

Blanchard's tax plan howls like same old dog

HAVING AN old governor with tired, worn-out ideas was a hard enough pill for Michigan taxpayers to take. But having a spanking new chief executive peddling the same old tax elixir is much more than the hard-working people of this state can be expected to swallow.

But that is what the young, new Gov. James Blanchard, in collusion with like-minded legislators, is attempting to force down our throats — an increased income tax, from 4.6 percent to 6.35 percent, mixed with educational budget cuts which would prove harmful to the state's recovery.

Frankly, we expected better.

SINCE TIME immemorial, the income tax, especially the flat-rate genre, has been known for its unfairness. As Plato once told us, "When there is an income tax, the just man will pay more and the unjust less on the same amount of income."

Blanchard's tax plan not only is innately unfair, it is an unimaginative prescription for a state which cries for bold new ideas. We strongly urge the governor and his legislative cronies to return to the drawing board.

Blanchard should take a closer look at combining a temporary sales tax with a temporary income tax. Although far from perfect, the sales tax does lift some of the burden from state taxpayers to the many persons taking vacations in this state.

The sales tax's regressive features happily have been modified by the 1976 exemption of food and drugs.

Besides, the division between the haves and the have nots has increased considerably during the recession. We believe those who have the ability to enjoy economic buying power should pay more in taxes.

Although the Economic Alliance for Michigan, a group of the state's business and labor movers and shakers, has endorsed Blanchard's plan, it also has recommended a sales tax plan.

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BLANCHARD has leaned toward high-handedness in dealing with sales tax advocates. A sales tax increase would require a vote of the people to amend the state constitution. Because of the economic conditions, Blanchard says there isn't enough time to put it in place.

Michigan taxpayers have made it emphatic they want more of a say. We've survived until taxpayers express their wishes.

Those who advocate passing the income tax increase now and asking the people about a sales tax later are dabbling in political sophistry. Implementing an increased income tax now would certainly kill any chance a sales tax proposal would have in the future.

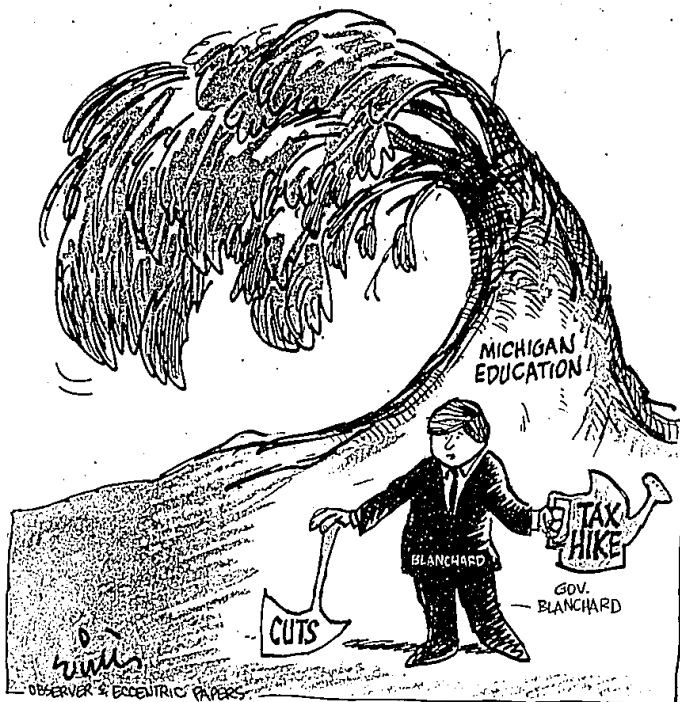
WE ALSO QUESTION Blanchard's priorities in the \$225 million of cuts he has proposed. His proposed educational cuts are distasteful and counterproductive to Michigan's economic recovery.

For this state to become economically viable once again, we need to retrain our present work force. We need to train the next generation for the next technologies in which this state must be proficient.

