

Thursday, July 2, 1992

Restaurant tax leaves bad taste

Opposition to increased consumer taxes is sometimes lacking because of apathy and sometimes because of a feeling that government bodies have already determined their course. But more credit should be given to city councils and county commissions for their concern with the views of their constituents.

Within the past year or two, the Cedar City council considered a one percent tax for hotel and motel rooms. Three or four representatives of motels were at council meetings to object and the tax increase was tabled. The objectors had stressed that the one percent amount was not the essential issue. The room tax is already at nine percent (six percent state and three percent county). The bad taste in the mouth of customers from this tax would become worse with a 10 percent charge.

On June 25, the Iron County Commission considered a one percent increase in the restaurant tax for meals to be added to the state six percent charge. The commission tabled the tax for further study and the credit should go to the representatives from three restaurants, all in Parowan.

When there has been study, and if the issue goes on the agenda again, there will be the opportunity for Cedar City restaurant representatives to also be heard. Would some support from the patrons of restaurants also be in order? We are the gainers whenever consumer tax increases are tabled.

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