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# ◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

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Volume 12, Issue No. 5

April, 1997

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## **Brown County Jail Update**

By Frank S. Bennett, Jr.

Many people still ask the question; “Do we need a new jail?” The numbers of persons in jail and the cost to board prisoners in other county jails indicate that additional capacity is necessary in Brown County. The existing jail capacity is 266 inmates with 158 being lockup cells. Last year the average daily jail population was 341 and this year is averaging 380 with a peak of 411 on one day. The cost of boarding prisoners last year totaled \$1.2 million and will certainly be higher this year if space is available.

Additional statistics from a recent one day sampling indicate that more space is **urgently** needed. On March 24, 1997, the total jail population was 369 inmates. Of these, 203(55%) were serving sentences, 94(25%) were probation holds, and 97(26%) were pre-trial detainees. In addition, 24 were being held for non payment of fines. The percentages total more than 100 because some inmates are held for more than one purpose. Of the sentenced inmates, 80 (164) are on Huber release privileges.

The county is running out of options to house prisoners. Double bunking was added in 1990 and the non lockup juvenile section moved to the Mental Health Center in about 1995. Space in other counties is becoming less available and we now need to look for additional space within the County to house prisoners. Another review of the Mental Health Center is currently underway and the possibility of a rental agreement for a secure facility in the County is a possibility.

The location of a new jail is still undefined. An effort to find land currently owned by the County resulted in a not-in-my-backyard theme by the local residents. As each municipality is responsible for local zoning, each option ended in being no option. A site on University Avenue is under consideration with another downtown location also being considered.

There is common agreement that the existing jail is not a long term option due to physical limitations in construction. Any expansion of the court system or additional District Attorney staff will most likely be in the current jail location.

Additionally, there is common agreement about the new jail in many details. The jail needs to contain a few cells for people with communicable diseases and a space for a local doctor and dentist to meet with prisoners. The concept of bringing everything to the cell unit rather than moving prisoners is also accepted by most people. Use of direct supervision with up to 56 prisoners per unit with one guard is a common accepted practice. In addition, a pod for indirect surveillance to monitor the worst behaved prisoners will need to be built. Huber prisoners will be housed in dormitory styled facilities.

The best use of the taxpayer dollar is to construct the direct supervision pods first. The lower construction costs of these pods versus the indirect supervised pods coupled with the loser staffing ratio versus Huber facilities result in lower total cost. This conclusion is not one of common agreement on the County Board and may require some discussion. However, this must be done quickly as the **crisis predicted for 1999 is here today.**

**Let's get on with this jail. We as taxpayers cannot afford the delays.**

Frank S. Bennett, Jr.  
President, **Brown County Taxpayers Association**

**The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

## The Wisconsin Lottery. A Bad Idea Gone Worse.

Using the magic words "Tax Relief" as the justification, and the observation that Wisconsin's residents were traveling to neighboring states to buy a few lottery tickets as a motive, voters in 1987 approved a referendum to change the state constitution and allow *limited* gambling in Wisconsin. The people in Madison even added pari-mutual betting at dog tracks and liberalized bingo playing rules as a sweetener so that everyone would have fun, fun, fun while contributing to a worthy cause.

As with many other new programs undertaken by government which begin with a bright promise but never quite live up to the expectations, the Wisconsin lottery appears to be a classic example.

Recall the many well-intentioned investors who applied throughout the state for the privilege of building and operating dog tracks (at their expense and they should have known better). The state spent several months qualifying candidates to determine their worthiness and financial backing, and then declared an almost impossible deadline for the "lucky" winners to complete construction and begin operations. As it turned out, these ventures were largely unsuccessful for a number of reasons, but I would suspect that the state bureaucracy not working with these entrepreneurs to better work things out could be a factor.

Despite the supposed restrictions on advertising the lottery and other various games we have been bombarded with everything from Dick Butkus counting cheeseheads and talking cows encouraging us to spend our money and lose perspective of the overwhelming odds against "your ship coming in."



