

◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

Volume 12, Issue No. 4

March, 1997

BCTA Update. By Frank S. Bennett Jr., President

The presentation by Keith Kolb at our February meeting was indeed helpful. The basis for the \$50MM arena and convention center was clarified. The amount is based upon a growth rate of 3.5% for the room tax and this growth rate was used to determine the maximum that could be borrowed. The type of bonding then came about from using a basis that payment could not exceed the income from the room tax. These assumptions and the basis for funding led to the \$50MM figure with the unusual payment schedule. This is like us using our monthly income to determine the maximum price for a house when we go shopping for a new home. This will not allow the borrower to respond to questions: What do the bids come in at?; or why can I not see a detailed financial projection?; or what happens to the existing arena? as these questions are all part of the future work to be completed. We thank Mr. Kolb for giving us an excellent presentation and those present are now better informed.

I want to report a success on another front. Some time ago the County voted to add an addition to the Sophie Beaumont building to house the added staff for the change to W-2 Welfare Administration. The anticipated cost of this addition was \$1.2 million to build an addition to the top floor. As time passed, the staff for Welfare Administration for the County was relocated to Housing Authority and additional space was no longer required. The County then considered moving the Health Department from rented space in the renovated "White Store" building on south Broadway to the yet to be completed addition of the Sophie Beaumont building. An extremely good (low) rental rate was being paid by the County for this space and moving a group of people to a new location just because it was there didn't make sense. In speaking to the Administration Committee of the County Board, I asked that they keep the rental agreement and not add to the Sophie Beaumont building. They since have voted not to add to the Sophie Beaumont and have saved us as taxpayers a \$1.2 million bonding proposal. My thanks to Tim Hinkfuss, Carol Maxwell, Bill Clancy, Merlin VanDen-Plas, and Keith Watermolen.

We would like all of the directors of the BCTA serve on at least one of our committees, and will complete committee assignments at our March meeting. If your name appears here please let me know your committee preference by meeting time: Charles Brand; Margaret Buchman; James Derbique; Robert Jonas; Wayne VanderPutten; Bob Imig; Ray Krusic; Mark Leistickow; Larry Mastalish.; Ed Mattick; Patrick Moynihan; and George Parker. The committees are: Schools, Local and county, State and national, and Membership and publicity. The next membership meeting is scheduled for March 20, and will be in the South Whitney room of the DAYS INN-Downtown. All members of the BCTA and other interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend.

Thank you!

Support your local

Stand up and be counted in the battle to protect your property and household income from excessive taxation by joining a taxpayer group. **WHY?**

Tax rankings for WISCONSIN vs 49 states
1st - Highest tax level of 50 states per Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.

3rd - Total taxes per \$1,000 personal income in 1993.

3rd - Income tax for married couple @ \$35,000 & 2 children, 1994.

5th - Major taxes for family of 4 @ \$50,000 in 1994.

per MONEY magazine

2nd - Tax load on 2 career family of 4 @ \$88,764 in 1996.

Are taxes high enough yet? Many elected officials and professional government employees say NO. They also mention the excellent quality-of-life we have in Wisconsin. BUT, because that level of taxation is simply too high, many Wisconsinites are unable to accumulate wealth, and are consequently prevented from enjoying that excellent quality-of-life!!

The Brown County Taxpayers Association is but one of several active taxpayer groups in Wisconsin. We are always seeking new members, and if you know of anyone who would be interested please contact Jim Frink at 336-6410 or send a note to P. O. Box 684, Green Bay 54305. (Thank you to Mike Riley and TNI for information.)

"Consider one of the most perplexing questions of our time: where do solutions go

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government

What Chance Do We Have To Be Heard?

We read and hear a lot about the need for political campaign funding reform: supposedly to protect us from unscrupulous special interests and insure good honest government. Having recently survived a presidential election year accompanied by constant phone calls and other urgent requests for my hard earned dollars, it almost seems like a good idea. The problem is that the measly little \$10 or \$25 contribution that I might make is not the problem that needs to be addressed.

