

Farmington Observer

Successor to the Farmington Enterprise

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comment

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oral quarrel

This week's Oral Quarrel question asks readers what they think of the income tax increase being debated in Lansing and what alternative plans they believe to be appropriate.

Following are the replies:

All you have to do is cut the number of state employees and cut the cost of living they get every year.

I am in favor of sales tax.

Yes, I like the idea of the income tax or the sales tax. I think it would be more fair for people who have higher incomes would have to pay more tax, and I would also like to see higher tax on tickets for college and professional spectator sports.

My opinion is that they should trim a little fat off the top, and I firmly believe that the sales tax is the answer to it in preference to an income tax increase.

I think they should sell Blanchard's kid.

If I were the governor, I would go for the sales income tax. Why? You would hit all tourists coming in from out of state for this purpose. Also the person with the low income can regulate his sales rather than an income tax which nobody can support a tax any longer.

I would prefer the sales tax rather than the income tax.

The governor's proposal is typically the kind of thing you can expect from someone who is paid for and by the government which is namely us. The more creative approach would be to close at least two or possibly three of the state's colleges and or universities and secondly to begin to pay students a greater share of the tuition costs to go to the under-utilized private schools.

I think his proposal sucks. I think that a sales tax or an increase in the gasoline tax, booze tax or cigarette tax would be more than a state income tax. It sucks, sucks, sucks.

I would not go with an income tax. That is going to hit hard at the already hard hit middle income working class. If I had to go with something, I would go with the sales tax because then the rich would get it as well as everybody else. As it stands now, the rich can eat aside some of their money and be protected and not put it into income tax.

You would expect this much from the governor. When are they going to learn that increase in taxes never promotes the growth of anything except more government. They need to cut taxes and cut the size of government, not cut the salaries of people.

I would cut back or eliminate all government programs that did not make direct contributions to quality of life in seven or eight critical areas. Areas to include public safety, health, lodging, transportation, food and education.

But even some of these areas can be cut back without jeopardizing the quality of service. If the cuts are made in the administrative overhead, the bureaucracy, I would eliminate full-time legislature and other activities that consume tax dollars but do not produce anything.

For example, a good portion of the parks and recreation is a lot of administrative overhead that does not provide services, and those services that are provided could be done by the private sector. I would eliminate duplication between the public colleges and universities, and I would increase tuition in the community colleges.

Sales tax would be much better. Why take more money from the people that are working.

The governor's program is a typical Demo-

cratic response, and it lacks imagination. We're not responsible for unemployment. Our sales tax should definitely be increased and we should have a move on to get this on the ballot thereby spreading the burden. We're a tourist state, and they could share in the burden of paying our tax, and it just literally stinks and makes this state undesirable to live in.

I would have a state sales tax.

I think it is just terrible to raise income tax again. If they have to increase it put it on gasoline and the sales tax, and it would more evenly divided and to raise income tax would be just terrible.

To pay off the state, the governor should cut spending. A sales tax would be more fair than an income tax and any income tax should be very, very temporary. The state's taxes are already too high, and no business would ever want to move here.

The governor's proposal is in line with his total platform. He said there would be no taxes and that is what I am for. No taxes whatsoever. They must become more responsible in Lansing.

They have driven out 90 percent of the business because taxes are already too high. They must trim every single program and budget in Lansing. They must cut their own wages. They must start giving money back to places like Farmington, which gets nothing for schools.

I would much prefer the sales tax over the income tax. We certainly don't need more income tax. In addition to a general sales tax, the tax on cigarettes, liquor and entertainment should be increased.

I think the governor's proposal stinks. If I were governor, I would cut social services for all but the blind and handicapped. Those that are capable of working should do so, and they should not reap the benefits of those who do work.

I think that instead of having an increased tax burden on us, I think they should cut some of the expenditures of the fat cats in Congress on the hill there. I think that raising the sales tax or income tax is not going to do it. I think that they should have a temporary tax and a temporary sales tax.

If I were governor, I would take some of my fat cat congressmen, and I would cut their vacations and new suits, and I would cut their limousine services. I would cut everything. They would be eating bread and cheese like all the other poor people. I think it's disgusting, and I think it is sickening, and that's all I have to say.

