

Do You Want Lower Taxes?—Here's How You Can Reduce the High Tax Burden:

Do you know that for the first time in the twenty-six years of Washington statehood the last legislature passed an act which offers relief to the overburdened taxpayers?

This act was drawn by J. T. S. Lyle, formerly assistant attorney general, attorney for Taxpayers' Association of Tacoma and State Federation of Taxpayers' Efficiency Associations, assisted by members of other taxpayers' leagues, the Bureau of Inspection and Supervision of Public Offices and other public-spirited officials, after consultation with authorities from all over the United States.

It is commonly called the Budget Bill and is the most complete law ever passed on the subject of raising and spending the public funds of counties, cities, towns, school, port, and park districts.

Remember that 90 per cent, or \$90.00 out of every \$100.00 paid in taxes, will be raised and expended under the provisions of this measure.

The Budget Measure had the remarkable history of being passed by the Senate with every vote for it. It passed the House with but one vote against it. Governor Lister signed the measure without hesitation.

IT WAS THE ONLY IMPORTANT MEASURE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE UPON WHICH ALL FACTIONS AGREED.

Then what happened?

Some office-holders who want a free hand in spending the public money made a combination with organizations who were against other measures passed by the legislature and had the Budget Measure included in the referendum petitions.

THIS BUDGET MEASURE WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AS REFERENDUM MEASURE NO. 9.

MR. TAXPAYER, ARE YOU GOING TO LET THE TAX-EATERS DEFEAT THE ONLY MEASURE EVER PASSED FOR YOUR RELIEF?

Do you want to put an end to the rag-time systems of doing public business?

Do you know that the total taxes in this state increased from \$27,052,874 in 1911 to \$37,448,539 in 1916, while the population of this state, as shown by the school census, has remained nearly stationary?

Not only that, but the public officers didn't even keep expenses within the enormous sum raised.

Last year, county, city, and school districts alone paid **SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS** in interest on warrants not covered by the tax levies.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAND IT?

Do not forget that the public debt of all these taxing districts now amounts to more than one hundred million dollars, which is ten per cent. of the assessed valuation of all the property in the state, and more than \$80.00 for each man, woman and child in the state.

Do You Know That High Taxes Increase the Cost of Every Article You Buy?

STATE FEDERATION OF TAXPAYERS' EFFICIENCY ASSOCIATIONS
A Federation of the Taxpayers' Associations and Leagues of Eleven Counties in Washington.

TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION OF TACOMA.
The members of this Association pay more than one-half of all the taxes levied in Pierce County.

Referendum Measure No. 9 will appear on the Ballot as the last Referendum Measure. The first line of the Ballot Title will read: "An Act relating to the raising and expenditure of revenues by counties, cities, etc."

Vote "For Referendum Measure No. 9 [X]" and Help Reduce the High Cost of Living.

REFERENDUM MEASURE NO. 9 WILL STOP THIS WASTE.

It will make the officers estimate their expenditures in an orderly way.

It will make them decide on the expenditure upon which the levy is based at a public hearing.

It will make them stick to the amounts set forth in their estimates. The State Constitution requires the same thing of state officers. This will cut off the big interest load.

It will make them spend the money for the purposes agreed upon at the hearing with the taxpayers.

Isn't this Popular government?

It will prevent raids being made on the treasury during the year for a lot of half-baked, ill-advised projects.

THIS IS THE GREAT CAUSE OF HIGH TAXES AND THE HEAVY WARRANT INDEBTEDNESS.

It will compel all those with new schemes for spending public money to wait until the public hearing for making the budget, when they must meet the taxpayers face to face.

It will allow emergency warrants for purposes which could not have been foreseen at the time the budget was made up. It will prohibit fake emergencies.

It will knock out the custom of counting taxes levied as assets for indebtedness purposes, without upsetting the estimated expenses for the year.

ONE OF THE SUPREME COURT JUDGES RECENTLY STATED THAT THIS ONE FEATURE ALONE WOULD JUSTIFY PASSING THE MEASURE, EVEN IF ALL THE THINGS SAID AGAINST IT WERE TRUE.

Referendum Measure No. 9 has the teeth to make public officers obey its provisions. That's why so many of them are against it.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE TALK ABOUT PAYING INTEREST ON WARRANTS WHILE IDLE MONEYS ARE ON HAND.

Referendum Measure No. 9 will not change the present law with reference to funds.

The appropriations are handled by ledger accounts. The warrants for the different purposes are drawn on a common fund. This also applies to emergency warrants.

The opponents' other argument—that it will make levies higher—is no better.

California and Idaho have pay-as-you-go provisions in their constitutions which make officers stay within the levy. Their levies are not higher on that account.

The present road law prevents county commissioners from spending more than the road levy in any one year, but it hasn't increased the road taxes.

ACTUAL EXPERIENCE IS BETTER THAN CONVERSATION.

This Means You

The Constitution makes every voter a legislator on Initiative and Referendum matters. Some cunning opponents of the referendum measures have started the slogan, "If in doubt about a referendum measure, either vote 'No' or do not vote at all."

Referendum Measure No. 9, the Budget Measure, is the exception, whatever the view taken.

It covers technical and complicated questions of local government which cannot be understood except by an elaborate explanation by experts. There is no other method by which the voter can get that information. Yet by the legal machinery provided by the referendum amendment to the Constitution the voters will accept or veto the measure.

YOUR VOTE MAY DECIDE THE QUESTION.

The legislature and the Governor had the information upon which to act.

The Governor and every member of the legislature decided that it should become a law. They were elected to represent you.

Will you take the judgment of Governor Lister, who signed the bill; the legislative committees of both houses, the 45 senators and 95 representatives who voted for the bill after hearing both sides; the taxpayers who fathered this measure and whose interests are identical with yours?—or

Will you allow yourselves to be carried away by the arguments of those who either are not well informed or who will profit by its defeat?

IF YOU VOTE AGAINST REFERENDUM MEASURE NO. 9, OR FAIL TO VOTE AT ALL, IT IS UP TO YOU TO FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE ABOUT HIGH TAXES.