We are all aware of, probably tolerate, and possibly even participate in fund raising events where candidates for public office and their supporters raise large sums of money for election campaigns. Note we use the word "candidates" even though they may be running for re-election with a pair of 747's at their disposal. The electorate will still have an opportunity to reject their candidacy. We may expect some return on our investment, but that is more likely to be an endorsement of the political party of our choice or of a candidate with whom we can identify as most qualified to represent all of us.

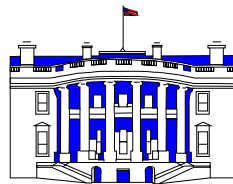
Once a person assumes office, we would expect them to obey the laws of the land with fairness to all whether you voted for him or not. Somehow or other, it doesn't seem to be working quite like that.

We hear of persons holding the highest offices offering private audiences to individuals seeking special treatment in return for sizable campaign contributions. Trade missions by business leaders to foreign countries are in effect rewards for political support. Any protest to this behavior gets lost in the system. We realize that this type of shenanigans is nothing new, and has going on since the beginning of mankind. Probably no system of government, democratic or totalitarian is exempt. It only reinforces the theory that money and power to a chosen few is

truly the driving force behind what government does for and to us.

Money doesn't talk? On numerous occasions even the local press has credited the winning of an election to the candidate that had the most money to spend. (Especially true with candidates whom they have not necessarily favored.) The bottom line still seems - he who raises and spends the most money for advertising and lobbying wins. Anyone who has been in business, belonged to a national organization or trade group that has any interest whatsoever in what goes on in Washington is constantly solicited for requests for money - to purchase influence. Is that truly the way the system was meant to work?

If it costs \$100,000 for a coffee klatch with the President, is it acceptable to spend \$5,000 to meet with a Congressman or \$10,000 for a Senator? Leadership and example are supposed to come from the top. Does this go down to our local leaders. These people are supposed to represent US. There is no way you can hand someone a big bunch



of money and go one on one with them without expecting some favors in return.

Are we truly to believe that the large corporations, foreign governments, and other assorted special interest groups that go to Washington with blank checks truly do so with you and I in mind? Somehow I would expect their own self-serving agendas are their only focus. Any tax break they broker or regulation they circumvent only puts you and I deeper in the hole. I would also suspect that like anything else, true and equitable campaign reform will soon be forgotten and overlooked by more pressing and issues and scandals. At least until the next election and as long as it benefits us rather than them. It is small wonder that voters are turned off of politics.

At stake are the integrity of our representatives, the taxes we entrust them with, and the Constitution of the United States of America. If any reader of the TAX TIMES truly believes the system is working as it should and as advertised, let us know. I challenge you to send in your comments and any ideas for improving the system.

Jim Frink

"Laws are like spiders' webs, which if anything small falls into them they will ensnare it, but large things break through and escape."

What Happened to The BCTA "Awards" Program?

Several times during the past few years it has been suggested that the **BCTA** somehow publicize taxpayer supported programs which were in effect, wasting our money and not accomplishing their intended purpose. This could be done with a "top ten" type format, a loser of the month, or whatever. It had also been our intention to recognize various elected officials who had implemented programs to save the taxpayers money or otherwise improve government services.

It still seems like a good idea, but we need an interested **BCTA** member to step forward and get the project organized. Results would be published in the "**TAX TIMES**."

For a starter, how about the well-intended bureaucrats who spent \$96 million on a computer system for Wisconsin that was supposed to keep track of child support payments. Apparently the system was poorly designed as it has not lived up to its promise. So what if the Federal Government is paying for 75% of it, that's our money too. You can buy a lot of computers for \$96 mil.

JF

Wisconsin Families Are Taxed Enough.

by State Representative Frank Lasee

For the last 50 years, the mentality of government has been that if government needs or wants more, take it from the pockets of the taxpayers. This approach to government has led to the creation of a myriad of new taxes, all of which the bureaucrats demand must be raised every year to meet their agenda. I reject this approach to governing. It puts a financial strain on our working families and wastes our tax dollars. Government is contributing too much to this problem by continuing to raise our tax burden. The average Wisconsin family works till May just to pay taxes. According to the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, our families' combined tax burden is the sixth highest in the nation. That's plain wrong.

