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Taxation Program to Offer Six Seminars

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How Can We Improve Productivity in the United States?

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terly, or yearly figures, but over a period of years.

The increase in the size of the labor force and changing attitudes also contribute to decline in productivity. The worker today has deviated from the traditional work ethic to the belief that one has it made in America and doesn't have to work as hard. Management should give workers more incentives to do a good job and take steps to raise employee morale. Giving employees a more substantial voice in decision making might be an effective way to make them work more productively.

The opposition between business, labor, and government is unhealthy to productivity. Business charges that labor is demanding too much money for what it does, while labor insists that it is not being dealt with fairly while business hauls in profits. Government is not liked by either side because it harms everyone with its taxes. A relationship like this is never good and is probably another cause of the decline in productivity. Business, labor, and

government must come together for the benefit of all involved.

The part which inflation plays to decrease productivity is that it makes the availability of money scarce. Because of high prices, no one can afford to save money or invest in new equipment and technology. The cure of inflation is by no means simple, but it must begin with a cut in government spending and size.

Some of the new emphasis on productivity originates from the increasing number of foreign products on the market and the inability of American manufacturers to deal with it. Americans must become more competitive overseas and thereby narrow the trade deficits which have widened substantially recently.

Still, the main cause of the decrease in productivity must be the role that the government has played. Government must reduce its size and restore incentives to business. Government must decrease taxes and raise deductions for investment so that

business may perform research to keep up with other nations. Another responsibility government has is to stabilize its regulatory structure and cut out many unnecessary regulations.

The responsibility of management to increase productivity is to plan for the future. Long-term goals must be set rather than goals to be met each quarter.

Finally, the American worker must increase his efforts of work and also save a greater percentage of his earnings. This will increase productivity and help to keep enough money available to invest in new businesses.

If all of these responsibilities are carried out, the productivity in the United States will increase to levels of the past and perhaps greater. If so, the United States may remain the richest nation in the world.

John Oosterhouse
Grand Rapids
Christian High

Taxation Program to Offer Six Seminars

Associate Professor James Sanford, Director of the Master of Science in Taxation Program, has announced that the M.S.T. Program will sponsor the following seminars:

- Oil and Gas Tax Law Wed., Nov. 4
- Pre-Retirement Estate Planning Tues., Nov. 10
- Charitable Giving Wed., Nov. 11
(Co-Sponsor—Michigan National Bank)
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans Tues., Dec. 1
- 1981 Tax Legislation Wed., Dec. 2
- Tax Planning for Executives and Professionals Mon., Dec. 7

Taxation seminars are offered by the M.S.T. Program to meet the continuing educational needs of tax professionals and to educate west Michigan residents on various tax planning opportunities. For instance, the seminars on "Pre-Retirement Estate Planning," "Charitable Giving," and "Tax Planning for Executives and Professionals" are designed for individuals with no tax training.

All speakers for the seminars contribute their time to help raise money for the Master of Science in Taxation Program. All money earned will be used for tax library

support and other M.S.T. Program activities.

Donald Alexander, former Internal Revenue Service Commissioner and tax partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Morgen, Lewis & Bockius, will be the

featured luncheon speaker on Wednesday, December 2. He will comment on the 1981 tax legislation.

To receive a brochure detailing the tax seminars, call Dr. Sanford's office at 456-6277.

Polish Professors at Seidman On Exchange Program

Four instructors from the Academy of Economics in Krakow, Poland, are serving as visiting lecturers at Seidman College this semester as part of an exchange program between Grand Valley and the Academy.

The instructors are working on individual academic research projects and learning about the American economic system during their stay in west Michigan. Their educational activities include visits to a variety of business organizations in the area and attendance at meetings of The Economic Club of Grand Rapids, at which noted economists speak.

The four lecturers are specializing in areas ranging from planning and philosophy to economics and statistics.

Statistician Stanislaw Kot is studying modeling processes in the development of

the science of statistics. Karol Kukula, whose field is econometrics and statistics, is researching methods of operations research and economic structures.

Zygmunt Nowak, a specialist in planning and economic policy, is studying the functioning of tourist regions and agricultural policy in regional systems.

Philosopher Czeslaw Porebski is collecting data for a book on the possibility of applying formal methods in analyzing classical notions of ethics.

Since Grand Valley has been involved in the exchange program with Poland in 1977, 21 Polish instructors and 49 Grand Valley people (41 students, six faculty members, plus President Lubbers and Seidman College Dean Marvin DeVries) have participated in the exchange.