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New Year Spells Unrelieved Taxes

HAPPY NEW YEAR was yesterday. Today is January 2 and we go to work for the government for several months to pay our taxes.

The money we will pay in as federal, state, local, income, withholding, property, sales, Social Security and other taxes will equal one-fourth to one-half of the year's income for many.

The money will be spent largely by Congressmen who are paid three times as much as the average taxpayer, or by other governmental bodies. Part of the tax money will be transferred from taxpayers to people who can't or won't work and by bureaucrats who don't do very much.

Because of the highly publicized California tax revolt, many candidates promised "tax relief," if elected. In the November 7 election, voters in 16 states considered tax reduction measures and approved four-fifths of what they were offered.

No tax cut was on the Oklahoma ballot, but some candidates prom-

ised to try to eliminate the unfair state taxation of federal income taxes. No sooner was the election over than legislative leaders began setting up barriers to prevent this from being done.

Congress passed a new tax law claiming to reduce taxes, and it does make certain changes of benefit to overburdened taxpayers. However, higher incomes that buy less are pushing individuals into higher tax brackets. This, plus higher Social Security taxes, spells higher total taxes, not lower, for 1979.

Federal, state and local governments raised 17 per cent more money from taxes in the 1976-1977 fiscal year than the year before. Probably they collected even more in 1977-1978. They want more.

Instead of balancing the federal budget by 1980, President Carter has accepted a budget with another huge deficit. Rep. Al Ulman (D-Ore.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has said he sees no need for a broad tax cut during the next two years.

Their attitudes seem to be in accord with a declaration by John Kenneth Galbraith, a leading advocate of big government and massive public spending. He wrote: "To make the necessary money available, Democrats must reject out of hand the notion that Americans are overtaxed."

Lawmakers tend to pay particular attention to demands of nearly every so-called special interest group, except taxpayers. It is a large special interest group, whose particular concern is to keep more of its earnings to spend or invest for itself.

Political trends for more than 40 years have been in the direction of taking more of our earnings to be spent by government.

Politicians thrive on taxation, spending and patronage. Reductions in budgets would take away the good life of many privileged bureaucrats. Taxpayers wouldn't mind that, but, unfortunately, taxpayers can't act. All they can do is vote, pay taxes and complain!