The time has come for the government to live within its means — just as families are doing. The focus of bureaucrats must change from finding new ways of spending money and doing more to setting priorities and finding new ways of saving money by providing services more efficiently and effectively. With a budget of nearly \$3 billion and almost 4,000 employees, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is a good example of an agency that needs reform.

What's wrong with the DOT? Here's some examples. We have all driven past a road construction or rehabilitation project where it seems only half the crew is actually working. In the last budget, the DOT wasted \$2 million for roadside greenery. They were planting trees and shrubs along highway 151 — even though there are already trees and forests along the roadway. I've talked with property owners in the path of a proposed state highway project and heard their stories of endless meetings with 5 or 6 Department of Transportation employees whereas in private business one or two people would do. The DOT's eight step process for building a new highway takes nearly nine and a half years to complete. Along the way, the DOT writes a half dozen reports, engages in an environmental impact study that takes two years to finish, and holds hundreds of meetings and hearings. Are the taxpayers getting their money's worth when it takes six times as long and costs more to plan a highway that it does to actually build it?

Two years ago, I said no to the proposed increase in the gas tax because I thought the Department of Transportation was not doing enough to ensure that the tax dollars of my constituents were being used in the most cost efficient manner. Before the government asks our hard working families to pay a higher gas tax, I believe, we must put the spending habits of the DOT under a microscope and continue to wring the waste out of the bureaucracy. Transportation officials need to narrow their focus and set real priorities.

Often overlooked in the debate over an increased gas tax for the Department of Transportation is the fact that the current gas tax contains a formula which automatically increases the tax every year, based upon the inflation rate and the amount of gas consumed. The Legislature designed the formula to help the DOT keep pace with the costs of maintaining the state's roads. What the transportation bureaucrats are looking for is a raise on top of their automatic raise. How many families do you know that have been given a cost of living increase — let alone a 5% or larger increase on top of that?

The debate over an increased gas tax should not center on whether or not Wisconsin has enough roads or whether roads are in the need of repair? The real debate is over whether the State Legislature believes that Wisconsin families are over or under taxed and whether the State Legislature believes that Wisconsin families are over or under taxed and whether we are getting a dollars worth of resources for a dollar worth of tax. It seems to me that the answer is obvious — our families are over taxed and our state bureaucracies have not yet become efficient enough to justify additional revenues.

That's why I remain opposed to raising the gas tax.

The 65 Mile Speed Limit and the Dept. of Transportation.

There has been considerable discussion recently on lowering the speed limit to 55 MPH on sections of area highways.

Proponents claim reducing speed will save lives while opponents say everyone should learn to drive a little better. Apparently personal driving habits determine your own choice.

One thing is certain, however, and that is that the Dept. of Transportation will likely claim that the reason our highways are not safe is that they don't have enough money to spend improving them and this emphasizes the need for more tax and fee increases for them. (See article by Rep. Frank Lasee). Obviously the DOT is capable of spending every penny they receive but do the end results live up to their promises?



Last summer, over \$2 million was spent erecting barricades, screwing up traffic and patching holes on highway 41 in Green Bay. Very little if anything was done to improve the dangerous on-off ramps, adding additional lanes or other safety improvements which could have been done at the time. This and other area highways can be very intimidating, and seem designed for their aesthetic appearance more than concern for safety, conservation of land and cost to the users and taxpayers. Wisconsin already has one of the highest gasoline taxes in the nation, and the DOT has a budget of about \$1.5 billion per year. Would new highway projects promised us which have been delayed until the next century actually be moved up to where there were originally scheduled with more money? Who knows?

A bigger problem seems to be drivers themselves. It is probably a reflection of the "me-first" society of today that people seem to lack common courtesy or respect for the rights of others. No

where is this more apparent than on the highway when they are protected by two tons of steel and horsepower. Many people behave as if they developed their driving skills at WIR, terrorizing anyone in their way. Keeping a prudent distance between the car in front of you is only an invitation for someone else to impose their back end in your face. The posted speed limit or driving conditions would make no difference.

