



The Activist News

Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government
The Commonwealth Activist Network

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Members vote to “Rollback the Rate”... A Promise to Keep

“Weary of trying to storm the castle, they will try to divert its water supply by rolling back the ‘temporary’ income tax hike.”

From: “CLT returns to center stage in fight for income-tax cut”

By Scott Lehigh

Boston Globe, Monday, July 7, 1997

CLT&G announced the results of our membership poll in a statewide news release on July 7th.

Of the almost-700 members who responded to it by the Fourth of July weekend, the first choice by an overwhelming 86 percent was to restore the 5 percent income tax rate - as we were promised it would be restored when the Legislature hiked the rate in 1989. Eighty-eight percent favored reducing the so-called “unearned income” tax rate on savings or including both. 28 percent supported another attempt at cutting the Legislature’s salary. (Many voted for more than one issue, and 128 voted for all three, so the totals add up to more than 100 percent.)

So CLT&G members again will take to the streets and post offices, the supermarkets and malls in September to “Rollback the Rate” and “Keep the Promise” made to us almost a decade ago. As you probably noticed, the “Greed Limit 55%” logo on our masthead above has been replaced by “A Promise to Keep,” our new ballot campaign’s message.

We’re now busy pouring over income tax data and revenue projections in the process of drafting our initiative petition. We will file it with the Attorney General by the first Wednesday in August, the 6th, as required by the state constitution. We’ll need to collect at least 64,928 perfect signatures and turn them in to the city and town clerks by mid-November. After the signatures are certified by the clerks, we must then deliver them to the Secretary of State by the first Wednesday in December, the 3rd.

To ensure success, we’ll need to collect at least 85,000 “raw” signatures in that two-month collection period - since many are disqualified in the certification process.

Watch for a letter from our new ballot committee (we expect to call it “A Promise to Keep”) in early September asking for a signature pledge commitment, and seeking volunteers for local and mall co-ordinating. We can’t do this without you, so we’ll be looking forward to another hearty response.

House Speaker Thomas Finneran was in his sixth term as a state representative in 1989 when he voted to increase the income tax rate from 5 to 5.75 percent. In a *Beacon Hill* interview (June 23, 1997) this is how he recalls the event: “*Maybe somebody at the time said, ‘Well, gee, maybe we should or maybe we could consider rolling it back,’ but Barbara has been around long enough to know statements come and go and language is statutory. I don’t know how*

Term Limits: the latest victim of SJC “Justice”

By Chip Ford

There are some who don’t understand why we’re “letting them get away with it.” We did not “give up the fight” to take back the Legislature’s 55 percent pay-grab without a lot of consideration. But, after the gauntlet we ran last year - the \$60,000 price tag along with the herculean effort of any petition drive - the handwriting was on the wall. In the end, the state Supreme Judicial Kangaroo Court killed our effort, in cold blood and without reason or justification. My contempt for the Court recently was again justified.

What vestige of credible legitimacy remained with the SJC was surrendered on July 11th when six justices unanimously tripped over their robes in a rush to once again grovel at the feet of their masters, the state Legislature, exposing the Court for what it has become despite its once-proud heritage.

Any pretense of judicial independence or moral authority was abandoned at last, finally proving Dorothea Vitrac, executive director of LIMITS and the leader of the Term Limits movement here in the Peoples Republic since 1990, accurate in her observation:

“The SJC is in bed with the Legislature. They are politically corrupt. We don’t have separation of powers in this state, with a legislative branch and a judicial branch. We just have political bodies, except some wear black robes and others wear suits.”

After experiencing first-hand, seeing with my own eyes within the hallowed and stately SJC courtroom, the Court’s contortions and machinations last year to find some way - *any way* - to serve its masters’ whims by murdering our payraise repeal initiative, after watching from only feet away as Supreme Court Justice Neil Lynch in desperate arrogance ignored his responsibility to order Secretary of State Bill Galvin to perform his constitutionally mandated duty and print our second round of petitions - I knew then and there that Term Limits too was dead. It just hadn’t stepped into the crosshairs yet.

- Cont’d on Page 2 -

someone would attach legitimacy to a comment made in the hall, in a hearing, or even on the House floor.”

CLT&G responded to his arrogant revisionism with a memo delivered to each legislator and the State House press corps, along with a collage of 1989 newspaper-clippings (see Page 3) and a challenge to come up with the correct number of times “temporary” or “temporarily” was used.

