

# The News-Review

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## LEGISLATIVE SALARIES

By Charles V. Stanton

Proposition No. 1 on your general election ballot is a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution. It would give the state legislature power to fix salaries of its own members.

In the "Good Ol' Days" legislators were paid \$3 per day for 40 days. If the legislature remained in session longer than 40 days, members received no compensation in excess of the \$120 maximum allowed for the limited session.

An amendment in 1942 raised the pay to \$3 per day and set the limit for the compensable session at 50 days.

Eight years later, in 1950, the salary was boosted to \$600 per year and the limitation on length of session was removed.

The proposition on which voters will pass at the coming election would permit the legislature to fix by law the rate of pay for its members.

The objection immediately is heard that the rate of pay would be boosted out of all reason.

But it is pointed out on the other side of the issue that the right to fix compensation has been held by Congress throughout our national history, and the privilege has not been abused.

### People Would Retain Control

It is characteristic of politicians to want reelection. Representatives to the legislature are chosen every two years. Senators serve for four years. If legislators should boost pay higher than approved by the public, the public would show its disapproval at elections. This innate desire for public approbation would, we believe, assure a rate of pay within reasonable limits. Members of the legislature would be reluctant to seek more than justified compensation.

When a session of the legislature runs for more than three months, as was the case in 1953, members must rent houses, apartments, hotel rooms, motel cabins, or other lodgings, while paying for meals and other expenses incurred away from home. The \$1200 now provided for the two years of service fails to meet actual expenses in most cases. A legislator draws travel pay for only one trip to and from the capital. He normally, however, must return home several times during the session. Some members are called upon for speaking engagements in various parts of the state. Many also serve on interim committees with no extra pay, other than expenses. Altogether, the majority of the members must take money out of their own pockets in return for the honor of being public servants.

Despite Oregon's low rate of compensation for its legislators, however, we have maintained an Assembly of exceptionally high calibre. Oregon has many patriotic citizens willing to serve in the legislature and give their services even though it costs them money.

### Danger In High Pay

Douglas County, for instance, is represented by men of the highest integrity. State Senator Paul Geddes and Representatives V. T. Jackson and John Amacher are men deserving of complete public confidence. The same is true in nearly every other county.

A few members of our state legislature are subsidized. They represent special interests. But they are very few in number.

We believe our Oregon legislature will compare very favorably in the calibre of its members with any other state in the Union.

There is danger in making the rate of pay too high. If the position were to be made profitable, it might cease to attract as many public spirited members and would draw more hack politicians.

It is our opinion that a sympathetic public is more apt to boost legislative pay over the danger point than would legislators themselves. Legislators, constantly sensitive to criticism, would we believe, strive to keep compensation consistent with actual express. The experience with congressional pay provides a good example.

The amendment as it now stands is inflexible. Legislative demands, however, are constantly changing. If legislators were permitted to set their own rate of compensation, they could adjust it to meet changing requirements. The people would be spared having to vote on the matter every few years. At the same time they would retain control through their ability to refuse election to any legislator advocating compensation failing of public acceptance.

## Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — If all goes well, Claire Mann will reduce the supply of American womanhood by 125 tons by the end of this year.

"It isn't very much, is it?" sighed Miss Mann, founder of "Overweights Anonymous," and pointed out there are some 18 million women in this country who have eaten themselves out of shape.

Her goal is to get all these plump ladies to lose an average of six pounds each, or a total of 54,000 tons of feminine fat. If loaded on the battleship Missouri, this weight would probably sink her. Converted into tallow, it could be made into a candle big enough to light a city. Might be a good idea, too. Make a splendid monument to the sex.

Claire, who has a daily women's show on station WABD-TV, started "Overweights Anonymous" three years ago, frankly patterned it after "Alcoholics Anonymous" in many ways.

"Overweight and alcoholism, after all, spring from the same emotional causes," she said. "The problem is psychological, not physiological."

The main theory behind OA is that obese people who are unable to solve their problem on an individual basis often are able to do so when they attack it by group therapy.

"Sometimes you have to identify yourself with other people's problems in order to realize your

own," said Miss Mann. "Overweight people simply have substituted the love of food for the love of life. By recognizing this, they can help each other to learn to do the reverse."

The motto of OA is "Don't put off for tomorrow what you can take off today."

In three years the organization has grown to 100,000 members. There are no dues. The members meet at each other's homes in groups of 5 to 10 twice a month, and Miss Mann distributes free diets and exercises at her own expense.

But OA differs from AA in one important respect. If a member feels an overwhelming urge to indulge in a chocolate éclair, she can't telephone a fellow member to come racing through the night to save her from temptation.

"As a matter of fact, if a member scales down her poundage, she must maintain the weight loss for at least six months or be dropped from the rolls," said Claire firmly. "Those who do reduce to the



## Reader Opinions

### County Chairmanships Forecast Better Gains

EUGENE — Guy Cordon, for many years past, has had more influence than any other senator in getting the usually too inadequate initial appropriations as reported by the House Appropriations Committee raised to the point that Northwest power dams and transmission lines could be kept on construction schedules. Through ability and seniority he is now chairman of two important committees, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and the Sub-committee on Interior Appropriations, both vital to the Northwest.

