, Treasurer; E. A. Mullin, Trustee (for 3 years); Charles Jones, Foreman; Harold Baber, 1st Assistant Foreman; Carl Childs, 2nd Assistant Foreman; Clarence Slocum, Chief; George Wershey, 1st Assistant Chief; Joseph Hermon, 2nd Assistant Chief; David Simpson, Fire Warden; David Slocum, Albert Rogers, A. L. Youmans, Harry Ketch, E. A. Mullin, Fire Police.

Sunday evening the Village School re-organized, choosing P. E. Tuttle, Acting Mayor; C. S. Hammons, was reappointed Comptroller; C. L. Barry, Village Attorney; C. B. Caple, reappointed Clerk and Treasurer; E. E. Orvis, Assessor; Charles Jones, register.

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