Term Limits . . . Cont'd from Page 1

In a Boston Herald report the day after the Court's ruling, Tobe Berkovitz, communications professor at Boston University, said:

"In this state, you really do not have a balance of power between the legislative and judicial branches. They all come from the same cast of characters. That to me is a real problem for the citizens of Massachusetts."

The Herald further reported: "Barbara Anderson, co-director of Citizens for Limited Taxation and Government, said petitions by voters to restructure everything from the way Beacon Hill lawmakers set up legislative committees to their pay scales to the length of their sessions have been struck down by the high court since 1983.

"We are disgusted by the court's response to any petition that directly affects the Legislature," Anderson said. "We have learned from long experience that the court is not going to allow any law that the Legislature takes personally to stand."

"Anderson said CLT&G is going to change its strategy for legislative reform by filing an income tax bill 'so simple even the SJC won't have an excuse to rule it unconstitutional.'"

"Our fight is now simply going to shift from what we know the court cannot prevent us from doing, and that is tax legislation," Anderson said. The measure would reduce the state income tax from 5.95 percent to 5 percent."

THE CLT&G DIOGENES QUEST

To: Members of the Massachusetts House

July 8, 1997

Re: Roll Call on "Finneran's Favorites" Payraise

Like Diogenes, we carry our lamp on a quest for a certain kind of person.

Like the Marines, we are looking for a few good men and women.

Members of the House, arise for a roll call! You have nothing to lose but your embarrassment. Demand to be counted on the "**Finneran's Favorites**" payraise!

Rep. Hodgkins may yet satisfy Diogenes with his statement that "This whole thing is ridiculous," because truer words were never spoken.

Reps. Rushing and Jehlen make three warriors tough enough to stand up and be counted.

All that is needed for a roll call on the "**Finneran's Favorites**" payraise is 17 more stout-hearted members.

How many members of the "opposition party" are there? Twenty-

"Finnerans' Favorites" Get Retroactive Payraises

We've all heard of the "Halloween Payraise," the "Midnight Payraise" and the "Safely-After-The-Election Payraise."

Well, now we have the "**Fourth of July Payraise**"!

House Speaker Thomas M. Finneran has created ten new "leadership" positions. Among them are four floor managers, whose jobs are to count heads during requests for roll call votes.

Since only 20 House members are needed to get a roll call vote, each manager needs only to know how to count to five. For this extraordinary legislative skill, he will get an extra \$7,500 a year.

These retroactive (to January 1st) payraises went through in an "informal" session as an outside section to a deficiency budget. Most legislators - having been told by Finneran that nothing controversial would happen during this informal session - were not present.

Republican leaders did not object because two of their own, Reps. Ron Gauch (R-Shrewsbury) and Patrick Guerriero (R-Melrose), also were cut in for special payraises.

As of this writing, the deficiency budget is in the Senate, where Sen. Bob Hedlund (R-Weymouth) will attempt to get a roll call vote on removing the payraises. It will then return to the House for a final vote (*see memo below*).

nine? Why, that gives us more than enough! Even if you don't count the two Republican "**Finneran's Favorites**."

Twenty-nine "good and open government" Republicans, and at least three brave Democrats: the roll call is assured. After all, this is not a vote on the alleged merits of giving legislators who are loyal to the leadership and can count heads a major payraise even though legislative staffers haven't had one in years and the taxpayers haven't had a decent tax cut. This is only a vote to let your constituents know how you voted on the "**Finneran's Favorites**" payraise.

Don't you want them to know?

The Speaker is in Italy, and you're not. "**Finneran's Favorites**" get extra pay, and you don't (unless you are one of the "Favorites"). "**Finneran's Favorites**" get paid for counting heads for a roll call: the least you can do is give them something to count.

While you're arising, we hope you will also vote against the bill - which is returning to you for enactment - until the controversial section you were told wasn't there, isn't.

We look forward to seeing you on your feet, because the alternative is remaining on your knees.

State Rep. Chris Hodgkins: Hero of the Month?

We were warned by Sen. Bob Hedlund, our first legislative hero of the month, that if we make this a regular feature we would probably have to come back to him. We thought he was kidding. But the pickings are thin on Beacon Hill this year.

Is it possible that we're so desperate we must choose the obnoxious Rep. Christopher Hodgkins (D-Lee), with his CLT '95-'96 rating of 15 percent? Even with his many votes for higher taxes, gun control, and every loony liberal law that shares his commute down the Pike? *Say it ain't so!*

And yet, he's been the lone ranger in defying the Speaker of the

House. He could end up with the highest CLT&G rating of any Democrat for '96-97 as he votes with us just to oppose Finneran. He's even led the fight in the House for a roll call on the outrageous "**Finneran's Favorites**" Payraises.

