
◆ The TAX TIMES ◆

Volume 15, Issue 10

Newsletter of the Brown County Taxpayers Association

September, 2000

GREED AND FEAR

It started out several years ago in baseball when Pete Rose wanted to be the highest priced player. He settled a contract for \$100,001.00 so that he could be the highest paid player. His pay was only \$1.00 more than the next highest priced player, but still the highest. What that has grown into makes most of us wonder what happened to common sense? With pro sports salaries the way they are today, it must be a wonder if any team can make money on an ongoing basis. The greed in the players finally got passed on to the coaches. Mike Holmgren left Green Bay to receive a salary in excess of \$40 million over several years. When the Packers won the Super Bowl a few years ago, the calls about Ron Wolf certainly caught the eye of Bob Harlan who rewarded Mr. Wolf with a large raise. One only can wonder what happened to the salary of Mr. Harlan when his subordinates became millionaires. Now this greed is spreading. Fan support in the form of tax dollars is being requested here in Titledown. In order to pay players more money, it is necessary to modify the stadium so more money can stay with the home team and not be shared with the visiting team. What happened to the values my mom taught me about sharing? Not only must the stadium be modified, but also the Packers say it must be paid partially with taxpayer dollars. Is there no end to this greed? When a faction of the community is opposed to using tax money to enhance player salaries and signing bonuses, then come the fear tactics. What will Green Bay be like without the Packers? This is a question that keeps coming up from the Packers and their supporters. "Where are the Packers going?" we ask Mr. Harlan, and he says, "Nowhere, there are staying in Green Bay." Why do we continue to hear the same threat of moving our football team when we all know that they are staying in Green Bay? After the plan to use tax money is voted down, Mr. Harlan will work on another deal to enhance player salaries and signing bonuses but will not include the use of tax dollars.

Next comes Brown County. All of a sudden they are going to hit the limit on the rate cap and with the Packers wanting tax money, they think they can get more for themselves. So we get a question 2 on the ballot. I am unable to say that this money will be used for property tax relief and keep a straight face. Adding another tax to reduce the first tax just doesn't make common sense. The County is in the habit of increasing spending at more than double the rate of inflation and has come upon the limit imposed by the State to stop that. Wouldn't it make more sense to reduce spending or adjust the limit? By voting yes to question 2 and having both questions pass, the total bill to the taxpayer is over 1.3 thousand million dollars. **Yes, 1.3 BILLION DOLLARS.** There is a better solution.

ON SEPTEMBER 12, YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. IT WILL HELP MAKE A DECISION ON TAXES THAT COULD LAST FOR UP TO 30 YEARS. WE ASK THAT YOU MAKE IT A POINT TO VOTE. REGISTER EARLY AND USE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IF NECESSARY, BUT PLEASE VOTE.

Frank S. Bennett Jr. President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government

How Much Will .13 Cents A Day Cost You?

Would you believe \$3,152.52 in 30 Years. Interesting question. While the tax and spend supporters do their best to minimize the cost of a .5% sales tax by sticking to their example of "Just 13 cents a day," they neglect to point out that this would be for the *first year only*. The Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates that while it could raise as much as \$16.4 million in 2001, but as much as \$1.3 billion in 30 years if voters buy into the question #2 scenario. That also means that you and your family will also pay a lot more than 13 cents a day as advertised.

Why? The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has estimated that tax collections will grow by 6% each year, based on the average growth in the tax base throughout the state during the past 20 years. Assuming this figure represents about a 1% annual growth in population, and 5% for inflation and increased spending power, we prepared the table in the next column. In other words, a 5% annual growth in the .5% sales tax would equate to \$195.31 annually per capita after 30 years, assuming everything else remained constant. Multiply this for a family of 4. The total tax paid at that time would be \$3,152.52, divided between the Packers, the County, and whoever bought the bonds for stadium renovation.

Another assumption. If you set a like amount aside each day or year, and invested it in a rather modest mutual fund averaging 8% return per year, the total after 30 years would be \$9,806.29. (all on .13 cents a day.)

