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The State's Crises of Expectations

DECEMBER is the time of year when we realize that we again hoped for a lot and expected too much.

This situation was labeled a "crisis of expectations" by Rep. Stephen Lewis of Pottawatomie county when he spoke at the annual Business and Agriculture Conference held by Oklahoma Baptist University at Shawnee a few weeks ago.

Lewis is chairman of the house appropriations committee and he said the state has a "crisis of expectations as well as a financial crisis." There are too many government agencies and institutions expecting more from taxpayers than there is justifiable hope that the taxpayers want to pay.

We may hope the legislature won't raise our taxes again but we may expect it to be done anyway.

A similar circumstance prevails in Washington. Federal employees, beneficiaries of entitlement programs, users of government services, and firms doing business with the government are expecting that budget cuts may be made some-

where but they hope that their particular projects will not be reduced.

People in lower income brackets hope that the time will come when all taxes will be paid by the rich, while those who pay most of the taxes expect everybody to pay a fair share.

Thus there may be crises of expectations all through life. During this Christmas season it isn't hard to find individuals who hope to receive more than they give.

Farmers in general and many business people now do not expect to wind up the year with as much profit as they had hoped for. Individuals do not always save as much money or make other gains they had expected and if they governed their expenditures accordingly they could be facing crises of expectations.

Nearly everybody hopes to receive incomes enlarged by inflation but hardly any of us seems to think we ought to be expected to pay inflated prices for what we buy.

Retirees hope their money will last as long as they live but may ex-

pect to live longer than their money will last.

A crisis of expectations may occur when an employer expects a full day's production from an employee whose main hope is to get more money for less work.

Parents and children could run into crises of expectations if either expects more from the other than there is good reason to hope for or expect.

Victims of discrimination and prejudice have frequently experienced crises of expectations when they were misled into expecting new laws to bring them instant education, instant social status, instant wealth, etc., vain hopes except for those who are willing to apply their energies to utilize opportunities.

All of us hope that those with whom we have appointments will be on time, but we know we must expect some to be late.

The coming of a new year inspires new hopes and these may be fulfilled if we don't expect too much.