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# Regulations We Could Do Without

THE FIRST of July will be a fateful day for death and taxes. On that day new federal regulations will go into effect defining how funeral services may be provided and the IRS will be allowed to take another chunk of our incomes before we receive interest or dividends.

The funeral home regulations aren't much different from regulations already in force concerning a number of other businesses which might better be handled on a local or state basis. A tax law has precedent in withholding procedures used to collect taxes in advance on wages and salaries, with no interest paid. The outlook for repeal is getting dim.

Both instances are extensions of federal control over our lives. More are on the way. In May a house panel approved a proposal to continue Federal Trade Commission authority to regulate business practices of doctors and other professionals.

The pending resolution to freeze the number of nuclear weapons possessed by this country and the Soviet Union would not prevent a nucle-

ar war. There is no way to enforce such a ban, but there are other possible freezes that could be enforced and that would do this country a lot of good if they could be put into effect.

For example, Oklahoma Farm Bureau has been demanding a freeze on taxing and spending. A year ago we were shocked when Congress authorized a national debt of a million million dollars, or \$1 trillion. The ceiling didn't last long. In May Congress approved a debt limit of \$1.4 trillion, an increase of 40 percent.

We could use a freeze on regulations, too. New and revised rules require up to 100,000 pages annually just to print them in The Federal Register. It is estimated that for every dollar Congress appropriates to enforce them the private sector must spend another \$20 to comply.

We could use a freeze on federal laws concerning matters that could better be handled by states. Example: The federal speed limit of 55 mph which is expected to be enforced by state or local officials without regard for local conditions

of public necessity.

Other unnecessary regulations by Congress tell manufacturers how to build cars and motorists how to use them. Examples: Rear end bumpers to withstand a 5 mph crash and beepers to insist that drivers buckle their seat belts.

Public schools probably would be a lot better off there were a freeze on federal interference and control were returned to local school boards and state administrators.

We could use a freeze on appeals accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court that ought to be handled by state courts and a freeze on interference with local government without justification.

A comment often heard in the past, sometimes as a joke, was "There oughta be a law!" That might be updated to read "There ought NOT to be a law because we have too many already!"

What would happen if we put a freeze on new taxes, new regulations and government bureaus for a couple of years?