Now, if his man, Richie Voke, had won the speakership, Hodgkins would have dragged him and the House far, far to the left. But there is something to be said for being a sore loser. With Republican leaders in the Finneran tank, Hodgkins is the only opposition in the House. We're not calling him a hero, but are enjoying the spectacle he causes every time he gets to his feet on the House floor.



Dems eyeing temporary state income tax hike

By JONATHAN WELLS

THE DEMOCRATIC House leadership yesterday agreed to plug last year's budget deficit with a **temporary, 18-month hike** in the state's income tax, sources told the Herald.

The precise outline of the tax package was not decided yesterday, but sources said a proposal to fund loans slated to cover a \$619 million deficit will include **temporarily** increasing the income tax from 5 percent to 5.75 percent.

House Speaker George Keeverian (D-Everett) emerged from a three-hour leadership meeting yesterday and refused to describe or discuss the tax plan, but said an agreement had been reached.

Before entering the meeting, the speaker said he is "more in favor" of an **18-month income tax hike** than he had been previously, because it would erase the deficit faster and save the state money on debt service.

"It is going to be difficult to sell anything to the members," Keeverian said, but he indicated passage would be easier with a **temporary** tax and short-term bond package.

THE MIDDLESEX NEWS
July 7, 1989

The plan, which is being described as **temporary**, would increase tax rates on earned income from 5 percent to 5.375 percent for 1989 and then up to 5.75 percent for 1990.

The Boston Globe, July 7, 1989
By Bruce Mohl

The Massachusetts House swallowed the T word last night, voting 82-74 to give initial approval to a **temporary** 15 percent increase in the state income tax to deal with the fiscal 1989 deficit.

The Boston Globe, July 4, 1989
By Bruce Mohl

House leaders plan to push for the state to deal with the fiscal 1989 deficit and pay old Medicaid debts by **temporarily** increasing the state income tax from 5 percent to 5.75 percent, sources said yesterday.

House Speaker George Keeverian met with other members of his leadership team yesterday to talk taxes, but he declined to discuss his plans

BEACON HILL, JUNE 23, 1997

House Speaker Thomas Finneran disputes Anderson's contention that Beacon Hill promised to roll back the 1989 tax increase once the debt was paid.

"Maybe somebody at the time said, 'Well, gee, maybe we should or maybe we could consider rolling it back,' but Barbara has been around long enough to know statements come and go and language is statutory. I don't know how someone would attach legitimacy to a comment made in the hall, in a hearing, or even on the House floor."

The Boston Globe, July 7, 1989
By Bruce Mohl

Taking aim at Dukakis

Rep. Richard A. Voke (D-Chelsea), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, made no public statement during the tax debate. He has supported the **temporary** tax package for fiscal 1989 but opposes the governor's call for permanent new taxes for fiscal 1990, which began July 1.

At a Ways and Means hearing yesterday where the tax package was approved on a voice vote, Voke lashed out at the governor after a Republican member of the committee suggested all Democrats on Beacon Hill are responsible for the state's fiscal problems.

Voke, in unusually harsh language, ac-

cused the Dukakis administration of distributing false information about the House version of the budget that he characterized as "absolutely unbelievable." He also said the governor had failed to cut spending and suggested management layoffs trumpeted by the governor never really occurred.

"The administration's got to get with it," Voke said, adding bluntly that permanent taxes will not pass the House. "When and if all the fat is cut from the budget," he said, "this committee will fund it. I speak for the Democrat leadership on this issue. Governor, you are not getting permanent new taxes out of the House. Do you get it?"

THE MIDDLESEX NEWS
July 9, 1989

"I am hearing rumors that the Senate is thinking of jacking it up another 25 percent or making it a permanent tax, and I could not support that," Rep. Barbara Gardner said. "And I plan on calling both my senators to tell them that."

THE MIDDLESEX NEWS
July 9, 1989

In defending his vote, Rep. David P. Magnani yesterday emphasized that the hikes **would only be in place for 18 months** and that revenue generated would only go towards past bills.

By Jay Mailin
THE WASHINGTON TIMES
July 10, 1989

Massachusetts residents are expected to be hit with a \$793 million tax increase this week as their state struggles to pay off old debts and a budget deficit.

