

AT THE BRINK?

An Editorial

Critics of New York's ever upward spiral of State spending and taxes have frequently said that our heavy tax burden would discourage talented individuals from coming to this state as well as deter the expansion of existing businesses and the formation of new businesses.

In fiscal 1966-67, reports the Citizens Public Expenditure Survey, Inc. — the statewide taxpayer organization — New York's state and local tax burden totaled \$57.84 per person. That per person tax figure — the highest in the nation — was \$148.33 or 47.9 per cent more than the national average state and local tax burden of \$309.51 per person.

Heavy taxes in New York State are now beginning to alarm public officials — including Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller.

In a recent interview, Governor Rockefeller said that the new higher personal income tax brackets imposed by the 1968 Legislature were "slowing down some of the ablest talent from coming to the state — scientists, bankers, corporation executives, people like that."

"I've had letters from many corporations telling of a number of junior executives and scientists who have stated they did not want to move to New York because of the cost of living and the tax structure," said the Governor.

"The structure is very competitive. Local communities are worried about the real property tax. The State has to be worried now about the income tax and its effect on individuals and corporations."

Governor Rockefeller commented, "We're very close to reaching the limit as to what we can do on taxes without adversely affecting New York State's position with other states."

On the other hand, New York State again leads the nation in spending for elementary and secondary education. Figures recently released by the National Education Association show that current expenditures per pupil in average daily attendance rose to \$1,140, up \$116 or 11.3 per cent in one year.

New York per pupil expenditures are estimated to be \$227 more than New Jersey — the next highest state — exceeding spending there by close to 25 per cent. Compared to the nation, New York is 67.6 per cent higher than average.

The major part of the current expenditures of school districts is the salaries of classroom teachers, principals, librarians, guidance and psychological personnel and other related instructional workers.

New York State has the lowest ration of pupils per classroom teacher and professional staff in the nation. For example, California with 1,136,000 or 37 per cent more pupils — has only 2.9 per cent more classroom teachers. The total number of instructional staff in New York actually exceeds that in California. The result is that estimated current expenditures for 1968-69 in New York will exceed \$3.5 billion — \$577 million or 19.6 per cent MORE than in California despite having far fewer pupils in average daily attendance.

There is a point beyond which taxation becomes self-defeating. The Governor's comments indicate we may be at that point.

The obvious solution to the problem is to hold down future State government spending increases and avoid the tax increases necessary to pay for that spending.



50 YEARS AGO

March 7, 1919

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Henry Garvin has purchased of Wilard Talbot his residence on Maple Street.

Thomas Courtney, 52, died February 27th at his home on Elm Street. His wife, two daughters and a son survive. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery.

The farmers have begun making maple syrup.

Mrs. Frank M. Vogan of Canton, Ohio, is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. R. Crandall of Independence.

Mrs. Nora Burdick and daughter of Alfred spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Crandall of Independence.

Mrs. Johnston and daughter, Evelyn, of Mohawk, are guests of her aunts, Mrs. W. D. and E. E. Clarke of Independence.

Miss Nellie Horan is visiting her sister, Mrs. Lou Snyder of East Valley for a few days.

The first Robin has been seen up East Valley way.

Miss Alice Clarke went to Alfred Station Friday to visit Mrs. Betsy Clarke.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nichols are passing a few days this week in Olean, Buffalo and Rochester.

Earl J. Dawson visited relatives and friends in Buffalo from Saturday until Wednesday and took in the Automobile Show while in the city.

A. C. Briggs visited his daughter, Mrs. George Lewis of Whitesville last week.

Mrs. M. L. Burt of Saginaw, Mich., is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Beebe.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Austin of Whitesville and Mr. and Mrs. Owen Stillman of Friendship, visited Mrs. Emma Robbins this week.

Mrs. Estella Richardson and Wallace Cummings are visiting Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Richardson in Hornell this week.

Mrs. Anna McQuin of Woodhull is passing a few days guest of her sister, Mrs. Robert Brundage

40 YEARS AGO

March 8, 1929

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Andover relatives received word of the death of Mrs. Herbert Burdick of Clearwater, N. Y., Sunday. Her husband and four daughters survive.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burger are the parents of a son, born Thursday.

An American Legion Post has been organized at Whitesville with 21 charter members. H. H. Barney is Commander and T. B. Hawks, adjutant.

Fred Halsey has rented the James Joyce farm and started work Monday.

S. B. Crandall returned to his home in Independence from Washington, D. C., where he had been on business.

Miss Mary Etta Spicer of Independence, is visiting Miss Jane Crandall at Alfred this week.

Stephen Clarke of Independence is attending the Farmers' Market Trip to New York City this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Gee were called to Rochester Sunday by the illness and death of Mr. Gee's sister, Mrs. Herbert Burdick.