We acknowledge that due to variables and uncertainties any such projection is questionable. You can use whatever numbers you want. However, there are also a lot of other variables and uncertainties lurking in approval of questions #1 and #2. How accurate are the cost estimates. What will interest be? Will this solve the Packers financial needs? How will other projects, both public and private be financed? There is a lot to think about before committing Brown County to a \$1.3 billion dollar tax package with many unanswered questions.

What Is A Use Tax?

You will note that whenever the term "Sales Tax" appears in government publications, it is usually followed by the words "and Use Tax." Thus the tax authorized for Lambeau Field renovation by the 1999 Wisconsin Act 167 is referred to as a "Sales and Use Tax."

Simply put, if you purchase an item of taxable merchandise in Brown County you would pay the 5% state and .5% county taxes at the time of purchase. This is a sales tax. However, if you purchase taxable goods from a source which does not charge you sales tax, such as from a non-taxed state or county, or through E-Mail or other out of state source and either bring or have these items shipped to Brown County for you use, you are liable for reporting and paying the applicable "Use" taxes.

You can check with local Wis. Dept. of Revenue office for information and reporting forms.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.BCTAxPAYERS.ORG

- Information on the BCTA and How to Join Us.
- A whole section of articles from the *TAX TIMES* on the Continuing Lambeau Field Saga.
- Links to other taxpayer related websites.
- An easy communication link to E-Mail us.
- Information on our Lambeau Field Yard Sign contest.

CHECK IT OUT !

Other websites related to Lambeau Field to check: www.Nolambeautax.com

The Cruellest Hoax of All.

We are witnessing an unprecedented barrage of (for lack of a better word) propaganda set forth to coerce Brown County voters to accept the premise that we will be saving Lambeau Field *only* if we accept a monumental tax burden upon ourselves. The professionally prepared and orchestrated appeals have been from the emotional to pure economic hog-wash in the effort to shove this project through on the fast track.

Some examples are using children in ads encouraging us to consider the future, when they in turn will have to pay for this indulgence plus all of the other tax increases that will just keep piling up. How about telling people they *may* have a chance to purchase tickets for undetermined games in the future at a yet to be established price *only* if the plan as presented is approved. Those who have waited for years to move up on the waiting list for regular season tickets in anticipation of an enlarged stadium must like that idea. Especially those from Brown County. Like any good business, the Packers contribute to charities, but do we owe them a half billion in tax money in return? Money needed for other community projects with high priority.

Small business is being told the sales tax would be of benefit to them, but there are thousands of them in the county who are not along the road to Lambeau Field, and for whom this would represent nothing but a competitive disadvantage and additional record keeping. Incidentally, businessmen only get to keep ½% of the sales tax collected while the Dept. of Revenue pockets a full 1 1/2%. We are told of the monetary benefit the Packers provide by their presence, but forget that this value is already here and it is highly unlikely that they would leave town without a close look at other options more acceptable to taxpayers. The Brown County Taxpayers Association has been in opposition of a sales tax for a number of reasons, but one of the biggest has been the effect of such a tax on large and low income families, and the elderly trying to maintain a respectable standard of income on a fixed income. Estimates are that as many as 42% of Brown County households have income under \$30,000 annually. These people have little to gain from Lambeau Field renovation, and must sacrifice to pay more taxes, no matter how small.

We acknowledge that Brown County is facing a budget problem which will only get worse as time goes on. Part of this has been caused by keeping expenses and taxes at a reasonable level, taking care of next year when it arrives. Certain capital items have been postponed as long as possible, and must now be addressed. Insurance costs for county employees have increased 37% in the last two years. State mandates, including the amount that counties can levy in property taxes each year are certainly a factor.

The county budget is a complex document and the result of countless items and services which have been added through the years as a result of taxpayer needs, mandates and demands. The people preparing the budget are experienced and conscientious to the task.