The **temporary** 15 percent increase in the state income tax, **which will last 18 months**, was approved Friday by the Massachusetts House. It is expected to win approval this week from the Senate and then go to Gov. Michael Dukakis.

The coalition, a 40-member organization representing 45,000 businesses, also opposed the **temporary** tax package, saying there is currently no guarantee it would remain in place for just 18 months.

The Swampscott Reporter
July 13, 1989

For his part, state Senator Walter J. Boverini (D-Lynn) was also prepared to support the **temporary** tax increase.

"This is a very distasteful thing, to vote for taxes," he says. "But we do have obligations we've voted for ourselves."

"Everyone likes to blame Michael Dukakis for this. We all have to share the blame and vote in some **temporary** taxes. But we have to make sure it is **temporary**."

The Boston Herald, July 14, 1989
By JONATHAN WELLS

THE MASSACHUSETTS Legislature gave its approval last night to a **temporary**, 15 percent hike in the state income tax to cover the state's debts following a blistering, partisan debate.

The House Democratic leadership made its fragile, four-vote advantage stick on an 82-78 vote in favor of the tax bill and the Senate swept the **18-month increase** through on a 23-15 vote.

July 27, 1989
By Duncan Mansfield
Associated Press

Boston -- Massachusetts residents are getting their largest income tax increase in a decade under a \$740 million **temporary** increase signed into law by Gov. Michael S. Dukakis.

The Boston Herald, July 27, 1989

Duke

By Jonathan Wells

IN THE privacy of his State House office, Gov. Michael Dukakis last night signed into law a **temporary** 15 percent hike in the state income tax designed to sop up the red ink in last year's budget.

Dukakis put his signature on the controversial **18-month tax hike**, vetoed \$53.6 million from a final spending bill for the prior fiscal year and quickly departed, offering no public comment on his actions.



The Outsiders' Track

By Barbara Anderson

When we read **Speaker Tom Finneran's** statement reported in *Beacon Hill* (see Page 1) **Chip Faulkner** dug into the CLT&G files and retrieved the 1989 news-clippings. We created a collage (see Page 3) and delivered it to the State House with a challenge for legislators to count the number of times the words "temporary" or "temporarily" appeared. (*Try it yourself!*) The winner, **Rep. Ron Gauch** (R-Shrewsbury), was the first to call with the correct number. Two other legislators called later, **Rep. Brian Cresta** (R-Wakefield) and **Rep. Paul Frost** (R-Auburn). Guess no Democrats can count!

On June 24th, Chip Faulkner testified at a Taxation Committee hearing *against* a tax cut - a first for CLT&G. Chip's opposition to H. 4186, a proposed tax credit toward the purchase of an electric car, was based on these vehicles being unreliable, very expensive, and having a limited range. He stated that, instead of giving a break to people who can afford to indulge in expensive experiments, the Legislature should restore the 5 percent state income tax rate.

Another taxpayer victory: On June 25th, **Chip Ford** and I joined with Arlington activists, led by **Doug Howard**, to celebrate the defeat of a Prop 2½ override. They had just returned from a recount which actually added to their victorious margin - *they won by 34 votes!* Other CLT&G members attending Doug's backyard party were: **Aavo Koiv**, **Paul Van Schaick**, and **Regina Jennings** (who shared a victory cigar with me - but *she* inhaled and I *didn't* - honest!).

Paula Collins, former state chairwoman of **Ross Perot's United We Stand America**, has joined the CLT&G staff part-time. Paula helped organize the annual dinner in May, compiled our poll results, is helping with data entry and media file updates, and will be a big asset with the upcoming petition drive.

Activists' Night Out: Paula and her husband **Jack Collins**, **Norm & Joan Paley**, Chip Ford and I attended the documentary "*Waco: the Rules of Engagement*" at Coolidge Corner Theater last month. This provocative film was rated 3½ stars by the *Boston Herald*, and 3 stars by the *Boston Globe*: if it ever appears in a theater near you or on TV, don't miss it. As Chip noted, "It forces you to confront just how far out-of-control and unaccountable our government has become."

The *Special Commission to Explore Alternatives to Local Property Taxes as the Primary Source of Funding for Public Education* has been nicknamed TAC (Tax Alternative Commission) by its members, who include me as one of the Weld appointees; we have been meeting and collecting data. I also attended a half-day conference on the Education Reform bill sponsored by *MassInc*, which publishes *Commonwealth* magazine. For those members interested in this subject, I recommend the Spring/Summer issue: *Education Reform: A Progress Report*; you can purchase it by calling (617) 338-8900. Don't miss the interview with **John "Proposition 2½ has been a disaster" Silber**. And people wonder if I regret voting for **Bill Weld**?

