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MSU TAX SCHOOL WILL TRY NEW APPROACH

The 1957 Tax School At Montana State University, December 5, 6, and 7, will inaugurate a seminar-type discussion of current tax problems and ideas. The suggestion was made by registrants of previous years, according to Lester R. Rusoff, associate professor of law and Tax School director.

This is a departure from the format of previous years when the three-day sessions were limited to formal papers and question and answer periods, Rusoff noted. Lawyers, accountants, trust officers, and life underwriters who have participated in the annual tax discussions proposed a functional approach to the resolution of problems of an imaginary client, through formal papers and small discussion groups, he said. A combination of the two techniques will be used this year, and the four participating professional groups will be integrated as a team in the solving of specific problems, Rusoff explained.

Among the fields to be examined this year are Pension and Profit Sharing Plans and Current Problems in Estate Planning. The topics within these areas will be treated in formal papers addressed to all registrants, but the specific problems of the particular professions will be considered in group meetings of those professions. To give full coverage within these discussion groups, an advisory committee consisting of a representative of the profession concerned and the three other participating professions will preside. Thus in the discussion group composed of life underwriters, an outstanding expert in that field will preside and his associates on the advisory committee will consist of a lawyer, an accountant, and a trust officer, all of whom are experienced in the fields to be discussed.

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A slight change in emphasis will be used in the Estate-Planning portion of the program, Rusoff said. Instead of the registrants being divided by profession, the groups will be composed of representatives of each profession so the team approach to Estate Planning may be utilized. The problem to be resolved will be presented to the entire assemblage by a panel of experts, consisting of representatives of each participating profession. The meeting will break down into various groups to discuss possible solutions. The assemblage will then reconvene and the solutions of each group will be presented to the panel of experts who will analyze them in the light of the actual solution. Extended discussion will follow in which all registrants will be invited to participate.

The Tax School is sponsored by the Law School of the University. An advisory committee of lawyers, accountants, trust officers and life underwriters who practice in Montana provide assistance in the formulation of the program and suggest possible speakers. The present program was selected at a meeting of the advisory committee and Law School representatives in April.

Registration for the 1956 Tax School exceeded 200 and with the increased emphasis upon group discussion and the solution of specific problems in 1957, it is anticipated that the registration will increase, Rusoff said. All registrants in 1956 received as a part of the registration fee, a bound copy of the proceedings. A similar arrangement is contemplated for those registering for the 1957 Tax School.

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