Predictably, when a municipal budget has to be cut,

services that the public can relate to or depend on are usually the first mentioned. In this case it is meals on wheels, libraries, services for the elderly, various risk groups, a much needed highway expansion, and so on. While it is entirely possible that other services or expenditures could be trimmed, there is already an outcry from those who feel they may lose certain benefits or even their jobs.

The Brown County Taxpayers Association remains opposed to question #1 and #2 which will appear on the September 12, referendum. However, it appears that a large number of elderly and other groups who depend upon county services for several valid reasons are being enticed to support question #2, and as a result, support question #1. We believe this is unfortunate if for no other reason the elderly and low income residents are those who are least able to absorb additional taxes. It is unfortunate as it appears support for

“Encouraging the elderly and underprivileged to support more taxes for fear of losing some of their benefits is wrong and deceitful. They will have the least to gain from Lambeau Field renovation, and are least able to afford any tax increases.”

Question #2 from this group being promoted by those with interests other than the elderly of Brown County. Remember that unless question #1 passes, #2 doesn't count. The county board could quite possibly pass a sales tax for Brown county whether we like it or not. In this case they would get 100% or the proceeds, so then you can watch spending go up. Don't count on tax relief, as ways will be found to spend this wind-fall. While the county would receive some of the sales tax revenue it is seeking if question #1 and 2 are approved, it will come at considerable cost to taxpayers. That is because this scheme would consume an additional \$100-200 million in sales tax revenue to pay additional interest incurred due to extending the payments for Lambeau Field. The reason for the discrepancy is there are a number of variables and alternatives available which would have to be determined.

Inasmuch as we have already seen just about every trick in the book used already to influence potential voters to approve these referendum questions, nothing is unbelievable.

In any event, encouraging the elderly and underprivileged to support mores taxes for fear of losing some of their benefits is wrong and deceitful. They will have the least to gain from Lambeau Field renovation, and are least able to afford any tax increase. To use this base of voters to help push this whole scheme through for the benefit of the Packers fantasy and sacred cow county services is an abuse of public trust. It is difficult to imagine the county discontinuing needed essential services for the elderly and needy under any circumstances, and our elected officials should make this perfectly clear to everyone concerned. This is the cruelest hoax in the long line of misleading information the taxpayers of Brown County have been receiving lately.

JF

Vote "NO" And Be Heard.

By Rep. Frank G. Lasee, 2d Assembly Dist.

On September 12, Brown County residents will have the choice to give their county government even more money, or tell their county government to live on what we're already giving them. I believe that we should take the latter course.

If Question #1 of the upcoming referendum is adopted, Brown County taxpayers will have to pony up an estimated \$264 million to fund the Lambeau Field renovation project. Adopting Question #2 will increase that figure to \$1.3 billion, and extend the tax another 15 years. The length of bonding will be extended, bringing more than \$200 million in additional interest payments. Taxpayers will continue to subsidize certain maintenance costs for 30 years, as well.

Brown County Executive Nancy Nussbaum says that passing Question #2 will erase a projected \$2.9 million deficit next year. She and others are working overtime to frighten voters about services that will be cut if it fails: families hear that the bookmobile will stop running; the elderly hear they will not get services. Virtually anything and everything will be hurt by this reduction in the growth of spending. What our county officials want is an ever-increasing pot of money. One that will grow much faster than inflation. One that come in dribs and drabs, so we don't feel the pain of writing a check once or twice a year. One that makes it painless to continue to add more employees and do more. The county has added more than 60 new employees over the last two years, and plans to add at least 170 more next year.

I'm not convinced that the county even needs more money. The county's contributions to the Wisconsin Retirement System will fall again this year, by an estimated \$475,000, and again next year, by an additional \$340,000. Property values in Brown County will rise by 7.5% this year. This means county tax revenues will increase by more than \$3 million without changing property tax rates. Inflation isn't growing that fast. Population isn't growing that fast. But tax collections will, and yet Brown County projects a nearly \$3 million shortfall.

