

# Jaycees Endorse Land Value Taxation

Land value taxation will help bring more prosperity to Erie and should be adopted here, the Erie Junior Chamber of Commerce said today.

Charles A. Hall, chairman of the land value taxation commit-

tee of the Jaycees, and a past president of the organization, said directors and general membership favor the plan which would exempt houses, buildings and all improvements from local property taxation, but not school district nor county taxation.

Erie is one of 48 cities in the state which has permission under state law to shift local property taxes from buildings to land values by a vote of city council. Pittsburgh and Scranton now tax improvements at only one half of their city tax rate on land values, but all other Pennsylvania cities, with the exception of Philadelphia, have authority to completely untax houses, buildings, swimming pools, etc.

Hall said the Junior Chamber will campaign for land value taxation, also known as the graded tax in Pennsylvania, in much the same manner it campaigned for the city charter commission and strong mayor form of government. He said he believes Erie may become the first Pennsylvania city to untax buildings.

Hall said exempting buildings from local property taxation will stimulate building, create more jobs, help clear slums, help existing industry to expand, and attract new industry. He said land value taxation should be the backbone of the competitive enterprise system.

The Erie assessor's office is now making a study of land value taxation, Hall noted, and the idea is also suggested in the Erie Workbook for Community Development action, published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

This action on the part of the Jaycees, Hall said, is the result of months of study and research by a committee formed last May.