By the way, we all seem to forget that the 55 MPH speed limit was originally imposed and proven to conserve energy more than to save lives. Apparently the same good citizens who want us all to maintain clean air and water standards and save the trees are not quite as concerned with conserving our diminishing energy resources for our grandchildren. JF



New E-Mail address for Brown County Taxpayers Association.

We have a new E-Mail address which is taxpayer@netnet.net
The telephone number to use for meeting reservations and other matters is still 499-0768, and mail should be addressed to:
Brown County Taxpayers Assn.
P. O. Box 684
Green Bay, WI 54305-0684

NEXT BCTA MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAR. 20.

The next meeting of the Brown County Taxpayers Association is scheduled for Thursday, March 20. This meeting will be held in the South Whitney room of the DAYS INN - Downtown. We have been having good attendance at our recent meetings, and this is a larger room. All BCTA members and interested persons are invited to attend. Full details are on the back cover of this "TAX TIMES."

University of Wisconsin a Bargain: (For Students.)

A recent article in the Kiplinger "Personal Finance" magazine compared 51 leading public universities in a number of scholastic and financial categories. The U. of Wisconsin ranked near the top and we are proud that this great institution represents our state accordingly.

One purpose of the study was to determine which schools were the best "value" by comparing student costs with the overall expenditures for instructors, student services and other items. The listed tuition for Wisconsin residents was listed at \$3,040 annually compared to \$3,434 for the top 10 rated schools in the survey. There were 7 "Big 10" schools covered with the average tuition for in-state students being \$3,991.

However, in the "expenditures per student" category Wisconsin spent \$28,760 compared to \$26,195 for the top 10 schools and \$23,536 for Big 10 schools. The average per student expenditure for the 50 public schools was \$14,435, or about half of what the University of Wisconsin is spending. The sources of their revenues was not given, but we can assume taxpayer support to be a factor. Tuition charged for out-of-state students at the UW was close to the average of all schools, but due to the high costs they are still heavily subsidized by other sources.

Many of these other schools also have high scholastic standards, and compare favorably in such key areas as student/faculty ratio and admission requirements.

It is obvious there are a lot of intangibles and other factors to be considered in order to draw any conclusions from such a study. However, it seems that if other fine institutions are able to keep their expenses in line while offering quality education they may have some lessons and suggestions for us in Wisconsin.

"A professor is a person who talks in someone elses sleep." Anon

Green Bay Area Public School District schedules \$14,950,000 referendum for April 1, 1997 election.

From the Green Bay Public School District *"FACT SHEET."*

WHAT IS INVOLVED? A new K-8 (kindergarten through eighth grade) building, and a remodeling/expansion project at Wequiock Elementary School.

WHAT IS THE NEED? Presently, Baird and Wequiock Elementary Schools and Edison Middle School are seriously overcrowded. Projections indicate continued growth in these attendance areas and on the east side in general. The plan is for an addition to the Wequiock school to bring the capacity to 200 students, and a new K-8 facility with a capacity of 400 elementary students and 525 middle school students. This new school would be built on property already owned by the school district just north of the UWGB campus.

WILL THERE BE MORE REFERENDUMS IN THE FUTURE? The next critical District facility need will be to expand and remodel East, West and Southwest High Schools, and these projects will be brought to the community after thorough planning is completed. Beyond high school space issues, the District will continue to evaluate the need for expansion based on growth. Within the last five years, the District enrollment has grown by more than 1,800 students and projections are that the District will continue to grow in coming years. Future referendums will only be scheduled for documented needs.

WHAT'S THE IMPACT OF THIS REFERENDUM ON PROPERTY OWNERS? The borrowing involves a 15-year repayment schedule, with an average impact on taxpayers of \$.22 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

WHAT ABOUT THE IMPACT WHEN THIS IS COMBINED WITH PREVIOUS DISTRICT BORROWING? Total principal and interest including this referendum will decline annually from \$2.30 per thousand dollars of property value in the 1997-98 school year to \$.16 in 2012-13.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION? Call Jerry Whitehouse at 448-2145; Dan Van De Water at 448-2200; Dan Nerad or Char Gearing at 448-2190; or Tom Joynt at 448-2100. Public forums are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. March 10, in the Edison Auditorium and March 18, in the Lombardi Auditorium on the west side.

