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**WHY MOTOR CLUB ATTACKS GAS TAX**  
**BILL IS FILED IN COURT**

Reason Upon Which Effort Is Being Made to Have Law Declared Invalid Are Explained

Legal attack has been made against the gasoline tax. Frederick O. Mason of the law firm of Miller, Gorham, Wales and Noxon, and Joseph H. Braun, counsel for the Chicago Motor club, have filed a bill in the circuit court of Sangamon county, drafted for the purpose of testing the validity of the gasoline act and enjoining its enforcement.

The bill runs against the state treasurer, Omer N. Custer, director of the department of finance, A. C. Bollinger, and the auditor of public accounts, Oscar Nelson. "It seeks to restrain these officers from using any of the money appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the act," says Charles M. Hayes, president of the Chicago Motor club.

Filed by Club  
"The bill was not filed by any individual tax payer, but the Chicago Motor club itself as a resident and tax payer of the state on the plea that the organization owns and operates a fleet of motor vehicles using gasoline as motor fuel. The bill for injunction states that A. C. Bollinger, director of the department of finance of the state, is about to expend portions of a \$50,000 appropriation for the printing of various forms in connection with the collection of the tax, and is about to expend other portions of this appropriation for the employment of clerical help and the purchase of office furnishings and supplies and in fact that some of the \$50,000 already has been spent.

Discriminatory, Claim  
"The bill points out that the gas tax is illegal because it exempts kerosene oil from the tax and many motor vehicles in the state are propelled by kerosene and that the failure to include kerosene is discriminatory. "It also points out that there are millions of gallons of gasoline stored in Illinois and owned by persons who do not fall within the category of distributors as defined in the sections of the statute, and that none of the gasoline so stored will be taxed. Consequently the failure to tax this stored gasoline is unfair and discriminatory.

Other Points  
"It further points out that the law discriminates between importers, refiners and manufacturers of gasoline and persons who buy gasoline from importers, manufacturers, or refiners. It is further alleged that the Chicago Motor club has paid into the state of Illinois sums of money for the registration of its motor vehicles to enable the club to use motor vehicles upon the highways of the state, and that the tax of 2 cents a gallon for gasoline for motor vehicles used with in the state for the purpose of operating motor vehicles upon the public highways is imposed for the same purpose as the tax required to be paid for registration, and that therefore, the tax is null and void.

Exempts Kerosene  
"The bill also alleges that the act is invalid because it violates the constitution of the state of Illinois, which require the purpose of an act to be expressed in its title, in that the title purports to impose a tax on the sale and use of motor fuel but Section One of the act exempts kerosene oil, kerosene oil being in fact a motor fuel, and in extensive and daily use as such. Therefore, the purpose of the act as expressed in the provisions of the act is not to tax all motor fuels, but only certain motor fuels. Furthermore, that the legislature cannot merely by its declaration change the characteristics of kerosene and declare it not to be a motor fuel, when, as a matter of fact, it is motor fuel. Also that the provisions of the act itself do not attempt to impose a tax on motor fuel, but only on motor fuel used for one particular purpose, viz., the operation of motor vehicles on the public highways, and this purpose is not expressed in the title of the act; that while the title says the purpose is to impose a tax on the sale and use of motor fuel, the act itself declares the purpose not to tax motor fuel, but to tax persons using the highways for the operation of motor vehicles; and that, therefore, the real purpose of the act is not expressed in the title.

Behalf of Motorists  
"The Chicago Motor club," concludes Mr. Hayes, "is making this fight on behalf of the motorists of the state and proposes to see the legal battle through to a finish. We feel that it is right and proper that the Chicago Motor club should file the bill in its own name for the reason that the Chicago Motor club has fought the gasoline tax for the past two sessions of the legislature. Our attorneys believe that the bill ultimately will be declared invalid and its enforcement enjoined.

HOUSEHOLD NOTE  
If some of the pinheads who want to be public servants would turn private servants, the household help problem would be solved and there'd be fewer fools in office.—Farm and Fireside.