County leaders also want us to believe that a sales tax can provide property tax relief. That hasn't happened too often elsewhere. According to the Wisconsin Taxpayer's Alliance, a county sales tax does not guarantee lower property taxes. In the vast majority of counties that have enacted the sales tax, property taxes have continued to grow faster than counties that didn't. The sales tax simply becomes one more source of revenue to be spent. And it is spent, along with the increased property tax revenues. Also, according to a study done by the Brown County Taxpayer's Association, counties which have enacted sales taxes experience increased debt levels, far above those of non-sales-tax-counties. And effective tax rates, including sales and property taxes combined, are more than 25 percent higher in counties with sales taxes than in those without.

Wisconsin is one of the highest taxed states in the nation. We are taxing our citizens more invasively than 45 other states. Our state and local tax burden is higher now than at nearly any other time in our history. This is a real problem for families, individuals, and businesses. I urge Brown County's taxpayers to stand up and say NO to this ever increasing tax burden. Thank you.

On September 12,
with

JUST

VOTE!!!

2000, Agree with us, Don't agree
us, but make your own decision.

**"Bad officials are elected by
good citizens who do not
vote."**

George J. Nathan

The Case Against Question #2.

If you recall (only a few short months ago), when the Packers were pulling out all the stops in Madison to have legislation drafted to legalize tax money for their crystal palace and stadium fantasy, the Brown County board realized it was perhaps being denied some potential taxpayer money for their own spending purposes. Somebody put a pencil to projected sales tax revenue and realized they were sitting on top of a gold mine.

Further recall that there was a flurry of activity with very little input from the public accepted between the Packers, county officials, and any legislators who could make public statements without jeopardizing their chances of reelection. The net result was that Question #2 was added to Act 167 allowing Brown County to pick up the scraps after the Packers take their share.

Brown counties government has been on the edge budget wise for several years, trying to keep taxes acceptable for taxpayers while complying with state mandates controlling tax rates. We all have our theories as to why the budget is so high, but the fact still remains that our elected officials are now threatening to curtail a number of visible services unless Question #2 is approved (Along with Question #1). Quite frankly, this appears to be a form of blackmail to shove the entire package down the throats of Brown County citizens if they want it or not. Enticing the elderly and underprivileged to accept additional taxation to pay for something they don't necessarily want or need is not acceptable public policy.

This has been further complicated now that Lambeau Field supporters have been endorsing Question #2 for additional support for their cause, while Question #2 supporters now endorse Lambeau Field even though they may largely represent people with little to gain. **Was this all planned far in advance by some unknown master strategist?**

One of the BCTA's reason for opposition to the Lambeau Field project was the huge amount of resources it would take from our citizens for a questionable return. Nothing has changed this. There are plenty of other funds available to enhance the Packers revenue sources if they would only listen to the people. Wisconsin's position as one of the highest taxed states in the country dictates that our priorities be directed to more efficient use of our tax dollars.

While 53 other counties have had the .5% sales tax imposed upon them, (none with approval of voters in a referendum), it has yet to be proven that this would benefit Brown County other than give a green light for more spending of tax dollars. It has been our conclusion that sales taxes only encourage more spending and increase effective tax rates. Our county tax rate compares well and provides a high level of service. The situation may change, but as long as neighboring counties without a sales tax attract our retail business, the overall negatives could well outdo any positive benefits.

We would prefer to see our county board look at increasing the levy limit. Although this would require voter approval while a sales tax could be imposed by the county board on its own, we believe it would be less expensive and more

effective. For example, to raise the \$4 million present shortfall, an increase of last years county tax rate from \$5.07/m to \$5.42 would be required. This equates to \$38.00 for a \$100,000 home, but is still considerably less than the sales tax could cost your family. While it is probably true that a county sales tax could actually lower your county tax rate, the historical facts indicate that the county will very quickly manage to spend the difference, leaving you with the same county taxes as before with a burdensome sales tax on top of it. There isn't a politician out there who can deny this and keep a straight face. ***By using the property tax, despite its many faults and injustices, our elected officials will have to explain any reasons for tax increases to the public rather than hide their spending sprees behind a sales tax.*** Accountability is one thing that should be expected of those entrusted to represent our interests.

