

Everyone Expects Changes In Legislative Membership, But What Will They Be?

(Editors note: The revolt which still have about 90 different ideas about the people's management on Oct. 15. Some believe it was a demand for economy. Others believe it was a vote against state aid to education. Some feel it was a rejection of the specific tax bill. Many believe it was a demand for a sales tax. Others say the public wants a cigarette tax. Everyone seems to want economy. But nobody seems to want the kind of economy that takes money from his pet projects — it's the other fellow's spending that's at fault. There has been much talk

By ZAN STARK

SALEM (UPI) — Everyone expects next November's election to produce some sweeping changes in legislative membership—but nobody seems to know what changes to expect.

Will it be a reverse of the 1957 election when the Democrats swept to power because voters reacted to Republican lawmakers who had increased taxes?

Or will Democrats be able to expand their present unworkable 31-29 majority in the House?

Gov. Mark Hatfield doesn't know.

In a post-special session press conference, he said "The legislature redeemed itself in the eyes of the public to some extent."

He then predicted "we will see a significant turnover in legislative personnel next year."

Asked by reporters if he meant he expected Republicans to regain control, the Republican governor replied that the turnover "will act on the legislature as a whole."

The major reason for the uncertainty of what may happen is the fact that the 90 legislators

about the legislature's poor income. Members of the governor's staff admit Hatfield's popularity slipped to a low ebb. There seems to be a gap in communications. State government finance is highly complex. Some agencies, such as the Highway Department, are financed by so-called dedicate funds—in this case the gasoline tax—and are not affected by general fund budget cuts.

Other agencies—such as welfare—get more than half of their money from county and federal matching funds. For every \$1 in

state money that is cut from the budget, \$1.50 to \$2 in matching funds is lost.

There are other agencies, such as the Department of Employment, that are operated entirely with federal funds.

Changes in the state's budget have no effect on operations of

the department of employment. Timing was bad. At the same time the legislature adopted a \$60 million tax increase package, the federal congress was considering a bill to cut federal withholding taxes in the face of increased federal spending.

The state's prisons, institutions, hospitals, colleges and universities seem gripped in a population explosion — thus it costs more to operate them.

The state has been operating at a deficit for years. This year the surplus ran out. There was no multi-million dollar emer-

gency fund to ease the tax bite. Lawmakers either had to cut services and delay construction projects, or raise taxes.

They raised taxes. The voters revolted.

The problem didn't go away anybody's guess.

when the austerity cutbacks were enacted. The problem is still there. It has simply been swept under the rug until 1965.

What will happen in '65 is still anybody's guess.

Mon., Dec. 16, 1963 — The News-Review, Page 5

Legislators Would Quit If Their Pay Was Cut

SALEM (UPI) — A cutback in legislators' pay could cause many lawmakers to resign and others to abandon plans to seek re-election.

The result would be the loss of many of the state's most dedicated and hard-working legislators.

The pay issue has split the legislature. Some lawmakers believe they are performing a public service, and should not receive much pay. Others believe, just as sincerely, that even the higher pay scale now in effect is not adequate.

Almost all agree that the public has no idea how hard most

of the lawmakers work. One of the Senate's most respected and hard working members said privately he would have resigned if a pay increase had not been approved earlier this year, and he will quit if his pay is cut.

Business Suffered Another legislator says his business income suffered so much during the session he needed the salary and expense money to feed himself and his family.

Both are immune to the normal partisan abuse they suffer as legislators, but feel the pay issue is a matter of principle. Some legislators are quite wealthy. Others are not.

There is no relation between wealth and dedication to the job.

Included in the ranks of "workers" and the few "play-boys" are those who are financially independent as well as those who have to watch their pennies.

While a pay hike from \$50 to \$250 a month seems big, and a per diem allotment of \$20 seems monumental compared to the old expense formula, it still isn't very much.

The salary and expenses for most lawmakers this year will total \$5,660. Next year the total will be \$3,000. That's \$8,660 for two years. Some lawmakers on interim committees will receive additional money for attending meetings—but it will just cover their expenses.

Year-Around Job Few private businessmen would think of hiring a \$4,300-a-year man to run a \$600-million-a-year business. The argument that legislators work only four to six months a year doesn't hold—because if they do their job, they're at it all the time, not just while the legislature is in session.

There was a lot of jockeying involved in the introduction of legislative pay cut bills in the recent special session.

Few legislators will admit it, but the fact is the House approved a pay cut bill only after being assured the Senate would not act on it.

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