**PORTRAIT CAUSE OF MUCH CONTROVERSY**  
**"ISLESWORTH MONA LISA"**

Recently Imported by Art Institute of Chicago, and Question Is As to Its Authenticity

Whether the portrait of Mona Lisa, now in the vaults of the Art Institute was painted by Leonardo da Vinci or by some other painter, is a question about which many learned articles have been written. It is called the "Islesworth Mona Lisa." Many arguments have been advanced in support of the contention that it is a genuine product of the great masters' brush, and one of the strongest is that the picture now at the Art Institute has two columns at the sides of the painting, one on either side, at the extreme edges. The point in this is that when Raphael visited Florence he made a drawing of da Vinci's Mona Lisa and these two columns appear in this drawing exactly as they are in the Islesworth portrait. These columns are not in the famous Louvre picture, but this is said to be due to the fact that the Louvre painting has been restored and remounted many times and in these operations the edges of the canvas have been reduced in size enough to eliminate the columns. Other arguments advanced for the genuineness of the Islesworth picture is that artists in the time of Da Vinci invariably painted two pictures, and sometimes more, of the same subject at the same time, and da Vinci had this habit.

Did Paint Another  
In answer to this, the statement is made that da Vinci did paint another portrait of Mona Lisa, but that this one is now in the Prado at Madrid, properly vouched for. What, then, about the Islesworth portrait? Did da Vinci paint more than two? It is known that the young woman who posed for this portrait was a favorite model of the master's and that he had her sit for him at various times covering a period of four years. It is therefore quite possible that da Vinci did paint more than two portraits of La Gioconda, the woman with the inscrutable smile. This smile has been the subject of much controversy, the story being told that the smile was almost forced from La Gioconda by certain persons whom the painter employed to amuse her, because she had become melancholy over the death of her baby daughter.

Lisa Gioconda was the sixteen year old bride of Francesco del Gioconda. They were married in 1495. In 1496 she gave birth to a daughter who lived only a few weeks. Leonardo da Vinci was a warm friend of Francesco and possibly to assuage their grief undertook to paint the portrait of the sorrowing wife. From the fact that work went forward on the portrait for some four years, it is now thought that several portraits might have been painted, as two of them, the one in the Louvre and the one in the Prado, seem to be well authenticated.

Many Supporters  
What, then, regarding the Islesworth painting of Mona Lisa now at the Art Institute? It has many notable supporters who claim that it is a genuine da Vinci. A comparison of the three portraits reveals the Islesworth picture as showing a younger woman than either of the others, and therefore more nearly the age of Mona Lisa. But the smile of the Louvre picture is more wistful, more expressive of that sadness which seems to say "You may force me to smile but my thoughts are not of what you are doing or saying." The prado portrait shows a woman still older and more mature, with a smile much more human and a look in her eyes which clearly shows that she is quite interested in what is going on before her. The smile of the Islesworth portrait is one of the sweetest and most lovely that could possibly be transferred to canvas. It might well be the smile of a young mother, saddened by a great loss, but yet in whose spirit youth and beauty still dominantly express themselves. The Islesworth portrait will be hung in the Art Institute galleries in August.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?  
A Montana newspaper, reviewing an article in the Woman's Home Companion by Ellis Parker Butler, author of "Pigs Is Pigs," with unconscious appropriateness, changes that well-known humorist's name to "Ellis Parker Butler."

Brutally Frank  
Percival—Will you please marry me?  
Helen—Oh Perce, this is so sudden. Why?  
Percival—Well, I'll let you in on a secret. I want to take you home. My mother hasn't had a laugh in years.

Mohammedan priests in the Caucasus mountains recently publicly condemned a radio set as a device of the devil and threw it over a cliff. We must confess that at times we have the same sort of feeling especially when the static is particularly bad.

We doubt whether even a savage Indian warwhoop in the middle of the night would excite the President very much.

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