

The Tribune's Page for
More Opinions

Letters to the Tribune

They Won't Forget That Tax 'Injustice'

To the Editor: In an age when young Minnesotans are dying every day in defense of democracy, we in Minnesota apparently lost the fight. I refer to "taxation without representation." According to the constitution of Minnesota, men are elected to the house of representatives and the senate to represent the people of their district. If this premise is true, how, in the name of democracy, could the legislature pass the sales tax bill?

If there was some doubt as to the feelings of the people, a referendum should have been allowed. However, certain members of the legislature publicly stated that the main reason they would not attach a referendum vote to the bill was that the people would reject it. This is clearly shown in a poll taken by the Minneapolis Tribune and published June 18, indicating 53 per cent would vote against it.

We will not easily forget this great injustice, as we will be constantly reminded every time we purchase items taxed.—**Kenneth W. Behl, Rosemount.**

Thoreau Atmosphere Urged for 'Walden'

To the Editor: I see that a construction firm has named one of its housing developments "Walden," after the book by Henry Thoreau. I am sure the decision was made of genuine idealism: to recommend to those who can afford it the life of meditation and seclusion in nature, and to imply that this development is hospitable to the pursuit of that life.

One who uses the name symbolically has an obligation to use it properly, I think, as it was given meaning by Thoreau.

It seems to me that appropriating a Walden "franchise" obliges the dealer, out of fairness to the consumer, to sell the moral goods as well as the pastoral trademark. I suggest that this cor-

poration set aside as much money as it would have paid an advertising firm to invent a name with such powerful and appealing associations, to be spent on the following:

1 The installation in each home, along with the stove and refrigerator, of a complete set of Thoreau's writings.

2 A wooded park so large that all the residents of "Walden" can walk in it and seldom lay eyes on each other.

3 Several Waldenships, to be awarded frequently, to enable residents to spend a few months by themselves.

4 A community lecture program, a Lyceum, to enable the residents to see and hear living Thoreaus, those who are not in jail for one thing or another such as burning a draft card, refusing to report for induction, or breaking the peace.

Then, perhaps, the development could become a genuine community.—**Garrison Keilor, Minneapolis.**

Why They Prefer Brand-Name Drugs

To the Editor: Sylvia Porter's suggestion (June 16) that consumers urge their physicians to prescribe and their pharmacists to dispense the lowest cost drugs exemplifies the lack of understanding shown by our public "protectors" in Washington recently.

Most generic copies of established drugs are never tested clinically in patients before they are marketed, and government standards do not assure therapeutic equivalency for all drugs bearing the same chemical name.

This is why most physicians prescribe and most pharmacists prefer to dispense reliable brand-name drugs that have been proven to be effective.

Unless tests in human beings are required for all drugs as proof of effectiveness, generic prescribing is not consistent with the physician's obligation to provide high standards of medical care to his patients.—**James H. Sova, New Brighton.**