

House Passes, Sends To Senate Road, Welfare Spending Bills

SALEM (AP)—Bills to spend \$196,834,000 for highways and 91 million dollars for public welfare in the two-year period beginning next July 1 were passed by the House Monday and sent to the Senate.

The highway figure, 20 per cent more than that being spent in the current biennium, includes 99 million dollars in federal funds.

In addition, the Legislature previously voted 28 million dollars in bonds to build the Columbia River bridge at Astoria and improve the Roseburg-Coquille Highway.

The welfare program calls for \$36,600,000 in state funds, the rest contributed by the federal government and counties.

The total welfare program is about seven million more than that of the present biennium.

The House also sent to the Senate a \$200,000 emergency welfare appropriation to finish out the present two years. This is in addition to \$1,200,000 voted earlier.

Approval of the \$200,000 means the commission will be able to maintain old age assistance and aid to the blind and disabled at present standards, but it will have to trim nursing home care and other programs.

The House approved 36-21 and sent to the governor a bill to eliminate unemployment benefits for many seasonal workers.

The bill will reduce the jobless

benefit claims about 10 per cent, disqualifying 40 per cent of the cannery workers.

To qualify for benefits under the measure, a worker must work 20 weeks during a year. The House defeated a Labor and Industries Committee majority recommendation that the requirement be cut to 18 weeks.

A House-passed bill to eliminate installment payments on income taxes, expected to net eight million in added revenue in the next biennium, was changed by the Senate Taxation Committee.

The committee amended the bill by keeping installment payments, but charging six per cent annual interest on them.

If the committee action should be accepted, then about six million would have to be obtained from some other source.

The committee hopes to take action quickly on its proposals to broaden the base of the income tax by adding low income groups to those affected by the tax.

It could not act Monday because it did not have the figures requested of the state Tax Commission.

Senate Committee Leaves College Money Bill Intact

SALEM (AP)—The 55 million dollar appropriation for higher education was left intact Monday by the Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee.

The committee voted 4-2 to send the bill, which increases the appropriation by 17 per cent over this biennium, back to the Senate floor after Senate President Walter J. Pearson (D-Portland) referred it to the committee last week.

Normally, appropriation bills approved by the joint Ways and Means Committee are not sent to other committees.

Pearson said, however, he gave the House-approved budget to the State and Federal Affairs Committee because of opposition in the Senate to the increase.

Pearson said he did not like the 11 per cent hike in faculty salaries provided for the next two years.

Committee members indicated Monday they did not feel they could make a quick cut in the budget after the Ways and Means Committee had worked three months on it.

The two votes against the measure were cast by Sens. Boyd Overhulse (D-Madras), chairman of the committee, and R. F. Chapman (D-Coos Bay).

The four for it were Sens. Harry Boivin (D-Klamath Falls), Jean Lewis (D-Portland), Carl Francis (R-Dayton), and Dan Thiel (D-Astoria).

Sen. Lewis, chairman of the ways and means subcommittee which worked on the higher education budget, called the salary increase justified and necessary "to attract top people in the top fields."

Faculty salaries would be increased seven per cent the first year and four per cent the second.

The three million dollars involved in the increase would be divided into four per cent across-the-board increases and seven per cent for merit raises.

State Building Bonds Asked

SALEM (AP)—A 40-million-dollar bonding program for state building construction was approved Monday by the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

The measure will go to a vote of the people in 1960 if the legislation gets past both houses.

Each Legislature would allocate funds for construction but could not send more than 15 million dollars in any one biennium. The bonding program, which would expire in 1971, is for higher education, state institutions and Capitol area construction.

Three members of the committee voted against the measure—Reps. Stafford Hansell (R-Athens), W. S. Chadwick (R-Salem), and George Annala (D-Hood River).

Hansell said if the funds are needed they should be allocated now instead of bonding for the buildings. Annala called it "postponing the time to meet an obligation," and warned that it will cost more in the end.

In addition to the long range bonding program, the joint committee approved \$4,470,000 from the general fund for higher education construction for the next two years.