I am definitely against the governor's tax increase. If he wants to do anything he can increase the sales tax. If they don't want to increase the sales tax, they can actually take a 10-percent decrease of 10 billion which is one billion, that would more than cover the short fall of 900 million dollars that they say is the deficit.

I would prefer a sales tax.

I think the governor's proposal stinks. Let the UAW who backed him pay the taxes and not the rest of us who didn't vote for him and didn't want him and tell him to get off the taxpayers back.

I support the governor's income tax, and I think it's best we pay on the basis of ones' ability to pay. Income tax is the fairest system we have.

I believe the only fair way is an income tax. It taxes those who make the most rather than those who have to buy because they have little children or other needs. Cut back spending.

Raising taxes does nothing but build a new base to work off of. It's back in bed again. Cut back the spending on welfare and social services.



the stroller
W.W.
Edgar

Suburban pioneer recalls good ol' days

THE CRISP yellow pages of history tell the story of the many surprises the '40ers encountered in their invasion of the West in search of gold.

They were not the only ones who got surprised on a venture that took them from the crowded neighborhoods of the city to the wide-open spaces in search of room and fresh air.

The Stroller and his lady now enjoy many a laugh as to what happened after our friends talked us, in 1938, into purchasing two acres of an abandoned farm five miles outside Detroit in what was Livonia Township. The acres were in a wooded area and looked very attractive. But there was a hitch.

The acres had not been cultivated in years, and the weeds were more than three feet high.

"WHAT CAN we do about them?" we asked our friend. He smiled and said, "Dig up \$100 and don't ask any questions." Luckily, we had it and left for home in a state of wonderment. A week later came the surprise.

When we visited to watch our home being built, our friend took us for a walk back to the acres. There was a sight for sore eyes.

The weeds had been cut, the ground plowed and furrowed, and 100 fruit trees planted, along with 500 feet of grapes along the lot line.

"Now you can raise fruit and possibly make a living," our friend smiled.

"Next," he said, "you will have to arrange for a wind-break so the gusts won't blow the fruit from the trees." We thought he was talking about a canvas curtain. Instead he arranged for a row of Chinese elm trees that grew faster than the fruit trees. Today they are more than 20 feet tall.

NEXT CAME one of the farmers from the area. "Planning to citty the place?" he asked.

When we told him we were just going to live there and try to make it nice, he countered, "You'll never have a lawn with all those trees. You'll have to take half of them out." And he kindly marked them.

Down came 18 young trees, making possible a lawn the full extent of the area between the gravel road and our new home.

As the fruit trees grew, so again did the weeds. A neighboring farmer graciously came over and plowed again. After several seasons, he came to the back door and informed us with a sigh that he couldn't do it any more.

"The place looks like hell," he said, "because I can't get close enough to the trees."

"Just let the weeds come, but cut them often," he advised, "and it won't be long until you have nice grass all the way to the end of the acreage."

AND THAT IS exactly what happened.

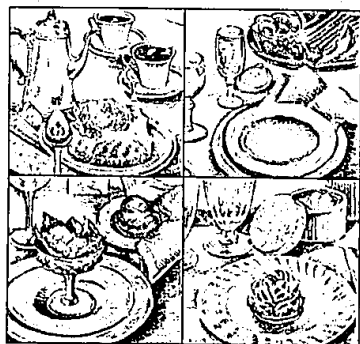
Now The Stroller and the lady of our home can look out the kitchen window and see lawn for more than 600 feet, and more than 100 feet from the front window to the road.

Talk about surprises and thrills — we had them in pioneering in the wide-open spaces of what was a series of abandoned farms in a built-up suburb. It sure was fun — and educational.



discover Michigan
Bill Stockwell

DID YOU KNOW that Michigan was world-famed for more than 100 years as a health center for sulphur baths? More than 100,000 people each year made the trip to Mount Clemens, the "Bath City of America," to bath in black, smelly and very hot waters. Some of the most glamorous stage and concert stars in America took the water treatments and it was said that the railroad sidings were lined with the private cars of business leaders.



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