It is imperative to retain the services of this man who holds sound economic views and knows intimately all phases of timber, reclamation, power, and other natural resources law. On the "promise of past performance" we can expect even greater results through his new chairmanships, and close relationships with the Administration, the departments of Agriculture and Interior, the Army Engineers, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

F. FORD NORTROP  
Eugene, Ore.

### Appreciation Expressed By Jehovah's Witnesses

EUREKA (To The Editor)—In behalf of more than 1,000 Jehovah's witnesses assembled here for their semi-annual Circuit Assembly, I want to express our appreciation for the fine articles printed regarding our convention, as well as the feature article by Mr. Castillo.

This service has certainly helped the public because in calling personally on the householders many of them said that they appreciated the information.

We also want to thank all the people of Roseburg for the many courtesies extended us and look forward to the time when we can visit you again.  
C. W. FISHER  
Eureka, Calif.

weight they desire are encouraged to be more active in community and charity work to give them an outlet for their new energy.

Ninety-nine per cent of OA are women, but a male member holds the weight loss championship. He is an engineer who in three years dropped from 225 pounds to 173 — a loss of 125 pounds. Just one more proof of the old truth that a good man can beat a woman at anything.

Miss Mann, a former ballet dancer and pianist, became interested in therapy as the result of an accident. The accident was a broken back. She was told she would never be able to dance again, might not be able to walk.

After six months in a hospital, she set out to rehabilitate herself. She went to Vienna and studied psychology and anatomy, worked out her own system of exercises to rebuild her wasted muscles.

Her stubborn will worked a miracle. She recovered completely, then opened a studio to help other people with physical and mental problems. She was among the first to recognize the therapeutic value of music and dancing. She is married to a psychiatrist, has made a fresh career for herself in television.

"If it weren't for my accident, I'd have been only a second-rate dancer or pianist," she said. "It enabled me to do something new."

An attractive green-eyed blonde, Miss Mann weighed 138 pounds as a dancer, now weighs 112. "The diet in my case," she said wryly, "was pain."

### County Zoning Likened To Camel, Arab Story

MYRTLE CREEK — The matter of county zoning deserves more publicity than it has so far received. It seems the subject is being explained by speakers to select audiences — granges, chambers of commerce, etc. Many voters do not belong to such organizations, nor is it always convenient or even possible to attend their open meetings.

From what ideas I have been able to gather so far, it reminds me of a story: Once an Arab had a willing and dutiful servant in the form of a camel. One time when the Arab pitched his tent the camel pushed in his nose; of course, very politely and humbly asking permission. The Arab was quite willing, as the camel's soft nose would take up little space. Indeed, the Arab was almost pleased for this much company.

Soon the camel asked leave — almost politely — to enter his head (and ears) into the tent. The Arab still gave permission, although not quite so happily as before. Everyone knows how the camel later pushed in his formidable hump and rump — without any politeness — and the Arab was forced out.

Some twelve or fourteen years ago, many of you decided under a sort of "Share the Wealth" measure in regard to our schools. We should have recognized it for what it was — the first "soft nose" of state dictatorship over our schools. Too many of us didn't.

The schools were to remain under local management, with a state board to allocate the equalized funds and "advise" districts as to building programs, teacher load, and other conditions. But in only these few short years the formidable "hump and rump" of the advisory (?) board has pushed in; and I ask you taxpayers, how much local control you have left. If we refuse to raise more money locally for their expensive plans, they threaten to withhold the state basic money — our money which we have paid into the common fund in one way or another.

Some of your children are being loaded on buses as early as 7 a.m. A man's working day is eight hours. What is the length of day for these children, some of them only six and seven years old? And what do you parents have to say or do about it?

In this county, at least, the few districts which have dared try to maintain their local status in the independent American way are being slowly boycotted into submission. Our schools had always a measure of state and county supervision, but no whip.

Now we are being asked to vote on some sort of zoning plan for our homes in certain districts. With another soft camel "nose"?

Will the "hump and rump" of this advisory board appear a few years hence to push all of us about? Will it spread until all our homes, like our schools, are centralized, equalized and standardized until our American way of life is jeopardized and all we can do is live where we are told, build where and as we are told, raise crops and animals when and where we are told, and pay as we pay?

Methods that Arab would have done well to have slapped the camel's nose and put that servant in its place, no matter how polite, humble, and submissive it appeared.

Advisory boards can serve us well, so long as we keep them advisory, keep them our servants not allowing them to enter their "noses" and later become our masters. For this is life lived in

## Progress Made On Disarmament

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — British Delegate Selwyn Lloyd said Wednesday progress has been made on disarmament, but agreement still must be reached on essential points of a worldwide disarmament program.

Lloyd, who was to leave later Wednesday for London to take up a new post as minister of supply, told the U.N. assembly's Political Committee that East and West have achieved something together and have put themselves in a position to discuss the problem.

He said the Russians have tried to meet Western views in certain ways. He said the Russians no longer insist on a ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs before anything else is done on disarmament and also have accepted the principle of disarmament by stages.

