

Route 1 Box 17
Walla Walla (Gardena),
Washington

March 17, 1967

Honorable Daniel J. Evans
Governor
The State of Washington
The Capitol
Olympia, Washington

Re: Senate Joint Resolution #13

Dear Governor Evans:

As President of Gardena-Touchet Taxpayers' Association, I have been directed by the membership representing most of the seed growers in the Gardena and Touchet communities in Walla Walla County to again call to your attention the prime necessity of securing enactment of Senate Joint Resolution #13.

A constitutional limitation on property valuations fixed at not to exceed 25% of true and fair value is clearly warranted in the opinion of our membership.

On March 15, 1967 the members of our Association again unanimously adopted a Resolution to this effect, urging you and the members of our Legislature to strongly support Senate Joint Resolution #13 without amendment.

Since the decision of the Supreme Court about a month ago indicating a 50% of true value limitation under current law, taxpayers, particularly farmers, are greatly alarmed. This is particularly true when we read that so-called representatives of school groups, welfare groups, labor groups and others are already pressing for additional taxes. They seek special benefits for their particular interests based on tax increases computed on property valuations up to 50% of true and fair value --- this is indeed a dangerous trend.

If our citizens do not become aroused and head off such a movement, our taxes will mount to the confiscatory level.

March 17, 1967

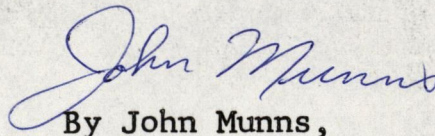
In Walla Walla County, our Assessor has raised property valuations for 1967 tax purposes, the raises ranging from 10% to more than 150% of the valuations used for 1966 tax assessments. Bond issues are being multiplied. Farm costs are mounting. The time for retrenchment in Government expenditures is upon us if we are going to survive economically.

We strongly urge you and the Legislature to cooperate in a program of retrenchment.

Enactment of Senate Joint Resolution #13 will be a vital step in such a program.

Respectfully,

GARDENA-TOUCHET TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION



By John Munns,
as President

JM:lb

cc: Senator Martin J. Durkan, State Senate, Olympia
Senator Dewey Donohue, State Senate, Olympia
Lieutenant Governor Cherberg, Olympia
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Olympia
Chairman, Ways & Means Committee, Olympia (House of Representatives)
Chairman, Appropriations Committee, State Senate, Olympia
Senator Herbert H. Freise, State Senate, Olympia
Representative Tom Copeland, House of Representatives, Olympia
Representative Vaughn Hubbard, House of Representatives, Olympia
Yakima Daily Republic, Yakima, Washington
Yakima Morning Herald, Yakima, Washington
Tri-Cities Herald, Kennewick, Washington
KHIT Radio Station, Denny Bldg., Walla Walla
KUJ Radio Station, Route 2, Walla Walla
KTCL Radio Station, Walla Walla

March 17, 1967

cc's to: KREM-TV (2), 4103 So. Regal St., Spokane, Wash. 99203
KXLY-TV (4), West 500 Boone Avenue, Spokane, Wash. 99201
KHQ-TV (6), 4202 South Regal St., Spokane, Wash. 99203
KNDU-TV (25), 919 W. Court St., Pasco, Wash. 99301
KEPR-TV (19), P. O. Box 2648, Pasco, Wash. 99301
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, Walla Walla, Washington
The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Washington

Larry Bussell, 1st Vice President, Gardena-Touchet
Taxpayers' Association, Touchet, Washington

Roy M. Kregger, 2nd Vice President, Gardena-Touchet
Taxpayers' Association, Touchet, Washington

Stanley Wagoner, Secretary & Director, Gardena-Touchet
Taxpayers' Association, Route 1 Box 17, Walla Walla (Gardena),
Washington.

Glen McCubbins, Treasurer & Director, Gardena-Touchet
Taxpayers' Association, Gardena, Washington

Elmer Ingham, Director, Gardena-Touchet Taxpayers' Assn.,
Gardena, Washington

John Weaver, Director, Gardena-Touchet Taxpayers' Assn.,
Lowden, Washington

Duane Dodd, Director, Gardena-Touchet Taxpayers' Assn.
Route 1, Touchet, Washington

President of the State Senate, Olympia
Washington State Tax Commission, Olympia

Tax Protest Move Starts

By JIM SCHICK

GARDENA—A plan to seek recourse on what they called "confiscatory taxation" was launched here Wednesday night by the Gardena-Touchet Taxpayers' Association.

At a meeting of more than 40 members of the Association, representing 2,500 acres of land producing alfalfa seed, the group readopted a resolution calling for a 25 per cent limitation on assessed valuation and asking county officials to rec-

tify "gross errors in the valuation of many properties in Walla Walla County and grant relief both as to the 1967 and 1968 and subsequent annual taxes as may be just, fair and equitable."

The resolution was re-adopted because Touchet growers were added to the association since the previous meeting.

Angry taxpayers protested the manner in which the re-valuation was carried out and declared they had no prior notification of what was happening until they received their tax statements in February.

Seed-growing lands, they said, have been re-valued higher than other farm land in the county, ranging from 20 per cent to 3,000 per cent on one small tract of 10 acres described as "worthless slough."

The taxpayers contend they have been denied due process of the law by failure of the county

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Protest

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to notify them of the change in time to obtain relief by the Board of Equalization. They said they want to avoid court action but if necessary they are considering it.

They will pay 1967 taxes under protest reserving the right to sue to recover what has been considered the unlawful excess.

County Assessor Lloyd Harkins earlier told the organization that they could appear before the Board of Equalization next July and receive help for the future valuations.

The increase in valuation is on land only and covers most of the seed growing area. John Munns, president, said they hoped to increase the membership of the Association to more than 5,000 acres.

The resolution passed calls for promoting the enactment of SJR 13 with the hope that the people of the state may vote on a constitutional amendment limiting valuations of property for tax purposes to 25 per cent of true and fair value.

Other officers are Larry Busell, vice president; Roy Kregger, second vice president; Stanley Wagoner, secretary; Glen McCubbins, treasurer. Elmer Ingham, John Weaver and Duane Dodd will serve with the officers as board members.