It also approved introduction of legislation for \$5,000,000 in revenue bonds to finance projects, including a \$1,705,000 addition to the University of Oregon science building.

The revenue bonds would be financed by student fees.

The committee delayed action on \$2,881,564 for buildings at the state institutions.

Research Lab Asked For Sea Experiment

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Thomas M. Pelly (R-Wash) Tuesday urged approval of his bill to authorize construction of a salt water research laboratory at Seattle.

In a statement prepared for the house fisheries subcommittee, the Seattle Congressman said the project would be built in conjunction with an aquarium proposed by the city at Golden Gardens beach.

Operation of the laboratory would be conducted jointly by the State Department of Fisheries, the oceanography and fisheries colleges of the University of Washington, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Pelly said he was advised last year by Ross Leffler, assistant secretary of interior for fish and wildlife, that the project would fill a need in the Puget Sound region to the ultimate benefit of the food and sports fisheries of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

Estimated cost of the project, he said, was \$650,000.

Pelly told the subcommittee he hoped the project could be built in time for the Century 21 world exposition opening in Seattle in 1961.

Gov. Signs Basic Rights Bill

PORTLAND (AP)—Civil rights are the "basic human rights of individuals," Gov. Mark Hatfield told the annual meeting of the Urban League of Portland.

The passing of laws to assure equality is not enough, he said. "What the people think will be the real measure of civil rights in Oregon," the governor said.

He listed four improvements needed in Oregon:

Economics, social relationships, politics, and spiritual.

On economics, he said: "Employment is the key of the matter and there is a great deal of work to be done here. We must continue to press forward in jobs and equality in labor unions. A man should be judged on his ability and merit."

On social relationships: "Every time we talk of social relationship this question comes up: 'Do you mean intermarriage?' Intermarriage is the privilege of the individual. People should have the right to make their own friendships, work together and go to church together. You do not isolate groups in housing or other areas."

On politics: "It is awfully easy for us to look down into Mississippi and say, 'Well, thank God, that can't happen in Oregon.' When we say things like this, we're guilty of putting civil rights into little tight categories. We must utilize the total thinking process of our people to solve this problem."

On spiritual: "How in the world anyone can call himself spiritual and not be concerned with the total welfare of his fellow man is beyond me."

Parent-Teacher Confab Under Way At Corvallis

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)—Delegates to the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers meeting here swing today into their initial business sessions.

Some 900 arrived Monday night, and the total was expected to swell to nearly 1,200.

At a pre-convention meeting Monday night the Congress' board of managers agreed to recommend delegates vote Medford the 1960 convention site.

The presidential nominee for the congress is Mrs. Leight Gustafson of Medford.

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Fathers Given Break

SALEM (AP)—Fathers involved in divorce actions would get a break under a bill passed by the House Monday and sent to the Senate.

Under the bill, judges in divorce suits would award custody of the children to whichever parent could do the best job of raising it.

Under the present system, a father generally has to prove the mother is unfit in order to win custody.

Fund-Raising Licenses Vetoed

SALEM (AP)—A bill to require fund-raising organizations to be licensed and regulated by the secretary of state or county clerks failed by a single vote Monday to win House approval.

The vote was 30 to 27, but 31 votes were required to carry the bill.

Rep. Vernon Cook (D-Troutdale) told the House the bill would assure contributors to charitable, religious and educational organizations go where it is intended to go.

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Free Admission Planned At Zoo

PORTLAND (AP)—The Portland City Council is working on an ordinance to provide free admission to the new Portland Zoo on Wednesdays.

School groups would be admitted free on any day. Children 5 and under also would be admitted without charge.

Otherwise admission would be 35 cents for persons 16 and over, and 20 cents for persons under 16. The zoo is to open June 10.

Jail Costs Inflated

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—The budget inflation crisis on the county jail prisoner was recognized here Monday.

The Oregon House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate a bill to allow prisoners to serve fines at the rate of \$3 a day rather than the present \$2 a day rate.

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