I also attended a *Pioneer Institute* luncheon with guest speaker

Eloise Anderson, director of California's Department of Social Services. This dynamic black woman is the best possible advocate for welfare reform and shared her experiences with us. As I told CLT&G member **Lovett "Pete" Peters**, founder of the Institute, I kept looking at my watch during her speech, hoping it was not yet time to end.

Speaking of welfare: CLT&G has registered its opposition to the corporate welfare of a taxpayer-funded convention center. As we go to print, we don't know if the new taxes will pass; we do anticipate a Weld veto if they do not require a local referendum.

We often assist students with assignments on Massachusetts tax issues. Recently we received a call from a young woman who is doing a report on Proposition 2½ for her public policy course at Northeastern University - taught by *Professor Michael Stanley Dukakis*! Her paper ought to go over big with "the Duke"!

Chip Ford was featured in *The Peabody Citizen's* "Neighbors" column last month. His best remark: "I have only a handful of friends at the State House, so we must be doing something right."

Chip Faulkner testified against two more Land Bank bills this month. As we go to print, the Cape Cod bill, for a sales tax on Cape homes, has passed the Senate on a voice vote and is on its way to the House. As part of our lobbying effort, CLT&G sent the Legislature a poem that appears on the back page.

We won!?! When voters rejected our tax rollback petition in 1990 because

our opponents charged "it goes too far," we counted it as a loss. But on July 10th, the following item was carried by the *State House News Service*:

"The governor, in signing the Fiscal '98 spending plan, said the Legislature hadn't done enough to cut taxes. And he trumpeted the \$1.3 billion in tax cuts enacted under his watch. Incidentally, that is the same amount taxes would have been rolled back under the Question 3 initiative petition that helped define state politics of the early nineties."

This should make CLT&G members who worked so hard on that petition feel much better; it does for me!

But here we go again! The next SHNS item: "*The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation issued a press release warning of an 'easing of fiscal discipline' which the MTF said looks alarmingly like the first hints of a return to the devil-may-care fiscal practices of the 1980s. The MTF also weighed in on another battle looming for the fall: what to do with the fiscal 1997 budget surplus, estimated by MTF at \$500 million. The watchdog group said \$300 million should be socked away in the state's stabilization fund as a hedge against future economic downturns, with the remaining \$200 [million] devoted to long-term capital projects.*"

Five hundred million dollars! That would make a nice start toward our income tax rollback!

On Saturday, July 12th, Chip Ford, **Bob Katzen** and I returned to *The Jerry Williams Show* on WRKO-AM for a three-hour special updating Jerry's listeners on Beacon Hill activities.

On July 16th, Chip and I were in Southboro as guests of **Lindsey Parker** on her WSRO-AM program, where we further spread the word about our proposed tax rollback initiative.



Raises for Finneran's pals, but no relief for taxpayers

By Jeff Jacoby

Were you starting to forget why you despise state government? Perhaps House Speaker Thomas Finneran can refresh your memory.

Last week, the Massachusetts Legislature passed the most bloated budget in the state's 368-year history, one that will devour more than \$18.3 billion of taxpayer money. To celebrate, Finneran decided to reward a few of his friends with funds from the state treasury. There was no roll call, no debate, no disclosure. Just a swift parliamentary tap dance - presto! - a group of House members suddenly found themselves with raises of up to \$15,000 a year.

"This is just what upsets people," fumed Representative Christopher Hodgkins - legislators "acting like pigs at the trough." But it didn't upset the 10 Beacon Hill piggies whose trough now runneth over.

Angelo Scaccia of Hyde Park, Kevin Fitzgerald of Jamaica Plain, Robert Correia of Fall River, Thomas Petrolati of Ludlow, Maryanne Lewis of Dedham, Patricia Walrath of Stow, Frank Hynes of Marshfield, Alvin Thompson of Cambridge, Ronald Gauch of Shrewsbury, Patrick Guerriero of Melrose.

Of the 10, only Gauch and Guerriero are Republicans. They got raises of just \$7,500, half of what most of the Democrats got. But it was enough to ensure their silence. In exchange for a few pieces of silver, the Republicans agreed to say nothing as Finneran shoved the pay hikes through. It takes so little to buy some people off.

