

The Battalion

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Telephone 845-2226

Nixon May Request Excise Tax Boosts

By Sterling F. Green
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Nixon may seek increases in several federal excise taxes, including a possible steep hike in the cigarette levy, to help keep his promise of a balanced budget.

Government sources disclosed the Treasury has drafted and sent to the White House "a number of alternatives," including higher excise levies, for boosting tax revenues in fiscal 1971. Some of the proposals will appear in Nixon's budget message Jan. 27.

The federal taxes on gasoline, automobiles, liquor, tobacco, and telephone service—which together provide the bulk of the \$16 billion in excise revenues collected each year—were all mentioned for possible increase.

One high official also mentioned a possibility that "socially desirable" objectives might be sought. "The increase asked for tobacco might be higher," this source said.

But the value-added tax that has long intrigued Nixon—in effect a sales tax imposed on the value added to a product at each stage of its manufacture—apparently has been ruled out completely.

Congress dislikes the device and critics of the tax contend it fosters price increases instead of dampening inflation.

Nixon recently promised that the budget would be balanced and hinted that tax increases might be proposed to achieve that end.

A deficit would be "irresponsible and intolerable" in these inflation-ridden times, he told reporters in San Clemente, Calif.

Actually Nixon had hoped for a substantial surplus in the government year starting July 1, but rising costs and uncertain revenue prospects have sent his aides scurrying for enough additional revenues to cover safely the expected record spending level of more than \$200 billion.

Congress shut the door on any increase in income taxes in enacting the massive tax reform bill last month. The quest for revenues therefore has focused largely on excises and "user charges"—taxes on the users of highways, airways, airports, and waterways to help defray the government's financial support of those facilities.

The user charges seem likely to provide little help in Nixon's dilemma; every President since Franklin D. Roosevelt has urged substantial increase in them but

Congress seldom has obliged.

However, the House approved a bill last session to increase the tax on airline passenger tickets from 5 per cent to 8 per cent, and Nixon is expected to urge the Senate to act promptly on that measure.

The excise taxes on liquor, beer and wine produce about \$4.5 billion a year. The tobacco tax provides \$2.1 billion of revenue annually, the excises on autos, trucks, and parts about \$2 billion, and the tax on telephone and telegraph service about \$1.1 billion.

The federal gasoline tax is four cents a gallon and the cigarette tax \$4 per thousand. The tax on distilled liquor is \$10.50 a proof gallon, and the tax on beer and malt liquors is \$9 for a

31-gallon barrel.

There may be little enthusiasm for increasing the excises, especially the automobile and telephone taxes. Congress had voted to "repeal" both of these in year-by-year stages, but the process was halted by the soaring costs of the Vietnam war.

The auto tax, formerly 10 per cent, got down to 7 per cent before it was frozen. The telephone levy, after a very brief period of reduction, was restored to 10 per cent. Trucks and buses are still taxed at 10 per cent.

The reference by one official to "social" considerations in the tax proposals suggested that sizeable excise increase might be asked for liquor, wine and beer as well as for tobacco products.

Friday Deadline to Pay Spring Registration Fees

Friday is the deadline for A&M students to pay pre-registration fees for the spring semester, reminded Registrar Robert A. Lacey.

All fees must be paid by mail or deposited in the drop box in front of the Fiscal Office in the Coke Building. The Fiscal Office will not accept payments at the cashier's window.

After the student's fees have been paid, Lacey said, the spring schedule will be mailed to his local mailing address.

If the fees are not paid by Friday, he noted, the student's pre-registration will be subject to cancellation.

Pre-registration was held Dec. 1-12. Delayed registration is scheduled Jan. 26-30 and late registration is set Feb. 2-6.

The drop-add period will begin Jan. 26. Feb. 6 is the last day to add courses and Feb. 17 is the last day to drop courses with no grade.

Spring semester classes begin Monday, Feb. 2.

