

Special Report

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT IS, TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1980

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by Wyman Hilscine (A.K.A. Michael J. McIntyre)

Wyman Hilscine, Star Reporter for the Daily Planet, is known and loved by all of us who seek the truth. The truth is that Wyman Hilscine is the secret identity of Michael J. McIntyre, Professor of Law, Wayne State University. Dr. Hilscine wishes all his readers a happy April Fool's Day.

Ambulances Clog Pennsylvania Avenue

Over 4,000 ambulances converged on IRS headquarters in Washington, D.C. yesterday, in protest of a recent revenue ruling that required physicians claiming a business expense deduction on their automobiles to make at least one housecall a year. Dr. Jonathan Waterhead, organizer of the ambulance caravan, condemned the IRS action as an illegal and malicious attack on the medical profession.

Capital Gains Reduction A Failure, Study Shows

"The large cuts in the capital gains tax have not had the impact on stock prices we predicted," announced Professor Hammar Holandfel, Director of the Economic Workshop, a conservative research and lobbying organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. "We expected the Dow Jones average to soar over 1000 by now," he admitted. Professor Holandfel explained, however, that further research might show some positive effects for the 1978 capital gains changes. "We already have evidence that stock prices did go up during the several months before the tax cuts, which may be due to their retroactive application," Professor Holandfel stated. "We also know that prices rose on at least three days since the tax act was passed, and further microeconomic studies may show increases for parts of some days that showed an overall loss," he added.

IRS Barred from Publishing Forms

The Internal Revenue Service has been prohibited from issuing tax forms "or any instructional material that reflects the Internal Revenue Service's view of the tax law" under legislation signed today by the President. According to its chief sponsor, Senator Longhandle, the objective is to keep IRS from rewriting the tax law by executive action. "Congress, not the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, will decide what should or should not be taxed," the Senator gloated. This is the second ban on interpreting the

law imposed by Congress on the IRS. Last year the Service was prohibited from giving guidance to its revenue agents on the treatment of employee fringe benefits.

Tax Specialists Admit Sex Bias

For the past four years, Dr. Pamela Leadstomach has been director of a federally funded research project looking into the impact of the joint return requirement of the tax laws on the willingness of married women to enter the work force. Preliminary data indicate that many upper-income married women with marketable skills were choosing not to work in the marketplace because of the high taxes they would have to pay on their earnings.

“We thought we were proving a sex bias in the tax code,” said Dr. Leadstomach sadly. “You can imagine our chagrin to realize that all we were measuring was the degree to which upper income women have a stereotyped view of marriage.” According to a member of Dr. Leadstomach’s staff, the error became apparent when a control group of completely liberated couples showed no special disincentive to work as a result of the joint return. “What we now realize,” said Dr. Leadstomach, “is that we were guilty of sexism ourselves in pandering to the popular view that the woman is the secondary worker.”

DISC Benefits for Pollution Exports

Lobbyists for United Steel Brands and other large industrial polluters with plants on the Canadian border asked Congress to permit a deferral of income under the Domestic International Sales Corporation provisions of the tax code for amounts saved by diverting effluents to Canada. USB has several plants in the states of Michigan and Washington that discharge thousands of tons of toxic wastes each day into Lake Superior and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. “We save millions of dollars by diverting this junk outside the United States,” said a company spokesman. “We think we ought to get the same tax breaks given to other exporters.” The Ways and Means Committee has scheduled hearings on the proposal for late April.