We need to develop research facilities and programs such as the Metropolitan High Technology Center at Wayne State University. This was established to attract research-oriented high technology firms in the state. The concept already is providing badly needed jobs and revenue.

Axing \$60 million from the state's educational budget will abort such progressive attempts at economic recovery.

'Which shall I use, folks?'



Anorexia: slim isn't beautiful

From outward appearances, she's a typical suburban housewife.

She lives in a ranch house with a husband and two children. She's active in school, civic and church affairs. She is seen frequently herding her children in and out of the family station wagon.

But look a little closer.

Her appearance is fashionably slight, maybe too slight. Her face is often red, as if she has just returned after some vigorous exercise in the cold.

Those who know her well seldom see her eat. She has taken the fitness craze to an extreme. It's exercise class every day. After that, she's out jogging 10 miles a day.

This woman is suffering from anorexia nervosa. It's a condition where persons (95 percent are females) starve themselves in order to keep their bodies slender.

Singer Karen Carpenter, who died a few weeks ago at the age of 32, was suffering from this disease.

Although the disease is associated with teen-age girls, it also occurs in persons who are older — as in the case of the suburban housewife and Carpenter.

It's a deadly illness with a 15-21 percent mortality rate, according to the American Psychiatric Association. Treatment takes many years and requires numerous hospital stays.

ANOREXIA NERVOSA occurs at relatively higher rates in the suburbs.

"It is seen in upper middle class suburbs as opposed to central cities," said Dr. Charles Goss, a psychiatrist with Botsford General Hospital in Farmington. "Young women who are overly concerned about their outward appearances may get



Nick Sharkey

the disease. This is more likely to occur in the suburbs."

Females suffering from anorexia strive for illusive perfection. Typically, she is a high-achieving, energetic young woman. Often this young woman comes from a closely-knit family which emphasizes accomplishing goals.

Persons suffering from anorexia eat little. When required to eat, they feel guilty. They try to get rid of what they have eaten through induced vomiting, use of laxatives and excessive exercise. The result is starvation.

Dr. Goss estimates that one out of every 250 girls between 12 and 18 years of age suffer from it. Figure out for yourself the odds at your local high school.

THIS ILLNESS is both a psychiatric and biological disorder.

"The person views her body as fat, when in fact it may be malnourished," said Dr. David Fachnie of the division of metabolic diseases at Henry Ford Hospital.

"The body then goes through many changes," Dr. Fachnie said. "Typically, the woman stops having her monthly period before she begins to lose weight."

The remedy for anorexia is complex. As suggested by the 15-21 percent mortality rate, therapy is often not successful. Many times a "cured" patient ends up living her life in isolation as a chronic invalid.

Botsford's Dr. Goss says many of his psychiatric cohorts refuse to treat any more cases. "The therapist has to be directive and active in treating the patient," he said. "Sometimes even after the psychiatrist understands a patient and the patient intellectually knows how to cure herself, she is not able to change. That makes it so frustrating."

Ray Gribbs' alumni group makes good



Tim Richard

• John Amberger, executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. He administered the Detroit House of Correction for Gribbs.

• William Lucas, Wayne County executive. As sheriff, Gribbs brought in Lucas from the Detroit FBI office, and Lucas succeeded him as sheriff when Gribbs became mayor. While Lucas has yet to prove himself as a leader and administrator, there is no doubt the public thinks well of him.

• Michael Glusac, vice president for public affairs of Chrysler Corp., former executive director of SEMCOG. He was Gribbs' corporation counsel (city attorney).

SO WHAT were Gribbs' guiding principles? I cornered him at a semi-social gathering recently.

Of another mayor, Gribbs said, "With him, it's personal loyalty first, party loyalty second and administrative ability third."

"I put administrative ability first. I relied on friends for advice, but I also went out to 'head hunters.'"

"I gave them (appointees) full authority to run their departments and just had them keep me advised of what they were doing."

Added Mike Glusac: "He didn't try to control every appointment of every inspector and lieutenant."