Mrs. Eda Sheppard of Alfred is a guest this week of Mrs. C. E. Earley.

Mrs. Ila Clarke went to Canisteo Monday to assist in the care of her son-in-law, Letts Thompson who is ill.

Mrs. Thomas Joyce spent the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Joyce.

Miss Edith Gee is at Thameville, Canada, this week, called there by the death of her father, William Gee.

Mrs. Lillian Harrington of Wellsville is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Edward Horan and family this week.

Mrs. Fannie Langworthy of Canisteo is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Brundage.

Mrs. Walter Dyer is passing a few days guest of her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dyer of Shingoes, Pa.



By Alex Rankin

"Maybe we could pass a law skipping March 13," a state legislator said today after a long and difficult session at his home in the city of Albany or not be the same thing.

That is because the state faces a real crisis that could mean a head on collision with the more than 100,000 members of the Public Employee Relations Board, a creative of the Taylor Law, ruled the governor was wrong. They said state employees should be divided into five negotiating units. After PERB decides which employees belong in each of the five units, elections will be held to decide what union a majority in each of the five wants to represent them.

Until the PERB ruling, Rockefeller had been negotiating with the CSEA over wage hikes and fringe benefits. When the ruling came out, Rockefeller broke off negotiations. The CSEA objected and has called a strike.

What is the Legislature doing as March 13 comes closer?

They are busy hammering out a bill that would strengthen the section of the Taylor Law that provides penalties for public employees who strike.

They are seriously considering — the endency is to stiffen, up in the face of threats — a bill by Senator John H. Hughes of Syracuse which would make it a felony for union leaders to either advocate a strike or conspire to call one. It would allow judges to slap unlimited fines on unions and also allow judges to deduct money from the pay envelopes of union

members until the fine is paid if there is no money in the union treasury.

Members of the Albany Open Line are invited to call the Albany Open Line at 439-1234.

in Albany, N. Y. The Albany Open Line is a non-profit organization which is open to all who are interested in the Albany Open Line.

Do you favor strike action? Would you participate in picketing? Would you cross a picket line? Do you favor job action other than a strike? Would you participate in job action other than a strike? "Job action" would be a slow down or a massive sick call. One Albany writer suggested with a lagh last week the most effective "job action" would be a speed up, with employees refusing to take coffee breaks and pestering bosses for more work.

Two polls are already in. The Motor Vehicle Department voted 1,600 out of a possible 2,000 in favor of a strike, but the State Department of Taxation and Finance voted 2,000 against and 400 for a strike.

What does this mean for the average citizen. With the new staggered system of issuing car license plates, it would mean a lot of people wouldn't get them and it would mean a lot of people counting on tax rebates would have to wait for months. It would bring the state lottery to a halt.

There are reports the State Employment Division in New York City has voted for the strike, and that most key punch operators in all departments are willing to go out.

Floyd Lever of Boston, Mass., was the guest of Andover relatives Sunday.

Miss Frances Brundage returned to her work in Buffalo Tuesday after a two weeks visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Brundage.

30 YEARS AGO

March 10, 1939

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spicer and Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Bardick were among the 145 members of Dairymen's League who attended the monthly sub-district meeting at Alfred Grange Hall, March 6th.

The Misses Mary and Catherine Doran have purchased the Benj. S. Brundage house on Center Street and will move there in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Rhoades and family of Elkland, Pa., spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mullen and family of West Greenwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Ribble of Canisteo, are spending a few days with relatives in West Greenwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Leonard of Elm Valley spent from Friday until Sunday visiting friends and relatives in Rochester.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Martin have moved from Troupsburg into the Frank Mead tenant house in Elm Valley.

Miss Anna Laura Crandall returned to her home in Independence Sunday from Westervil, B. I., and New York City, where she has been visiting for the past two weeks.

Franklin Robinson and mother, Mrs. Sarah Robinson, of Van Etten and Miss Ruth Rhoades of Alfred were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kaye of

Pingrey Hill.

Mrs. John Crane of Hornell is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Wentworth for a few days.

Mrs. John Lever is spending a few days in Buffalo at the home of her son, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leves.

Miss Brundage returned to his home in Hamlin, Texas, Monday night after several days passed in Andover following the death of his father, B. S. Brundage.

Miss Margaret Joyce, who has been with her sister and family in Binghamton for some time, returned to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Joyce, Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stebbins arrived home Friday evening from a six weeks motor trip thru the Southern and Western States.

Atty. and Mrs. G. L. Easley with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Borden and Mrs. Poland of Rochester, left Sunday by motor for Jacksonville, Florida.

Mrs. Ida Witter has returned from a two weeks stay with Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flynn at their home in Quigg Hollow.

Mr. and Mrs. Avery Mead and family and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Trowbridge and daughter, Marlan, spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Mead of East Valley.

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