NOTE: The above referendum proposal came on rather quickly, and the BCTA has not had an opportunity to study or discuss it at any of our meetings. We would be concerned with the added and ongoing costs for staff and other overhead, and just how the projected cost to property taxpayers relates to Wisconsin's new property tax relief formula. HOWEVER - In the past, we have publicly supported having such spending referendums being placed on a ballot as required by state law as this allows voters and taxpayers to give their approval or disapproval based on merits and perception of necessity.

**"Privatizing Social Security"
TNI #1 educational project for 1997.**

Mike Riley, president of Taxpayers Network, Inc. (TNI) has announced that their #1 project for 1997 will be *"Privatizing Social Security."* This will be accomplished by group meetings held throughout the state, articles in taxpayer publications, petitions to congress with other lobbying efforts, and the distribution of booklets and other information. Following is an announcement of their first public meeting, and we urge anyone who may interested to attend.

**"Privatizing Social Security"
with Wendell Cox & Robert Genetski**

Saturday, March 15, 1997

10:00 a.m. to Noon

Zoofari Conference Center (Milwaukee)

9715 W. Bluemound Rd.

(adjacent to Milwaukee County Zoo Parking area)

Focusing on our broken Social Security System

*what's the problem? what's the fix?
what can you do?*

Featuring:

Wendell Cox - speaker, consultant and researcher

Robert Genetski - economist and author

Michael Riley -president of Taxpayers Network, Inc.

Program:

10:00am - Michael Riley - *Welcome and introduction*

10:10am - Wendell Cox - *Privatizing Social Security*

10:40am - Robert Genetski - *Privatizing Social Security*

11:10am - *Question and Answer session*

11:50 am - *adjourn*

Admission is free! Public is invited and welcome!
Everyone attending will receive a free copy of the booklet,
"The Privatization Of Social Security"

Reservations not required, but seating is limited.

Sponsored by Taxpayers Network, Inc.

W62 N248 Washington Ave #201

Cedarburg, WI 53012-2768

(414) 375-4190

"A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it starts to rain."

. Mark Twain

Sift, Winnow and Suppress?

By Robert J. Miller

The Milwaukee School Choice program was begun in 1990 — the first publicly funded school choice program in the country. The Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction contracted with a team of researchers headed by University of Wisconsin professor, John Witte, to analyze the program. The data gathered was the sole province of the Witte team for approximately five years. It seems Witte had concluded that the students in the non-sectarian alternative schools were not performing appreciably better than the students in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

In February, 1996, Witte made the data (or most of it) available on the internet. A team of researchers from Harvard University reviewed the data and concluded that the students in the private schools were **outperforming** their colleagues in the Milwaukee Public Schools to a statistically significant degree. The Legislative Audit Bureau of the Wisconsin Legislature had previously found that Witte's conclusions were not supportable by his data.

A small amount of the data which was not released to other researchers, notwithstanding their willingness to sign a pledge of confidentiality. The stated grounds for refusal was to protect the confidentiality of the students and the schools. An offer of a form to sign protecting the confidentiality of students, a standard practice within the education research community, but both Witte and the Wis. Dept. of Public Instruction remaining unwilling to provide this information.

The addition of this information would not change the results reached by the Harvard researchers, but would further refine their conclusions. The question is *why suppress the information?* Why not permit other legitimate researchers to have access to the data? If the student's interest in confidentiality was not jeopardized by Professor Witte, why would other researchers be any greater risk?

The "Wisconsin Idea" — of this state's flagship institution aiding its public—has been turned into a cynical joke. Wisconsin has a tremendous investment in the Milwaukee Public Schools, the Milwaukee Choice experiment, and an appropriate decision by the Wisconsin Legislature and courts about how its educational system should be structured.

Regardless of whether one supports school choice or not, the idea of limiting bona fide scholars access to useful data is simply outrageous. The essence of research in most sciences is that it be reproducible and verifiable by others. The actions of Professor Witte and the Wisconsin Dept. of Instruction appear to limit those possibilities. We are sure that Professor Witte and the Dept. of Instruction would be able to supply some interesting dissembling. The most immediate excuse was student confidentiality. This excuse is simply hard to fathom.