After negligible tax relief or for that matter any other positive

results (unless you consider the influx of casino gambling to be positive), the state has noticed that lottery revenues have been dropping and they are becoming alarmed. The best solution they can come up with is for more promotion. Give us a break!

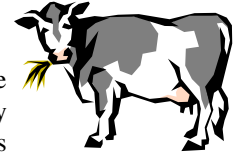
Lottery sales dropped from a high of \$518.9 million in 1994 to \$460 million in 1996. If I recall, something like 50% or so was to be returned to lottery winners, 10% for administration and promotion, and the balance to be used in some fashion to offset the state taxes we pay. In 1996 only \$124.2 million (we didn't get any of it yet) was set aside for tax relief, which is only about 27% of the booty. That would leave 73% to split between the winners and the overhead and advertising. Somehow, despite all the hoopla, do the patrons of this scheme get their full share? Examples: Big winners are paid off over an extended period of time, leaving the balance for the operators to spend or invest. I hear that one new game which promises a million dollar prize each day hasn't had a winner yet. There can be a lot of leakage between what goes in and what comes out. Supposedly additional advertising would be paid from these profits further eroding the winnings or benefits to the state treasury (or you and me.)

Despite some cutbacks in lottery personnel and offices, the budget for running and advertising this program is something like \$45 million per year. Do these cutbacks extend to the lottery commissioners and administration or just the workers?

In summary, from a taxpayers point of view, the state lottery simply has not delivered. Was there ever a concrete plan that made sense for the distribution of proceeds? It is difficult to even believe the lottery tax credit on a real estate tax statement when they also charge a unsubstantiated amount for state services on the same billing. Are we giving with one hand and taking with the other?

Perhaps we should give the citizens of Wisconsin some credit for recognizing a bad deal when they see one. It is ironic

that an office football pool which pays 100% is considered illegal. Supposedly to protect us from getting ripped off.



We agree that there have been many valid arguments both in support of gambling in the casinos and maintaining the lotteries. There have also been a number of studies claiming that it creates welfare expenses, criminal activity and a host of other social related problems and expenses to deal with. Believe what you want.

Some legislators are even proposing that the lottery be abolished, and this is certain to create debate. The people that must gamble will still find an outlet. If they play the lottery and win elsewhere, fine - they will still owe Wisconsin income tax which goes directly to the general fund. My suggestion - just let the thing die a natural death, and maybe no one will ever miss it. What are your thoughts?

**Jim Frink**

"A classic is something everyone wants to have read, but nobody wants to read."

### Brown County Human Services Director to be Speaker at April BCTA Meeting.

Mark Quam, Brown County Human Services director will be the guest speaker at our April 17, business meeting. We have asked him to present an update on the W-2, (Wisconsin Works) program, and how it will be implemented in Brown County. This program was designed to save taxpayers money and should be of great interest.

This month's meeting will be held in the "EAST" room of the Days Inn, which is the room just off of the main dining room which we formerly used for our meetings. Complete details are on the back cover of this "TAX TIMES."

## Where Will The Money Come From to Finance New Prisons?

It was interesting to hear Gov. Thompson's proposal to have convicted felons serve their entire prison sentence with no chance of parole or early release. This type of get-tough-on-crime talk always sounds good to concerned citizens. A couple of potential problems come to mind immediately however. The first being would judges throughout the state be giving uniform sentences for the same crime and circumstances? It is no secret that some judges have a reputation of being more lenient than others.

Also, it seems even financing one new prison is raising havoc with the state budget, and we have yet to solve highway and education funding problems. Proposing tax increases by any party would probably be political suicide. There have to be better solutions than spending about \$25,000 per year of taxpayers money for each prison inmate, and yet provide proper punishment while maintaining law and order. Does anyone have any suggestions to pass on to our legislators? JF

"Of all debts, men are least willing to pay taxes. What a satire is this on government!" ... **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"In levying taxes and shearing sheep, it is well to stop when you get down to the skin." ... **Austin O'Malley**

## State Pays for Services.

The state of Wisconsin reimburses municipalities for costs associated with providing services to tax-exempt state facilities. Annual payments cover police and fire protection, as well as solid waste services provided directly to state-owned facilities, such as state universities. Payments for water and sewer services are also paid.