Finneran did more than just hand out raises to his cronies. He made them retroactive to Jan. 1. He attached them to a repeal-proof appropriation bill. He slipped them in during an "informal" House session, when no controversial matters are supposed to be taken up.

And then he had the gall to claim that he acted for the sake of good government. "Judge me," he said, "on how well this place performs."

So this is the speaker who was going to set a higher ethical tone than his predecessor, the felonious Charlie Flaherty? This is the speaker who was going to break the Legislature's habit of treating taxpayers with disdain? Some of us used to think so. We should have remembered the First Rule of Legislative Integrity: There is none.

Granted, the new state budget can afford the Finneran pay hikes. The new state budget can afford everything. It can afford to jack up the University of Massachusetts subsidy by nearly \$30 million. It can afford \$40 million to supply welfare to noncitizens. It can afford to raise by another \$220 million the money being dumped down the rathole of "education reform." It can afford to fully fund every state agency, bureau, commission, and department, including all the ones Governor

Weld has been saying for years he's going to downsize. It can afford to spend almost \$1 billion more than last year's budget, outstripping inflation by 2 to 1.

The only thing the new budget apparently can't afford is a tax cut.

Each year, the amount of money confiscated in state taxes from Bay Staters who work and invest leaps upward. When Weld, the no-new-taxes governor, took office in 1991, the state's revenues totaled \$8.99 billion. In the fiscal year just ended, the tax take zoomed past \$12.5 billion. So much money is being sucked out of taxpayers' wallets and paychecks that Beacon Hill can't spend it fast enough. Even at \$18.3 billion - even with the so-called "rainy day fund" filled to overflowing - the Fiscal '98 budget shows a surplus of at least \$400 million. And *still* the Legislature balks at giving any back.

Juicy raises for Finneran's hacks? Certainly. A 55 percent pay raise for the entire Legislature just two years ago? Absolutely. A State House scam to increase Charlie Flaherty's state pension *after* he was

convicted of tax evasion? By all means. Paid holidays for the sole benefit of legislators and government employees? Sure.

A little tax relief for the rest of us? Forget about it.

Media reports to the contrary notwithstanding, there

are no tax cuts in the 1998 budget. There is a \$600 increase in the deduction for dependent children, but that's merely an adjustment for inflation, the first in 11 years. There is a \$6,000 credit for complying with Title V septic system rules, but that isn't a tax cut, either - it's a subsidy for homeowners goaded by a Draconian state mandate. There is also a newly created state version of the federal earned income tax credit. The way it works is, if you don't make enough to pay income tax, the government sends you a check. That's not tax relief, it's welfare.

In short, the new budget contains everything - even a gigantic surplus - except a decent tax cut for Massachusetts workers.

And so the Legislature will continue seizing more of your wealth than it knows what to do with. It will continue taxing your paycheck at 5.95 percent. It will continue taking 12 percent of your interest and dividends, the heaviest income tax rate in the nation. And it will continue to find excuse after excuse, year after year, not to let you keep more of your own earnings.

It's not that the Legislature doesn't want to cut taxes. It's just that - as Speaker Finneran can tell you - Beacon Hill piggies come first.

Jeff Jacoby is a Globe columnist.

"We should have remembered the First Rule of Legislative Integrity: There is none."

Publication Notice

Due to the upcoming petition drive, during which we will be working seven days a week getting the signatures through the December deadline, we will continue to publish *The Activist News* only as time permits.



**To: Members of the General Court
June 30, 1997
Re: Sales Tax on Home Ownership, Cape Cod**

Somewhere in mainland Massachusetts — in Chelsea, Worcester, Fall River or Springfield — someone has fallen in love with Old Cape Cod and is saving a down payment to realize the dream of living there. What nerve!

**To the tune of Old Cape Cod
(With apologies to Patti Page)**

If you're fond of sand dunes and salty air
Come for a visit but be aware,
We don't want you to move to Old Cape Cod.
We got here yesterday but we're enough
You want to join us, well that's just tough
You're sure to spoil the land on Old Cape Cod.
Quaint little villages by the sea
You want a house in one, you'll pay a fee
To be a resident of Old Cape Cod.

We want more open space but we won't pay
We'll get those suckers from across the Bay;
Charge them to buy a home on Old Cape Cod.
We won't vote overrides or make a gift
It's better just to vote to make a shift
From those who live right now on Old Cape Cod
To all the dreamers who must scrimp and save
To buy into our exclusive enclave
They'll pay an entrance fee to Old Cape Cod.

Citizens for Limited Taxation & Government

The Activist News

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