Finals Schedule

Final exams for the fall semester, 1969, will be held Jan. 16-24 according to the following schedule:

Date	Hour	Series
Jan. 16, Friday	8-11 a.m.	MWF8
Jan. 16, Friday	1-4 p.m.	MWF12
Jan. 19, Monday	8-11 a.m.	TTh8F1
Jan. 19, Monday	1-4 p.m.	MWTh2
Jan. 20, Tuesday	8-11 a.m.	MWF9
Jan. 20, Tuesday	1-4 p.m.	M3TTh10
Jan. 21, Wednesday	8-11 a.m.	TF2 or TWF3 or TThF3
Jan. 21, Wednesday	1-4 p.m.	MWF10
Jan. 22, Thursday	8-11 a.m.	TTh12
Jan. 22, Thursday	1-4 p.m.	M4TTh11
Jan. 23, Friday	8-11 a.m.	MWTh1
Jan. 23, Friday	1-4 p.m.	TTh9F2
Jan. 24, Saturday	8-11 a.m.	MWF11
Jan. 24, Saturday	1-4 p.m.	TF1

NOTE: Final examinations in courses with only one theory hour per week as shown in the catalogue will be given, at the discretion of the department head concerned, at the last meeting of either the theory or practice period before the close of the semester.

Record Number of A&M Apply For Mid-Term Graduation

A record 1,079 students have applied for mid-term graduation at Texas A&M announced Registrar Robert A. Lacey.

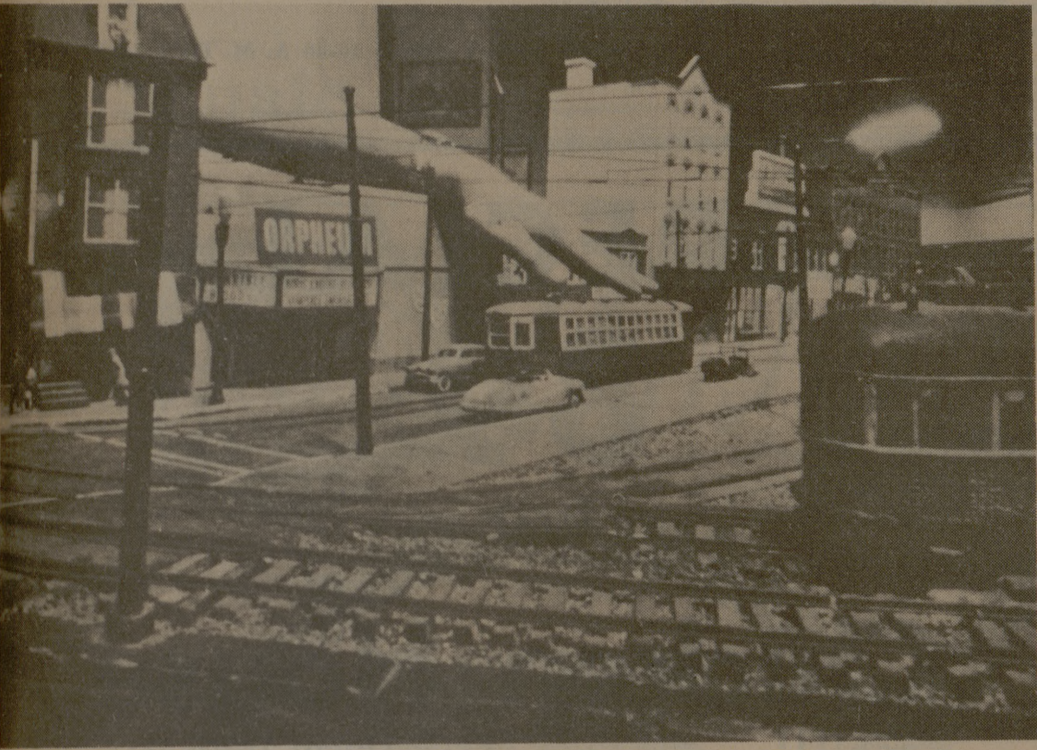
Lacey said the number of students applying for January graduation this year represents an increase of 159 over last year, the previous high.

Included in the totals are 257 students applying for master's degrees and 138 for doctorates.

Graduation exercises will be conducted at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, in G. Rollie White Coliseum, followed by military commissioning ceremonies at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. David W. Mullins, University of Arkansas president, will be commencement speaker. Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, Strategic Air Command commander-in-chief, will be the featured speaker at commissioning.