For 1996 services, the state paid \$16.8 million to 251 municipalities with the largest amount, \$6.8 million, going to Madison, followed by Milwaukee, \$1.9 million and Oshkosh, \$1.0 million.

From "*The Wisconsin Taxpayer.*"

## From other Taxpayer Groups.

### Waukesha Principal Could Get \$116,000 Per Year.

Bethesda Elementary School James Chermak has worked for the district for 35 years and says he's entitled to start drawing his pension even if he continues to work for the district. Chermak is one of three principals who are asking the School Board to approve a deal that would allow them to begin drawing their pensions later this year while continuing to work full time

The Pensions are paid fully by Taxpayers with tax free dollars as with other fringe benefits. Recent news reports about state administrators, law enforcement officers and school administrators who retire, and collected a retirement annuity, and then returned to their previous jobs or other jobs with the government. This practice is allowed by state law, and has been around for a number of years.

Chermak is now paid \$69,223 salary plus around 50% tax-free fringe benefits. Under this new deal contract he would be paid \$65,695 salary. The district would pay him an additional \$8,343 for the year - (the amount the district would contribute to the retirement fund, bringing his total pay up to \$74,038.) Because he is technically retired the district would not have to contribute to the State Portion of the Retirement fund. In other words the district is now paying \$16,683 plus \$69,223 for a total of \$85,906.

He would receive (paid by taxpayers) \$7,755 in health, dental and other benefits. His pension would pay about \$35,000 per year. (Teachers don't pay state taxes on their retirement pay). His total income in salary, benefits and pension funds would amount to about \$116,000.

We must find a solution to this growing problem, and study the Unfunded Liability, the tax free fringe benefits.

**Paul W. Sylvester, President**  
Concerned Citizens of  
Fond du Lac County

## Declining Lottery Sales and Property Tax Relief.

On the previous page we commented on the state lottery, and questioned whether it is worth maintaining. Below are the laudatory sales and tax relief credits which have been provided since 1988.

Year	Lottery sales Millions	Total Credits Millions	Ave. Credit
1988-89	\$230.4	\$.00	\$.00
1989-90	309.6	.00	.00
1990-91	391.4	.00	.00
1991-92	449.1	173.4	144
1992-93	495.1	203.7	169
1993-94	495.1	128.7	106
1994-95	518.9	137.0	112
1995-96	482.1	156.2	126
1996-97	460.0	124.2	100*

\* Not paid due to court decision.

Source, *The Wisconsin Taxpayer*, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.

## Social Security Problem is Number One Issue.

A public forum on "Privatizing Social Security" was sponsored by Taxpayers Network, Inc., in Milwaukee on March 15. Robert Genetski, noted economist and author observed that "The Social Security problem is the number one issue in this country. The model solution can be found in the system now used in Chile." (Editors Note: The system recently implemented in Chile has many unique features which could be applied in the U. S.)

Wendel Cox, speaker, consultant and researcher added that "There is No Crisis Point for the Social Security problem. Years from now we will look back and ask when was the crisis? We won't be able to pinpoint it". There were many questions and answers fielded by the presenters. And plans are underway to host a similar meeting in the Green Bay area.

Additional information on "Privatizing Social Security" can be obtained from Mike Riley, C/O **Taxpayers Network Inc.** Cedarburg, WI 53012-2768. Phone or fax (414) 375-4190.

## When is a Tax Increase a Tax Increase?

From *Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance* "FOCUS."

*The upcoming state budget is likely to raise cigarette taxes and user fees, close "tax loopholes" and beef up tax enforcement. Some will call these "tax increases"; others won't. Where does the truth lie?*

There are many ways the state can collect the \$36.6 billion the governor proposes to spend during 1997-99. In addition to borrowing or postponing payment of bills - - actions that just defer the need for funds - - there are revenue sources not generally considered tax increases:

**"Economic Growth."** Even if tax laws were left untouched and no changes were made in fees or charges, the state would have more money to spend. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates that Wisconsin will collect \$18.6 billion in general fund taxes - - mainly income and sales taxes - - over the next two years. This is almost \$1.7 billion more than is expected to be collected during the current two-year budget period and reflects continued growth in the state economy.

