

the books: Bond in-
ts Nixon book. 3C

all of the property tax re-
ny of those who would pay
ealthy, but many others
be solidly middle class.

's not particularly fair, and
he plan's Democratic sup-
; admit the plan can be im-

proved.

"I don't think business is getting
a bad deal out of this," acknowl-
edged Rep. Bill Reardon, D-Kan-
sas City.

The tax package endorsed by
the committee would raise
\$205.3 million. Of that, \$197.5 mil-
lion, or 96 percent, would be paid
by individual Kansans. The pro-
posal would increase residential
utility bills and increase individual
income taxes by about 15 percent

age, saying that the proposed in-
come tax increases would fall
most heavily on upper-income
Kansans. They also said that they
wanted to get a bill to the House
for debate and that its contents
could change.

Admittedly, the proposal could
be worse.

Republicans have proposed a
flat 15 percent income tax sur-
charge — \$144 million that would

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Larned workers

By Mike Berry

Eagle Western Kansas bureau

LARNED — Workers at Larned
State Hospital, shocked by the slay-
ing of a Topeka State Hospital thera-
pist two weeks ago, are concerned
that they may be endangered by
changes in security measures for
violent and criminally insane pa-
tients at Larned.

Those changes are being made by
state officials to
maintain the hos-
pital's accredita-
tion, a key to
qualifying for
\$56 million in
federal funds.

No money:
What Larned
could lose.
10C

The Joint Commission on Accredi-
tation of Healthcare Organizations
wants iron bars and steel grillwork
removed inside the maximum-secu-
rity Dillon building at Larned State
Hospital to create a more therapeu-
tic atmosphere for patients.

The accreditation report was criti-
cal of locked, barred iron doors on
patients' rooms, a barred enclosure
surrounding nurse's stations in each
ward, and metal screens used to
separate patients from other people
in visiting and dining areas.

"Most (of the changes) are cos-
metic changes that will make it look
less like a maximum-security prison
and more like a hospital," said Don-
na Whiteman, secretary of the Kan-
sas Department of Social and Reha-
bilitation Services, which
administers the state hospitals.

She was one of several state offi-
cials who said that any changes
would not compromise worker safe-
ty in the wake of the Topeka thera-
pist's death. "Our sensitivity level on
something like that is pretty high,"
said George Vega, acting commis-
sioner of mental health and retarda-
tion services for SRS.

But one Dillon worker said, "If
you start taking the iron doors off of
the cells, we've got problems." He
worries not only about night shift
workers being jumped by violent pa-
tients if they aren't locked up, but
also about possible attacks on other
patients.

The worker asked not to be iden-
tified, fearing for the security of his
job.

Another worker, John Rector,

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Mike Hutnacher/The Wichita Eagle

World experts: Jeanne and Howard Johnston volunteer their time to
direct the Global Learning Center in Wichita.

Experience during war led to lifetime of world study

By Lisa Agrimonti
The Wichita Eagle

It was during World War II, on Oct.
26, 1942, when Howard Johnston's
transport ship struck two U.S. mines
meant for the enemy and sank in the
South Pacific, near the island of Espiri-
tu Santo.

The U.S. Army lieutenant, along with
nearly 4,000 other survivors (only two
died in the sinking), had to swim 300
yards through a heavy oil slick to
reach safety on the island's shore. For
one month it rained constantly. They

had no radio and little food.

"I had plenty of time to think," said
Johnston, now 78. "That is when I
vowed, if I ever got back alive, I'll
devote myself to international studies."

In the 50 years since, he has kept
that vow. After his military service
ended, he returned to the United States
and studied international relations.

His quest for world peace took him
shortly after the war ended to allied-
occupied Berlin, where he established
a youth leadership training center. The

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taken by LifeWatch helicopter to HCA Wesley Medical Center, where he was later pronounced dead.

from jail after posting bond, the spokesman said.

— Lisa Agrimonti

WORLD

From Page 1C

program, which is still in operation, brought together young people from all over the world to discuss issues and learn from one another. He also helped found the Free University of Berlin, which now has 55,000 students.

He has traveled the world, holding jobs in government and education and always working toward a better understanding of people and their nations.

Johnston and his wife, Jeanne, are the forces behind the Global Learning Center in Wichita. Both volunteer their time; he is the executive director, she the treasurer.

They founded the center in June 1987 and opened its office at 435 S. Broadway two years later.

The center's mission is to "foster global study and international dialogue on a wide range of topics, from culture and trade to ecology, peace and justice, at home and abroad."

The center offers language classes, collects resource material, provides educational programs and invites visitors from other countries to discuss current topics, including the Palestinian issue and the Persian Gulf War.

Jeanne Johnston, 73, a former librarian, said she became interested in international affairs as a teen, when she was a fan of travel books.

The couple met at Columbia University in New York and married in 1947. That year they moved to Berlin, where Howard directed the youth program.

In 1950, he left Berlin for a job on the German desk at the State Department in Washington. There he coordinated a German leader exchange program.

Seven years later, he received his doctorate in international affairs and political science from Columbia.

He went to Greece in 1958 to be president of Anatolia College, an American-sponsored school.

KNOW ANY HEROES?

We are looking for community heroes, those people who volunteer their time and energy to make this a better place to live or who perform an act or service that helps the community. Throughout 1992, the Eagle will periodically report on people who are Making A Difference by giving of themselves. If you can suggest someone whom you think we should spotlight in Wichita, its neighboring communities or elsewhere in Kansas, call us at **268-6351** during regular business hours.

In 1964, Howard Johnston left for Iowa to become an academic dean at Wesleyan College. He moved to Kansas in 1970 and became the executive director of the Associated Colleges of Central Kansas, based in McPherson. The six schools operated about 30 foreign-exchange programs.

In 1977 he retired, and the couple came to Wichita. They started the Global Learning Center 10 years later.

"We felt we could be effective in a city this size," he said. He added that he believes it is more important now than ever to look at the world as a whole, not as individual countries.

"We feel we have a lot to learn," he said. "The world is changing so rapidly, no one knows for sure what we'll need in the next two years, let alone the next 10 or 15 years."

The committee endorsed proposals to eliminate five exemptions, including one for lottery tickets. It was working from a list of 35 exemp-

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