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A HAND FROM SPACE

Despite appearances, it's not a hand from outer space trying to disrupt a city's transportation system, but a model railroad enthusiast putting finishing touches on the Twin City Model Railroad Club's St. Paul, Minn., display. (AP Wirephoto)

'70 Auto Tags Available In Mail-Order Fashion

Texas automobile owners can register their vehicles by mail this year for the first time.

A new registration system devised by the Texas Highway Department now makes it possible for owners to either receive their 1970 license plates in the mail or find shorter waiting lines if they pick them up in person.

A spokesman for the department said they expect more than seven million vehicles to be registered during the year.

During January, motor vehicle registration renewal applications will be mailed to every vehicle owner in Texas. The registration period begins Feb. 1.

The renewal application will

arrive in the mail in a slender envelope marked, "Important—This is your license plate renewal application."

The application has instructions printed on it. It is a three-part form which should not be torn apart.

When the registration period begins, the vehicle owner need only take the application, and the fee, to the county tax office, or send it to his county tax collector, with the fee plus a \$1 handling and postage charge.

Although owners can register their vehicles in person until April 1, there is a Mar. 1 cutoff date for mail registration. This allows 30 days for delivery be-

fore the plates must be displayed.

With the application, an owner will no longer need to present his certificate of title or the last year's registration receipt.

If the address on the renewal application is incorrect, he should print his correct residence address on all three parts of the application.

When the application is received, the clerk will need only to receive the fee, affix a sticker showing the registration number and other data to the application, and return the 1970 plates.

Another change this year is the color scheme of the plates. They will be a light blue on a reflective white background.

\$70 Million in '69

A&M's Economic Impact on B-CS Area

The economic impact of Texas A&M on the Bryan-College Station area total \$70,680,000 last year, announced A&M President Earl Rudder.

Rudder said the total increased more than \$8 million over the previous year. This growth, he said, is equivalent to a large industry moving into the community.

The figures, part of a university survey, included a payroll of

\$42 million for more than 5,000 permanent A&M university system employees residing in Bryan-College Station. The A&M payroll totaled \$38 million the year before.

A&M added approximately 100 faculty members in 1969 and 225 staff, research and support personnel.

Students contributed more than \$21 million to the local economy, up about \$2 million. Major expenditures included food and housing for the increasing number of graduate and married students, as well as clothing, school

supplies, recreation and miscellaneous expenses for all students.

Enrollment jumped approximately 1,000 students from last year, to 14,042.

The study also indicated that the university spent about \$2.5 million locally for utilities, services and supplies.

Expenditures in this category rose about \$500,000.

An additional \$3 million was brought into the Bryan-College Station community by visitors attending athletic events, conferences and short courses at the university, the survey revealed. Most expenditures in this category were for food, housing and entertainment.

Taps Tonight For Davidson

Silver Taps will be held tonight for Paul H. Davidson, sophomore animal science major from Prescott, Ark., who died in a Christmas holiday auto accident.

Davidson, 20, was killed instantly in a one-car accident near Prescott. Cause of the Dec. 23 wreck is believed to have been a blowout.

Services for the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Davidson, route 23, box 139, Prescott, where held Dec. 26 in Emmet, Ark.

Davidson lived at the Varsity Apartments in College Station.

WEATHER

Thursday — Cloudy to partly cloudy. Wind South 10 to 15 m.p.h. High 46, low 29.