**"Enhanced" Enforcement.** The state can also generate money through stepped-up audits and collection. Such efforts are not tax increases because they don't require a change in law. However, more aggressive enforcement of existing laws can have political fallout. Also, the pending state budget anticipates \$36 million in new sales taxes from out-of-state catalog companies that sell their products to in-state residents. Proponents argue this is not a tax increase, but rather collection of taxes already due Wisconsin and made possible by an agreement between the state and large direct mail marketers. State consumers will have to pay sales and use taxes that were formerly unpaid or not collected, though required by law.

**Inflation-Induced Income Taxes.** In the past ten years, Wisconsin's individual income tax collections have grown faster (+86%) than personal income (+75%), despite tax rate cuts in the mid-eighties. That's because part of the revenue attributed to economic growth could be characterized as an unlegislated tax increase. The cause is "bracket creep" and other effects of inflation on an individual income tax law that has not been updated since 1988.

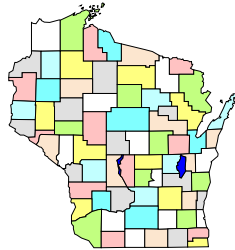
**Gas Taxes.** The state's motor fuel tax rises - - and falls - - automatically. State law authorizes annual administrative adjustment of the gas tax rate to reflect changes in consumer prices and gas consumption over the prior year. To illustrate" In 1993, the gas tax was 23.2 cents; it fell to 23.1 cents the following year and has since risen to its 23.7 cents per gallon.

**Sin Taxes.** Most analysts would consider state revenue derived from sale of alcohol and tobacco a tax. Legislative action is required to increase these flat-rate excise taxes. Both the current and pending state budgets increase cigarette taxes. Two years ago, the legislature raised the per pack rate by six cents, and this time the governor is asking for an additional five cents.

Supporters term these budget items "no-tax-increase" because they don't increase sales or income tax rates.

**"Tax Loopholes."** Hiking income or sales tax rates is universally viewed as a tax increase. But when extra revenue is realized by repealing income preferences of sales tax exemption, a different phrase is often used. In the last state budget, telephone companies lost a sales tax exemption for switching equipment, and in the proposed new budget, coin-operated laundries and answering services would become taxable. Repeal of these exemptions has been characterized as "closing loopholes" rather than increasing taxes. Politics, product popularity, and the extent of product use seem to determine whether it is a tax increased or a loophole closed.

**Increased Fees.** The 1995-97 state budget generated more than \$100 million through new and increased fees and higher university tuition. There are a number of fee increases, including hunting and fishing license fees being incorporated in the new budget.



So, what is a tax? One definition is that a tax is a charge for public services that falls broadly on individuals or firms, who by law, are obligated to pay it. Income, property, sales or excise taxes are examples.

Fees or charges, on the other hand, are applied more narrowly and are a matter of choice. They are assessed against the user of a specific service. Thus, campers pay a nightly fee, students pay tuition in return for education; and vehicle owners pay a registration fee for the privilege of using highways.

All taxes, fees, charges, fines and assessments are ultimately paid by individuals. All are transfers of earnings or savings from people - - be they workers, retirees, business owners, shareholders or out-of-state residents - - to government to pay for services.

Some payments are obvious. People earn income and pay income and payroll tax: when they spend their earnings, they pay sales taxes. Others are more subtle. Business "pay" taxes on income, property and purchases. But they recover these costs by raising prices, reducing salaries or forgoing dividends. In the end, all monies paid to government come from the same place - - us.

From *Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance*, Madison, WI. "FOCUS" dated Mar. 7, 1997.

"There is no art which one government sooner learns from another than that of draining money from the pockets of the people."