Also, keep in mind that the county portion of your property tax bill, the only part that a sales tax would offset, is only about 25% of what you are assessed each year. A sales tax would do absolutely nothing to offset school costs which are usually about 50% of your property tax statement, or municipal and other items accounting for the remaining 25%.

One other problem with Question #2. If the voters of Brown County buy the Packers story and approve #2 to help the poor county, **there will be an additional \$100 to \$200 Million dollars of sales tax revenues expanded for no other purpose than additional interest payment on the Lambeau Field project.**

Why and how? Rather than pay the interest on a \$160 million dollar loan for the Packers in 14-15 years as the experts estimate, it would be stretched out to 28-30 years in order to give the county some of the action. The \$100-200 million would be for additional interest due to modifying the terms. The same as if you take a 15 or 30 year mortgage on your home. The exact amount has not been established and probably won't be pending approval of the referendum and all of the numbers can be sorted out. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has identified several scenarios and the all-powerful stadium board could begin to justify its existence. The application of naming rights revenues, license plate and tax checkoff income, interest rates, how maintenance fees and reserves are structured, etc. all have to be factored into the equation. In any event, expanding such a huge amount of our money for interest and allowing a county sales tax through the back door is certainly not in the public interest.

This whole package still contains too many uncertainties for voters to consider let alone approve. You know how it is when a slick snake oil salesman appears out of nowhere and wants to sell you something you didn't ask for or even need. They don't give you much time to think. **JF**

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

. . . R. J. O'Rourke

MYTHS & FACTS OF THE STADIUM SALES TAX.

Myth - The Packers claim they need money to keep the franchise viable. *FACT* - The Packers are already the highest paid team in the League and would only participate in driving costs still higher in their endless attempt to further enhance their standing at taxpayer expense. By September 5th (the next government-required reporting period) the Packers will have spent a million to a million and a half dollars lobbying the legislature in Madison and this community. Add to this all the cost to governments at all levels (state, county and city) spent dealing with the Packer proposal and the stadium could have been renovated many times over at no taxpayer expense.

Myth - If the Packers don't get what they want they will leave. *FACT* - This team is too valuable to the NFL to risk pulling it out of Green Bay and too embedded in the local community. Brown County citizens who bought stock in the Packers are the closest we come to an owner, and these people are not planning to leave Green Bay or see the team leave Green Bay. For the Packers to portray this any other way is blackmailing the community in hopes of a yes vote.

Myth - The cost to the taxpayers is a mere .13 cents a day, and who can't afford that. *FACT* - What the Packers fail to stress is that the .13 is a per capita cost. For a family of four it would amount to a minimum of \$190 per year. It is projected to increase by 6% a year due to inflation. Bank this amount at compound interest and you come up with approximately \$4000 in 14 years and \$11,000 in 28 years. As the money generated by the tax rises, so would the family's savings. If you assume the economy holds and inflation doesn't eat up these savings, at 28 years you're probably looking at \$33,000 saved by a family of four, not just \$11,000. It's your money.

Myth - Business will pay the lion's share of the tax. *FACT* - According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, businesses and non-resident consumers would pay 38% of the tax and Brown County residents 62%. Local taxpayers would no doubt pay much more since it is more than likely businesses would pass on many of their tax costs to the consumer in the form of higher prices and as part of doing business.

Myth - The NFL forces the Packers to pay huge salaries and signing bonuses to stay competitive. *FACT* - There is no need for the Packers to be the most expensive team in the League and participate in driving costs ever higher. Nor is there a need for Packer administrative costs to have skyrocketed 104% in the past 5 years and then go crying poor to the taxpayers. Especially since this tax burden has been laid on only one county, and no% a wealthy county at that. Of the 87,000 households in Brown, 42% or nearly half have incomes of \$30,000 a year or less.