That Gribbs was less than 100 percent a partisan Democrat is attested to in his appointment of Louis Kiel, a known Republican, to head a department. Coleman Young has kept Kiel on board.

Glusac told how, in 1969, Mayor-elect Gribbs recruited him. "He called me and invited me to lunch ... I told him I had given \$25 to Dick Austin, his opponent."

"He said, 'I know.'"

AT THE time, one national publication sniffed at him as a "pistol-packing sheriff." Another wrote him off as "a competent, complacent bureaucrat." And it's true he stayed around only one term as mayor of Detroit.

But Roman S. Gribbs deserves a better shake from history than that, and only recently is one of Gribbs' major contributions coming to light. As mayor from 1969-73, Ray Gribbs gave some of the best-known names in public administration their first major jobs.

He was careful in his selection of administrators, so it's probably no accident that some have attained further fame.

Gribbs himself prefers the law to administration. He jumped from Wayne County sheriff to mayor, then left the post to become a circuit judge. Last November, the voters elevated him to the state Court of Appeals.

HERE ARE some of the Gribbs Alumni Association:

• Phillip Jourdan, director of management and budget in Gov. Blanchard's administration, former chief of staff to Congressman William Brodhead. "He was my press secretary. I needed someone 24 hours a day, and there he was going to law school," Gribbs said with a laugh.

• Ron Thayer, director of personnel in Blanchard's office. Under Gribbs, he was secretary to the Health Commission, secretary to the Department of Transportation and a fund-raiser.

• Walt Stecher, budget director of the city of Detroit.

TV makes millionaires out of uneducated athletes

WHAT A WONDERFUL thing it has been to sit back on your favorite chair and watch the top football games of the country or have the Detroit Tigers play right in your own home.

And how wonderful it has been to start the New Year right by watching the famous Rose Parade strut across your living room and the biggest college game of the year being waged within arm's length.

Sure, these things have been wonderful, and little thought has been given through the years that the same television that is providing so much free entertainment is also starting to create a lot of harm.

This has come to light in the past several weeks at the United States Football League — a loop that hasn't played a game — wages a war of dollars to sign players.

THE REAL THREAT came the other day when it was learned that the Jersey City team in the new league has signed — and guaranteed — \$16.5 million over five years to Herschel Walker, the Heis-

man Trophy winner from the University of Georgia. Walker has another year to go to earn his degree from the University of Georgia. To top it off, Walker was paid, so it was stated, \$1.5 million for agreeing to leave school and sign the contract.

That means he will be paid more than \$3 million a year for carrying a football, compared to the \$200,000 that is paid the president of the United States for carrying the burden of our government.

To make matters worse, Walker couldn't have attained his high ranking if there had not been line-men in front of him to open holes through which he could race with the football.

WHERE IS ALL the money coming from to pay these high salaries to athletes? Surely not from paid admissions. Sellout crowds in every stadium could not come close to paying the bill.

The answer is that television is taking over sports spectacles.



Several years ago, the TV folks startled the sports world by paying each team in the National Football League \$1 million each season. That figure has grown, so it is said, to \$15 million a season.

And mind you, that is with "free" television.

Now that cable television serves many more homes, the time has come when these stations will take over the bonanza paid each team. And where will most of that money come from? It will come from the customers of cable companies who will be asked to pay a monthly rate for the privilege of

watching the sports events — and other entertainment — at home.

THAT MAY NOT be too bad. But where the harm is being done is taking these young fellows out of college before their graduations. Sure, they are making millionaires out of the stars, but without an education.

What's more, they are removing the athletes from such world events as the Olympic Games and giving them the riches that seemingly are unearned.

Another thing to ponder: How do these bloated salaries affect the ranks of the unemployed and those who stand in line to pick up a package of cheese or a loaf of bread at the welfare center?

It is bringing some unrest in the country, and the television we thought was so great is to blame for it. Is it worth it?

Mothers used to raise their boys to be president.