Adam Smith

**Senator Cowles Cuts Dollars from Agency Request.**

In a recent News Release, State Sen. Robert Cowles of Green Bay, as a member of the Joint Committee on Finance cut back a \$4.5 million request for additional funding from the Dept. of Workforce Development by \$308,000. This is commendable.

According to Senator Cowles, all requests for funding are reviewed by the committee and analyzed, and those with little or no explanation can be objected to. This particular request was asking for overtime and weekend pay for employees who were not necessarily hourly employees, and the agency was unable to justify their request.

Now if they can just find a couple of billion dollars more to cut from the budget we could all save some money. JF

**Drzewiecki Testifies in Favor of English First Bill.**

English would become the official state language of Wisconsin if a bill introduced by Sen. Gary Drzewiecki of Pulaski became law.

Under his bill, all written communication by all units of state and local government would be produced in the English language. Exceptions would only be made in a case-by-case basis.

The bill encourages the state to preserve Wisconsin's ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage by teaching languages other than English in order to facilitate the multilingual exchange of ideas. "We should continue to recognize and respect our different backgrounds, but at the same time encourage people to learn the English language," Said Drzewiecki. "Helping ethnic groups assimilate into American Society makes them more productive members of their communities and enhances their employability."

He said that crating uniformity among written documents and forms used by state and local governments will save administrative (taxpayers) costs by streamlining government operations.

The "English First" bill does not:

- Prohibit speaking other languages.
- Prohibit teaching learning other languages.
- Allow discrimination against people who speak other languages.
- Imply that English is the best language, or the only language that should be spoken in Wisconsin.

Senator Drzewiecki is hopeful the Assembly State Affairs will take a vote on his legislation in the near future.

"Every immigrant who comes here should be required within five years to learn English or leave the country."  
 . . . . . Theodore Roosevelt

**BCTA To Host Social Security Discussion.**

"Privatizing" Social Security will be the subject of a public meeting being sponsored by the Brown County Taxpayers Association and Taxpayers Network Inc.

This is a concept which we will probably be hearing a lot about in the months to come as debate continues in Washington on how to go about keeping the system solvent.

The meeting will be held Saturday, April 26, from 10:30 to 12:00 noon, at the new American Medical Security Building located off of Highway J and Shawano Ave. in Howard. The featured speaker will be Mr. William J. Hunter, Associate Dean at Marquette University, College of Business Administration. Admission is free, there is plenty of parking, and the subject is of great concern to all of us.

Refer to the flyer enclosed in this "TAX TIMES" for complete details.

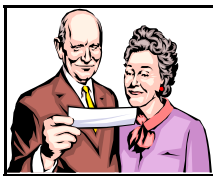
**Representative Lasee Seeks Input on State Budget.**

Second District Representative Frank G. Lasee has requested input as to ways to reduce the state budget, as well as comments on the various revenue enhancements which have been proposed. He currently serves on the Criminal Justice and corrections committee, Health Insurance, and Ways and Means committees. The legislature is trying to have the budget ready for approval by July 1. He is particularly interested in any cuts or reductions which could be proposed. The state/national committee of the BCTA is also concerned about the size of the proposed state budget and will be asked to make an analysis.

Representative Lasee can be reached at:

Rep. Frank G. Lasee  
 C/O State Capital  
 P. O. Box 8953  
 Madison, WI 53708  
 (608) 266-9871

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**TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

Send the names of prospects to:  
 P. O. Box 684  
 Green Bay, WI 54305-0684  
 or call Jim Frink at 336-6410

*We will send them information*

*From our Readers:*

## Fight the Tax Hike the Winning

The *Press-Gazette* in a front page spread on the Real Estate section of March 23, 1997 gave several ways of fighting property tax hikes. All wrong!

The way to do so, is to elect responsible politicians who will act with public monies the way they act with their own. As we all know, Green Bay people are noted for being "tight screws." So why is it that once elected to public office, whether it be council member, County Executive, Redevelopment Authority Member or whatever, that they suddenly become big spenders of the public funds. Government must live within its means just as we do as individuals.