Myth - The Packers say they help the community to the tune of a million dollars or so for the Bishop's

Charities. *FACT* - A sales tax is the most regressive type of tax. It falls hardest on those least able to pay. If one takes the 90,000 people in Brown County with incomes of \$30 000 or less the sales tax would cost them \$200,000, in 14 years and \$500,000,000 in 28 years. The amount the Packers give the Bishop's Charities pales in comparison to this tax and the harm it would do. Raising the levy limit would be a far fairer way for Brown County to raise money it may need.

Myth - A study done by the Packers, for the Packers, with information supplied only by the Packers to Price Waterhouse claims the project's economic impact on the community would be \$144,000,000 per year. *FACT* - Independent study after study has shown that not only do these stadium projects not benefit communities but actually have a negative impact. This is because the stadium district is considered a non-elected government for tax purposes. This means that it is exempt from all federal, state and county taxes (income, property and sales taxes) with the sole exception of what is sold in the pro shop and the price of an ordinary ticket. The price of the skybox tickets over and above the regular ticket price, is tax exempt. Tax losses of this magnitude to the city, county and state overwhelm by quantum leaps anything an improved stadium and atrium might bring in. Since the Packers already have a Hall of Fame and a pro shop the only profit would come from the difference between what the old and new facilities would bring in. Furthermore, it should be noted that spendable income for entertainment is not limitless, and many businesses, especially those not in Ashwaubenon, would suffer as a result of a sales tax, for example restaurants, bars, movies, plays, concerts. Sales taxes are usually forever and will harm businesses far more than it will benefit them. Ten Packer games a season can in no way make up for it. We acknowledge that the recognition the Packers bring to our community and local business is of great value but question the added value of the stadium improvements as proposed.

Myth - The Packers, along with all the media, continue to minimize the true cost of the project by saying it is \$160,000,000 plus interest or \$295,000,000. *FACT* - The true cost of the project, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau is \$330,000,000 for 14 years or \$1,319,000,000 for 28 years - and all in Brown County. It should be noted that the maintenance costs alone would total \$177,000,000 over the required 28 years and even include washing Packer players' uniforms and cleaning and maintenance of the atrium which includes the administrative offices of Harlan, Jones, Wolf and the coaching staff.

Myth - Administrative costs have gone up 104% the last few years, but most of this is for coaches. The front office increase was a mere 8%. *FACT* - NFL salaries for people in similar positions to Harlan, Jones and Wolf range between \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 annually. Since the Packers are the highest paid team in the League, and since Harlan, Jones and Wolf have steadfastly refused to divulge their salaries, we can assume that what they make is somewhere in this ball park. An 8% increase on \$4,000,000 would come to \$320,000 - a healthy raise - especially since inflation is low

and most people on Social Security get a cost-of-living increase of only 1½-2%.

Myth - The Packers say they really care about the people of Brown County and that all this is for their benefit, so that they can vicariously enjoy the notoriety the Packers bring to the area, continue the football tradition in the community, and increase the number of seats to the games. *FACT* - If the Packers really cared about the people, more than the money they think they can get out of them, they certainly have a poor way of showing it - except to mesmerize them with event after event to try and garner a yes vote and with it more money for themselves. Their lack of caring is clearly evident by the fact that they monopolized so much of the legislature's time that the people's business never got properly attended to - especially the elderly who now have to wait until January 2001 to have the staggering costs of their medications dealt with. Just asking people of limited means who are barely scrapping by to fund corporate welfare for an entertainment industry is another poor way to show you care about the Brown County community.

Myth - None of the tax money will go to Packer administrative costs, players salaries and bonuses. *FACT* - The taxpayers may not pay directly for these, but they would certainly be paying indirectly. The Packers have \$145,000,000 of their money they plan to sink into the atrium. This money should be used for essentials, not frivolities, and by making the taxpayer a party to this, the Packers are freeing up dollars that they can use for themselves. Revenues from a renovated stadium would go to the Packers for salaries and bonuses and, this way too, the taxpayers are indirectly paying for these. By their own figures, the sales tax would generate \$390,000,000 by 2016. At this rate, the cost of a single Packer game would range from 2.6 million in 15 years to 1.3 million per game in 30 years. The entire project exists to increase revenues for the Packers.

