

# Oregon Unique In Having Plan Giving Voters Chance To Make Their Own Laws

Background for '56: This is the last of four stories giving the ABC's of Oregon politics in connection with next year's elections. By PAUL W. HARVEY JR., Associated Press Staff Writer. Oregon voters have the privilege, given to voters of few other states, of making their own laws. The initiative and referendum,

under which this is possible, long has been known as the "Oregon Plan" because Oregon was the first state to have it, some 50 years ago. Initiative and referendum always go on the general election ballot, although counties and cities sometimes vote on theirs at the primary.

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At the general election next Nov. 6, there will be seven referenda. We won't know what initiatives will be on the ballot, because sponsors have until July 5 to file the completed petitions with the secretary of state. Big campaigns are certain to be waged for and against these measures. To levy a 3-cent cigarette tax, let the Legislature put emergency clauses on tax bills,

ban commercial fishing in coastal streams, reapportion the Legislature, and double the pay of state legislators. The Legislature passed six measures and referred them to the people at next November's election. These would permit emergency clauses on tax bills, and thus make it impossible to attack them by referendum; permit the state to hold stock in corporations; repeal the ancient and forgotten salary limits for the top state officials; let the Legislature decide qualifications for coroners and county surveyors; double the \$600 annual pay of legislators, and sub-district Marion County's state representative districts. This last one will be submitted only to the voters of Marion County.

Then the Legislature passed a law to tax cigarettes 3 cents a

package. The tobacco industry attacked it via the referendum, so that suspended the law and put it on the November ballot. Now, as to initiatives: Anybody can try to put an initiative measure on the ballot. If he wants to make a new law, he needs 32,074 signatures of registered voters. But if he wants to change the Constitution, he needs 40,092 signatures.

Four preliminary initiative petitions have been filed, thus making it possible for their sponsors to circulate them. These would prohibit sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquor, ban commercial fishing in coastal streams, give each county one state senator, and provide "tax freedom."

to get on the ballot. They are sponsored by large organizations, which is so vital in getting the necessary names. The fish measure is backed by sports fishing groups, while the reapportionment amendment has the support of farm groups. It's pretty hard to get enough names without such support.

**Cost Of Delivering Letter Now Above Rate**  
BAKER — In 1932 a letter which cost the government 2 cents to deliver carried 3 cent stamp. The same letter today costs 4 cents to deliver but still has a 3 cent stamp. Samuel G. Schwartz, Portland regional postoffice director, said that here in suggesting a postal rate increase is needed. Lower-than-cost third class rates gave business a 147 million dollar subsidy last year, he said, and first class rates are going to add to future deficits unless they are increased.

A recently enacted constitutional provision boosts the required number of signatures for constitutional changes from 8 per cent to 10 per cent of the voters. This will make it a little harder for sponsors of the reapportionment measure.

**Russia Reduces Army To Boost Farm Output**  
LONDON — Moscow Radio reported Monday the reduction of Soviet armed forces by 649,000 men—promised in August—has now been completed. The broadcast confirmed Western speculation that a chief purpose of the troop cut was to aid the Kremlin's big drive to increase Soviet agricultural output. The ex-soldiers have been "transferred to agriculture," the Radio reported.

## Pope's Christmas Mass Will Be Aired To World

VATICAN CITY — A Christmas which will also be broadcast by radio on Dec. 24, will be the Pope's 17th annual Christmas speech. Like preceding ones, it is expected to deal primarily with the subject of peace.

**CURBS OFFICERS**  
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 7 — Chief Inspector Albert J. Trimmer says he may issue an order forbidding his cops to sport fancy mustaches or flowing hair styles. Some of the rookie policemen "have taken to be-hop haircuts and flaunting mustaches," he said.

**YOU A PSYCHIATRIST?**  
PROVIDENCE, R. I. — Dr. Melvyn Johnson, chief of the mental hygiene clinic of the Veterans Administration in Providence and himself a psychiatrist, gave this definition of a psychiatrist in a speech yesterday: "A man who goes to a burlesque show and watches the audience."

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## 1955 Plywood Production Climbs To Record 4.8 Billion Board Feet

Western fir plywood manufacturers completed their 1955 Golden Jubilee year by setting an all-time production record of nearly 4.9 billion square feet, W. E. Difford, managing editor for Douglas Fir Plywood Assn., the industry's trade promotion organization, announced. While final computations have not been made, 111 mills in the coastal states produced a whopping 4.875 billion feet during the anniversary year, nearly one billion feet more than in 1954 when 3.903 billion feet were produced. In fact, the industry has set new production figures each successive year beginning with 1947, the year the government lifted controls on plywood.

**On Rise**  
Moreover, Difford predicted that 1956 will top all previous highs. Based upon reports of new mills under construction and a study of market conditions, he estimated that 5.8 billion feet would be the industry's output for 1956. In addition to the 11 new plants which opened in 1955, reports indicate that 11 more are under construction for the coming year and 12 more are in the planning stage with a good portion of these probably for late in 1956.

As always, the fortunes of the plywood industry will hinge to a certain extent on building. A U.S. Commerce and Labor Dept. prediction that new home starts will drop by 100,000 units from 1.3 million in 1955 is not generally accepted by plywood manufacturers. Many feel that the leveling off, if any, will be much slighter. On the other side of the ledger, they predict that new homes started in 1956 will be larger. The 5-

room home is no longer adequate for the millions with growing families. Next year's home will be larger. Behind this conclusion is the prediction by the same two U.S. bureaus that the dollar value of all building will jump from the present high level of 42 million dollars to a record 44 million dollars during the next 12 months. The difference in number of starts and increased dollar value is explained in the larger home concept plus step-up in commercial building such as schools, warehouses and other large structures.

**Hitting Building Market**  
Difford pointed out that above all this is the fact that plywood is capturing a greater share of the building market. In 1946, the per capita consumption of plywood was something like 10 feet per American per year. In 1949, this figure was up to 12.7 feet and in 1954 it had nearly doubled the '49 figure. In 1955, based upon slightly better than 165 million residents of the United States, the per capita consumption had reached a high of 29.5 feet. The plywood industry not only set records in 1955 but saw market stability mostly through the entire 12 months. Except for occasional and slight softening of the market, Douglas Fir Plywood Assn. reported a steady back order file of 500 million feet or more each week during the year and in the week ending Feb. 26, an all-time high of 585 million was hit. New orders remained strong as 1955 came to a close and with spring buying and building not far off, the industry has every reason to feel optimistic. At one time a novelty item, plywood has come into its own in the war era. One leading national financial publication places it as the second (to plastics) fastest growing industry in the nation. Its sales since 1940 have been seven times greater than the aggressive steel industry and production increase has topped the fast-growing aluminum industry by 20 per cent during that same period.



**ROSE QUEEN**—Pretty Joan Culver (above), 18, a pink-cheeked blonde with a bubbling personality, is the Queen of the 67th annual Tournament of Roses at Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day. She and her six princesses will reign over the traditional parade and Rose Bowl football game between UCLA and Michigan State. Joan, who weighs 112 and stands 5-foot-4, was chosen from among 1,500 coeds at Pasadena City College, where she is a freshman.

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