If you feel as I do, join the organization dedicated to fiscal responsibility in government. We believe in acting frugal and smart. We should do with the jail what the State did in Oshkosh and cut the expensive jail down to plain pipe rack caliber. Also use the 3-tier imprisonment method whereby cheaper building techniques are used to build structures which house non-violent prisoners. And what is wrong with continuing to use the existing secure jail facility to house violent criminals? Too simple? What is the organization that promotes and preaches fiscal responsibility?

**THE BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**, that's what.

If we had 5,000 members we would have some clout with our public "servants." See the "WANTED" ad elsewhere in this "TAX TIMES."

*Mark E. Leistickow*

## Wisconsin Reverting to old anti-business atti-

In the early 1970's, I was showing an out of state "site finder" locations for the possible site for a large industrial plant. When we finished driving to a number of locations, I asked the "site finder" how Wisconsin stood insofar as a desirable state in which to do business.

His reply shocked me! "Poor," he said for several reasons: "Wisconsin is one of the highest taxed states; the attitude of labor is poor;" and lastly and most important, the state government is anti business." This was exemplified by the mining law which the then Democratic legislature had passed over Governor Dreyfus' objection.

When Tommy Thompson was elected Governor he undertook a long, slow process of cultivating out-of-state business firms to move here and encouraged those here to stay. He made efforts to lower the state tax from the high of over 11% which had existed: improved labor relations; and got the legislature to soften its anti business stance.

The rest is now history, with Wisconsin's unemployment rate being one of the lowest in the country.

Now we see the more liberal controlled State Senate has reverted to its former way with the adoption of the moratorium on mining, which most see as an outright attempt to ban future mining. If the Assembly passes a similar version of the act proposed by Representative Spencer Black of the 77th district, a message will go forth to industry throughout the country.

The message is a simple one: Wisconsin's legislature is back to its old anti business attitudes - stay away!

*Name withheld upon request.*

### *Editors Comments;*

Apparently work is still proceeding on the new Milwaukee Baseball stadium despite constant bickering and the threat of legal action to control the costs, etc.

The 1997 season is getting underway, and we wish the Brewers the best of luck on the field and in the stands. One reason for the confusion over the stadium construction seems to have been caused by the fact that a relatively small group of citizens was able to push the project through the legislature, and raise certain taxes to pay for it without a mandate from the taxpayers or a referendum that they really wanted it.

Sounds familiar.

## Corrections Costs Compared

For 1995, the annual per capita cost for keeping a prisoner in a Wisconsin correctional facility was \$19,888. This was a 1.6% decrease from the 1994 cost of \$20,217.

However, per capita costs for probations and parole increased by 14.2%, \$1,041 to \$1,189 and intensive sanctions increased 19.8% from \$7,415 to \$8,880 during this same period.

Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance

"In prison, those things withheld from and denied to the prisoner become precisely what he wants most of all."

.....Eldridge

## BCTA Board of Directors - Committee Assignments.

As promised in the last "TAX TIMES", directors of the BCTA would be assigned to our various committees. I would ask the person who's name appears first to serve as temporary chairman and contact the other members of the committee to organize, prepare a plan of action and select a chairman. All members of the Brown County Taxpayers are eligible to serve on these committees, and we ask anyone interested to contact any of the members if you want to serve on any of the committees. Also, committee chairmen are urged to contact other organization members to serve on their committees.

### MEMBERSHIP

ROB MILLER  
 JIM FRINK  
 JIM DERBIQUE  
 ROBERT JONAS  
 LARRY MASTALISH

### STATE/NATIONAL

TOM SLADEK  
 DAN THENO  
 BOB IMIG  
 PATRICK MOYNIHAN  
 MARK LEISTICKOW

### SCHOOLS

ROD GOLDHAHN  
 MARGARET BUCHMAN  
 GEORGE PARKER  
 CHARLES BRAND  
 WAYNE VANDERPUTTEN

### COUNTY/LOCAL

DAVE NELSON  
 JERRY SLAVIK  
 JOHN BECKMAN  
 RAY KRUSIK  
 ED MATTICK

Please give me a call at 499-0768 if there is any question. *Frank Bennett, Pres.*

"A real patriot is the fellow who gets a parking ticket, and rejoices that the system works."