### Umatilla County Will Build New Courthouse

PENDLETON — Award of a main contract of \$575,680 for construction of the new county courthouse here was announced Wednesday by the Umatilla County Court.

### Stringfellow Commended For Making Confession

ROSEBURG — An article about the young congressman from Utah who got up before a TV and radio audience and admitted that he had deliberately misrepresented his war service.

If he did it voluntarily, not under pressure of anticipation of exposure, it was an act of the finest and took the highest courage. It was evidently a sincere and painful confession.

Politics is a queer thing. It looks like the hard pressed Republicans might well have used this man to save them in the coming election. Under a different but very difficult position, Richard Nixon vindicated himself and definitely turned the political tables on his vilifying opponents.

Christ the Great Comforter while on this earth taught that if we confessed and repented our sins we would be saved. Not knowing all the facts, but what an opportunity was presented to the State Republican Committee of Utah, and what a chance all of our statesmen had, including our own Senator Cordon and Congressman Ellsworth, to rally to this young man's side.

It seems to me as though everything nowadays is governed by appeasement — expediency. There is not near enough fight for downright principles. Like when Patrick Henry said "Give me liberty or give me death."

The young congressman is not to be condemned, you ask any old soldier who served during the last two wars if he hasn't misrepresented his activities in some instances. The writer pleads most guilty!

MARK W. DUNHAM  
Roseburg, Ore.

Russia, not in America. We do not wish to vote on a "pig in a poke" with none but the grower's appraisal.  
DESDA WICKSON  
Myrtle Creek, Ore.

There never has been a slogan. "As Alaska Goes, So Goes the Nation." But apparently there might well have been, for Alaska's election results have for 20 years accurately reflected trends in the continental United States.

This fact, like the September outcome in Maine, can hardly bring comfort to the Republican Party at this juncture in the 1954 battle for control of Congress.

The Democrats have just won a smashing victory in Alaska. The returns indicate the Democrats have captured solid control of the Alaska legislature, and that the Democratic choice for delegate to the U. S. House has beaten the Republican by a margin of almost three to one. Two years ago the winning Democrat got just 56 per cent of the vote for delegate.

The Democratic score on the territorial legislature, however, was more than just a change in percentage. Two years ago the Republicans swept the boards, winning 20 out of 24 House seats and 11 out of 16 Senate posts.

Republican leaders in Washington are saying publicly that the Alaska outcome is not to be taken as a harbinger of things to come. The issues in the territorial campaign had nothing whatsoever to do with national issues governing the congressional contests across the country.

It would be a great surprise if they should be overheard saying the same thing privately. For the signs that the Democrats may gain substantial strength in the U. S. House and enough to take the Senate reins as well, are mounting steadily. A reversal in such a bellwether area as Alaska cannot help but be disturbing.

If there are any strong indications of a contrary movement toward the Republicans, the host of analysts, pollsters and doorbell ringers now combing the American landscape have so far failed to find them.

That does not mean some may not exist. We must always remember 1948 when all the signs seemed to point toward the election of Governor Dewey of New York as President but Harry S. Truman

U. S. spokesman says the Russians have been notified of the desertion. I certainly hope we don't send him back. After the shooting war ended in 1945 we sent back thousands of Russians who had surrendered to our side to get away from communism, and the record indicates that when the commies got hold of them they either shot them against a wall or sent them to slave labor camps.

## Fighting Chamber Gives Premier Confidence Vote

ROME — A brawling chamber of deputies gave Premier Mario Scelba a 295-265 vote of confidence Wednesday on Italy's agreement with Yugoslavia for the division of the Trieste territory.

Fights between Communists and Scelba's coalition government supporters broke up the session twice and it was nearly down before the vote was taken. Six deputies and five ushers were injured in the fighting.

The fistuffs started when Christian Democrat Deputy Giuseppe Togni accused the Communists of "serving another nation other than Italy," and of having among their number "a lot of former Fascist spies." The Communist members charged from their benches and grappled with ushers in an effort to reach Togni.

With Scelba reportedly insisting on completion of the debate and the vote of confidence "if it takes all night," Gronchi reconvened the chamber after a 5 1/2 hour delay. The session remained noisy but the ballot finally was taken.

The vote of confidence approved the agreement reached on the bitterly disputed area between Italy and Yugoslavia at the head of the Adriatic Sea. The agreement, initiated Oct. 5, gives Italy the British-American occupied Zone A, including the port city of Trieste.

Zone B goes to Yugoslavia. It has been under Yugoslav occupation since the 1947 Italian peace treaty which created a free territory.

Over in Utah, they've just had an interesting political experience. A demagogue by the name of Stringfellow was running for congress on the Republican ticket. He dramatized himself as a war hero, and did quite a lot of chest-beating about his exploits.

A few days ago it turned out that his much-publicized accounts of his heroic conduct were all moonshine — just a hoax to get himself elected.

The heat was turned on him and he resigned from the campaign. A college president has just been named to run in his place. You have to admire these Utah people. They take their politics seriously.

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