Myth - The Packers contend that to redo the bowl, the concourse and bathrooms plus add seats would cost \$180,000,000. *FACT* - The mayor has never questioned the Packers' figures, has never sought estimates from an independent and unbiased source, and has bought wholecloth whatever the Packers have told him. The taxpayers should find the \$180,000,000 figure highly questionable, inasmuch as recently the Lac Du Flambeau were offering to build a casino, a huge hotel and a 2000 car parking ramp for a mere \$80,000,000 or 100,000,000 less than what the Packers are claiming is needed for a renovation of the stadium.

Courtesy of "Citizens for Sensible Taxation"

FANS FOR A FAIR DEAL.

We want to thank everyone who has generously contributed to the "Fans For A Fair Deal", the PAC that was formed to solicit funds and advertise in opposition to the Lambeau Field Sales Tax proposal. We were able to obtain good billboard locations with large viewers, and will follow-up with newspaper and radio ads as the election approaches. We are unable to match the funding and hype of the Packers their full time professional staff and media endorsement. Nonetheless the media knows we are still here and has acknowledged that there are opposing views to the Packers Blitzkrieg.tactics.

This has been a very divisive issue in the community. We want to thank the members of the BCTA and the many people who have contacted us with support. We have received a number of new members and hopefully more will join us when things settle down. It is encouraging that several other citizen groups have formed with the same goals. It is highly unlikely that this will be the last big issue to face taxpayers in Brown County, and it is unfortunate that it has taken most of our attention this year.

We realize that our stand on the Lambeau Field issue has not necessarily represented all of our membership, but feel that we have always tried to focus on the entire picture and will continue to do so. Thank you for your support.

We anticipated that the Packers would make a side-show out of their promotional campaign, and so far have not been disappointed. We have had requests for yard signs which were not in our budget and thought people might like to express themselves. We are offering an incentive for anyone who wants to create and display their own yard sign. The following ad has appeared in the Chronicle and Press-Gazette, and been publicized on TV. Give us your thoughts.

"Did you ever get the feeling that the only reason we have elections is to find out if the polls were right.

. . . Oscar Ameringer

"The Power to tax is the power to destroy." John Mar-

The TAX TIMES - September, 2000

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule.

Sunday - September 10, 2000 - Judging for "NO" vote Yard Sign Contest.
First prize \$189.80 - Cost of county sales tax for a family of four.

Tuesday - September 12, 2000 - Primary Election Day. Lambeau Field County Sales Tax Referendum. Get out and VOTE!

Friday - September 15, 2000 - Federal and State Income Tax estimate payments due.

Thursday- September 21, 2000 - Glory Years, Washington St. Inn. 12:00 Noon..
BCTA Regular Meeting. Discussion of current events.

Thursday- October 19, 2000 - BCTA Annual Meeting. Election of Officers for the coming year. Time, place and program to be announced in next "TAX TIMES."

All members of the BCTA, their guests and other interested persons are cordially invited to attend and participate in these open meetings. Phone 336-6410 or 499-0768 for information or to leave message.

Regular meetings are held on the Third Thursday of each month at the Glory Years. 347 S. Washington St., Green Bay.

Price - \$6.50 per meeting - Includes Lunch - Payable at meeting.

September

2000

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

BE SURE TO VOTE !

"Politics is the conduct of public affairs for private advantage."
... **Ambrose Bierce**

"Did you ever notice — that when a politician — does get an idea — he usually — gets it all wrong."
... **Don Marquis**

"Invest your money in taxes - they're sure to go up." ... **Sign in Barroom.**

The TAX TIMES

**Brown County Taxpayers Association
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