## April Election Now History.

The results are now in and we congratulate the winners. There will be a couple of new faces on the Green Bay School Board and we are sure that they will continue to be responsive to the needs of the school district and the taxpayers during their term. This is a very responsible job with long hours and few benefits. It is unfortunate that so little interest in generated either in persons seeking these positions or by the public during the election campaigns.

The \$15 million referendum to build and remodel schools was approved rather easily, and seemingly with a minimum of protest from anyone. The BCTA has publicly supported the requirement that large bonding issues be approved by referendum and can really see no evidence that it has not worked to everyone's advantage.

Election results were also predictable on the state level. It is unfortunate that some of the television advertising for the state supreme court and superintendent of schools was reminiscent of the 1996 national and state campaigns, with a huge amount of money spent in an attempt to sidetrack the issues and purpose of the elected position by throwing stones at opponents.

We would like to think that this is the result of irresponsible advertising agencies making a buck and not necessarily the candidates themselves or their campaign managers making the statements. Fortunately, it seems the voters themselves generally seem to know better and are able to select the best from what is available for their choice.

Finally, we will again say that it is unfortunate that so few people find the time or take the responsibility to vote. It is easy to complain about your taxes and the way things are being run, but these are all controlled by the people we elect to manage our government and represent our interests. JF

## March Meeting Notes.

Mike Riley of Taxpayers Network, Inc., reported that a Social Security restructuring and privatization seminar is planned for Saturday, April 26, in Green Bay. Professor William J. Hunter of Marquette University is to be the featured speaker.

Brown County Supervisor Pat Collins presented his perspective on the proposal to build a new \$23 million Brown County Jail. He explained that a new facility, similar to the state facility in Oshkosh, housing 100 inmates can be built for \$2 to \$5 million, depending on whether it is to be a low dormitory with individual cells. The plans have been paid for by the state and are available at no cost. Supervisor Collins proposed that the downtown jail be kept as a maximum security facility. A low security, 100-bed facility should be built as soon as possible on a new jail site, with a medium security, 100-bed unit to follow. He asked, "If the state can keep convicted felons in the Oshkosh facility, why can't Brown County keep petty offenders in the same type of facility?"

The directors expressed concern about the delivery date of the detailed financial plan for the proposed arena and convention center project. Their interest was in reaction to the announcement of a privately funded arena to be built in Appleton. Considering the potential impact of the Appleton arena upon revenues for the Brown County Arena, it was noted that the impact on the project should not be as great as revenues from ticket sales and user fees are expected to provide less than ten percent of construction cost for the new Brown County Arena.

The next BCTA meeting will be Thursday, April 17, and will be held in the East Room of the Days Inn.

David Nelson, Secretary

"The taxpayer -- that's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take a civil service examination."  
 . . . . . Ronald Reagan

### BCTA Meeting & Events Schedule

- Thursday - April 17, 1997 - DAYS INN - Downtown (EAST ROOM)  
12:00 Noon - Monthly Business Meeting \*  
Speaker - Mark Quam, Brown County Human Services Director  
W-2 Welfare Reform Update
- Saturday - April 26, 1997 - American Medical Security Building  
10:30 a.m. - Informative meeting - "Privatizing Social Security." Sponsored by BCTA and Taxpayers Network Inc.  
Details inside.
- Thursday - May 15, 1997 - DAYS INN - Downtown (WEST ROOM)  
12:00 Noon - Monthly Business Meeting \*

\*Cost - \$6.25 per meeting - Payable at Door

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

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

Mark your calendar.  
Next BCTA Meeting,  
April 17.

"I can't make a damn thing out of this tax problem."  
... Warren G. Harding



## The TAX TIMES

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

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### Inside This Issue

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