The voters of the state should ask its Supt. of Public Instruction

to explain this episode during the pending election campaign. We also think that a round of questions might be due the President of UW system as it makes its plea for funding.

We see very little reason that research funded in part by the citizens of Wisconsin should be the exclusive province of one researcher, abetted by an institution funded by the taxpayers. As subsequent studies have shown, his conclusions were far from infallible.

Robert J. Miller, Vice-President, BCTA

EDITORS SPACE-FILLER

As noted in other articles in this "TAX TIMES" and the local media, use of the room tax as the main funding source for a new arena and convention center seems to be gaining final approval. There are still a number of issues to be resolved if construction is ever to begin, and we trust that all factors are being carefully considered by the parties involved.

In the January "TAX TIMES", I made the suggestion that the southwest corner of Lombardi and Oneida should be considered for an arena site, despite the fact that all present planning is towards the parking lot for the Expo center. Most major arena events are conducted during cold weather months. My major concern is that the relatively long walk from the Oneida St. parking lot to a new arena could very well effect projected attendance at events. Attendance which is intended to help pay for the project. We acknowledge that a larger arena as proposed will be an enhancement for the city, but we also want it to be a success to justify the investment. Much of the emotional hoopla promoting this project indicates a need for **additional facilities** if not more than larger facilities to accommodate all of the conventions, sporting events, and the like which we were supposedly losing. Whatever the plans for the future are, it would seem it should be some time before we should consider tearing down the old arena to use for parking.

Some of the advantages of this alternative location would be that parking could be immediately adjacent to the new arena to encourage attendance. A ramp across Oneida St., would be more justified to accommodate the old arena and expo center. The new structure would be far more visible to attract business. The old expo center lot would still be available for parking and future expansion of that facility. Access to the Packer Hall of Fame and expo center events would not be disrupted. If the expense of a parking ramp is being planned, locating it near the new arena would make more sense as it could also replace the parking space that would be lost with arena construction. for Packer games.

I can see no reason that it would cost more to build at this other site, nor have I heard any valid objections. If the borderline between Green Bay and Ashwaubenon presented a bonding problem to present proposals, it would seem that could also be resolved if everyone sat down at the table.

JF

Rochester, New York Schools Pass Merit Pay.

After more than a decade of unacceptable student performance, a new contract holds principals and other administrative employees in the Rochester, NY district accountable for their job performance. A similar system for teachers is under negotiation for the 37,000 student district.

Under a three-year contract agreement approved last fall, evaluations of 241 administrators in the Rochester school district will be linked to district goals and administrator performance in five areas:

- leadership in meeting instructional goals;
- knowledge of teaching/learning & commitment to student success;
- managerial effectiveness
- dealing and collaborating with the public;
- professional development.

An administrator's performance will be reviewed by his or her direct supervisor and another reviewer chosen by the administrator, such as a parent, teacher, or fellow administrator. Positive evaluations would result in a pay increase and incentive bonus; negative evaluations would result in no pay increase and no bonus.

Under the new agreement, administrators receiving a performance evaluation of 'Exceeds expectations' will receive a 3.25 percent increase in salary plus a bonus of \$950. Those receiving an evaluation of 'Meets expectations' will receive the pay increase plus a smaller bonus of \$700. A 'Needs improvement' rating will result in the pay increase and no bonus, while an "Unsatisfactory" rating merits neither a pay increase nor a bonus.

From "School Reform News"
(Thank you to Concerned Citizens of Fond du Lac County)

"I have knowingly defended a number of guilty men. But the guilty never escape unscathed. My fees are sufficient punishment for anyone." . . . F. Lee Bailey

February Meeting Notes:

Keith Kolb from Robert W. Baird & Co., bond consultant for the arena and convention center project discussed financing plans for the project. He stated that naming rights are anticipated to provide \$4 million from the arena and \$500,000 from the convention center. After, this, room tax collections will provide 78 percent of the funding for the project. Ticket sales will provide 9.4%, skybox sales will provide 8.4% and signage sales the remaining 4.2%. Future room tax collections will be used as security for the bondholders.