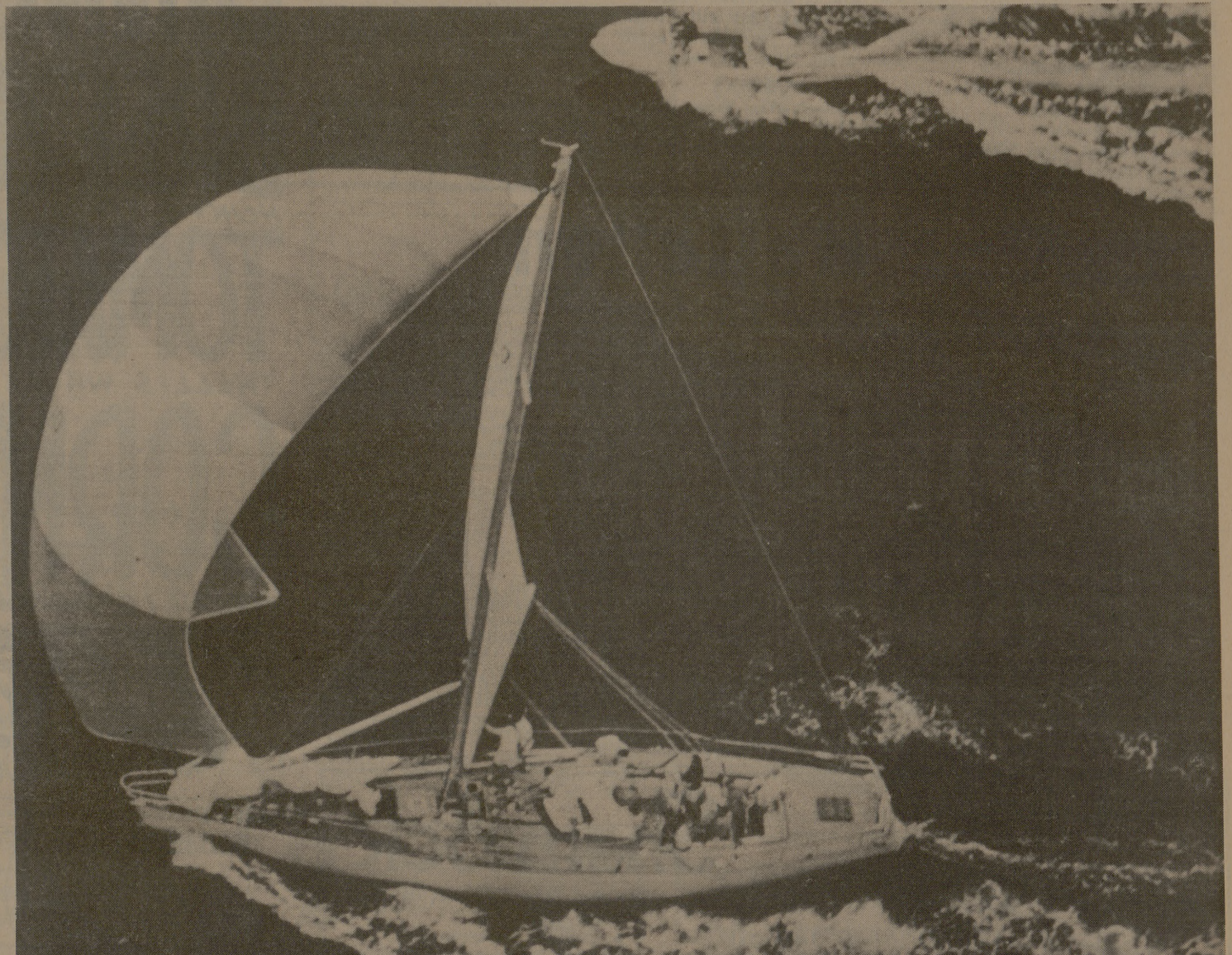
Friday — Cloudy to partly cloudy. Wind South 10 to 15 m.p.h. becoming northerly late afternoon 10 to 20 m.p.h. High 48, low 33.

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HERE IS A FUN JOB

Vernee Wiesen, 20, scoots among huge airplanes on roller skates delivering blueprints at the 345-acre plant of the McDonnell Douglas Corp. in Long Beach, Cal. She calls it "a fun job" despite the hazards of hairpins, cigarette butts and rubber bands which cause spills. Girls in a number of plants in Southern California use rolled skates to speed up their work. (AP Wirephoto)



APOLLO IN THE FULL BLOW

The wind bellies out the sail of the Apollo as the Australian yacht heads toward the open sea from Sydney, Australia, in the recent South Cross Cup race. The craft was the second across the line at the end of the 30-mile event. (AP Wirephoto)