The project needs to obtain tax-exempt bond financing at six percent for the plan to work. To obtain tax-exempt status for bond sales, the Green Bay Redevelopment Authority will sell the convention center bonds and the Ashwaubenon Community Development Authority will sell the arena bonds. An added advantage is that these authorities are not bound by the Wisconsin constitutional requirement to retire all bonds within 20 years. This permits extending the financing period to 30 or 40 years to decrease the annual payment amounts.

Mr. Kolb explained that the present financing plan falls for increasing the room tax in the City of Green Bay, Allouez, Ashwaubenon, DePere and Howard to eight percent. The Oneida Tribe of Indians will also collect an eight percent room tax for the Radisson Inn and contribute that to the project. The City of Green Bay will keep one percent of its collections for expanding the Pine Street parking ramp. Ashwaubenon will keep one percent of its collections for infrastructure improvements to support the new arena. All room taxes collected will be available for debt service for both the arena and convention center.

In response to questions from the directors about debt service responsibilities in case revenues do not cover annual debt service requirements, Mr. Kolb explained that a cooperation agreement for potential shortfalls is being established between

the participating municipalities and the Oneida Tribe of Indians. If this agreement does not materialize, Brown County will need to guarantee the arena bonds and the City of Green Bay will need to guarantee the convention center bonds. He also responded to questions about the uncertainties of future revenues from sources dependent upon casino gaming by reporting that a study by the C. H. Johnson firm found that approximately 95 percent of the room sales at the Radisson Inn were to business travelers. Also, the casino-driven percentage of total area room sales is small enough to be irrelevant.

The directors agreed that Mr. Kolb's presentation was encouraging, but withheld endorsement of the project pending the release of a detailed financial plan with firm members.

Mike Riley of Taxpayers Network, Inc. (TNI) distributed copies of *School Reform News*, published by the Heartland Institute. This issue contained the California teacher competence test which Mike challenges us to take and see if we agree that the standards are too high, as its challengers claimed in court. TNI is holding a public briefing on privatizing social security March 15th at the Zoofari Conference in Milwaukee. (See details elsewhere in this TAX TIMES). A similar conference is being planned for the Green Bay area. For details, call Mike Riley at (414) 375-4190. Their Internet address is tni@execpc.com.

The next BCTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, and will be held in the South Whitney room of the *DAYS INN Downtown*.

David Nelson - Secretary

"A free society is one where it is safe to be unpopular."
. Adlai Stevenson

"Everyone is always in favor of general economy and particular expenditure."

BCTA Meeting & Events Schedule

- Thursday - March 20, 1997, DAYS INN - Downtown
12:00 Noon - Monthly Business Meeting *
- Tuesday - April 1, 1997, ELECTION DAY?
Get out and VOTE!
Green Bay School Board - Schools Referendum,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Thursday - April 17, 1997, DAYS INN - Downtown
12:00 Noon - Monthly Business Meeting *

** Programs to be announced.*

Cost - \$6.25 per meeting - Payable at Door.
**NEW - Meetings to conducted in the "WEST" Room or
 the South WHITNEY room.**
 Call 499-0768 for reservations. (Leave message)

*All members of the BCTA, their guests, and other interested parties are
cordially invited to attend and participate in our open meetings.*

March						
1997						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

*Mark your Calendar.
Next BCTA Meeting !*

" My experience in government
is that when things are non-
controversial and beautifully co-
ordinated, there is not much go-
ing on."
 John H. Kennedy

The TAX TIMES

Brown County Taxpayers Association
P. O. Box 684
Green Bay, WI 54305-0684

BULK RATE
 U. S. Postage
PAID
 Green Bay, WI

Inside This Issue

- President's Report on BCTA Activities.
- Support Your Local Taxpayer Group.
- Comments on Campaign Funding Ethics.
- Wisconsin Families Are Taxed Enough.
- University of Wisconsin a Bargain.
- Green Bay Public School Referendum.
- Meeting on Social Security Privatization.
- Success of School Choice Program being suppressed.
and much more.