

# Tuition Remission Plan

## A Welcome Break for Out-of-Staters In Need of Financial Assistance

The most encouraging piece of higher education legislation to come through this year's session at Salem is the ten per cent tuition rebate plan proposed by the Joint Ways and Means Educational Subcommittee. This week the administrative framework for the generous remission plan gets underway. If the plan materializes as administrators believe it will, it will become the most liberal scholarship plan for non-residents in the West.

President Flemming made it known in a letter mailed to all out-of-state students and at his Monday press conference that the University is doing all in its power to help qualified non-residents solve their financial problems. The plan should encourage a large number of non-residents to remain at the University instead of transferring to another school.

Any out-of-state student who is making "normal progress toward graduation . . . in need of financial assistance" will be given full consideration for a tuition remission. Students should begin filing fee remission applications so the faculty committee can make their decisions before spring term ends. Non-residents may receive a maximum fee remission of \$90 per term and \$200 per term for Alaskan and Hawaiian students who otherwise would have faced a 200 per cent tuition increase.

We join President Flemming in asking out-of-state students to delay their decisions in regard to leaving the University. The president has acted with good faith in moving rapidly in setting up the administrative

framework for the fee remission plan. We are hopeful that the fee remission plan will merit consideration and attention from the out-of-staters and that it will offset the negative psychological impact of the \$270 tuition increase. Many of the students who have declared they will transfer to another institution have not fully considered the tuition remissions.

The most difficult task will be in informing incoming freshmen that the remission system exists. The University has had only limited time to consider this area. Greater Oregon will not have time to work effectively on this problem on such short notice, so it will remain the responsibility of non-residents to inform outstanding high school students in their communities of the plan. The remission plan as it has been outlined for new students and transfers will seek to attract non-resident students with high academic qualifications in the future. At a modified level it will make academic achievement rather than financial ability the prerequisite for higher education in Oregon for non-residents.

Over the long run the remission plan will tend to bring better students to the University from other states. While we continue to deplore the unjustified tuition increase, we believe that the remission plan is a progressive partial remedy to the extensive psychological shock which the increase caused. Financial need caused by the increase should not exclude any non-residents next fall. We urge out-of-staters to fully inform themselves about the plan.

# A Promise Is Still a Promise

## The Money For Education Must Be Provided

The Eugene Register-Guard makes an interesting analysis of the Corbett-Mosser bonding plan in this editorial. We reprint it here.

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Sen. Alfred Corbett, Portland Democrat, made a telling point last Monday in a joint meeting of the State Board of Higher Education and a Ways and Means subcommittee. He said, in effect, that Oregon's traditional program for campus buildings is aimed at keeping the students warm and dry and amused, but not necessarily at making them smarter. Those weren't his words, but that's what he was getting at. Oregon can issue bonds for such things as dormitories and student activity centers. But it can't, the way the law has been interpreted, issue bonds for classroom buildings. Those must be paid for in hard cash.

Hard cash is something the Legislature is notoriously short of. Thus there is some legislative temptation to dip into the bonding capacity and try using that for classrooms. The difference between the two kinds of buildings should not be overlooked. Dormitories, student centers and buildings of that kind are, in the term, "self-liquidating." That is, they are paid for from rentals and profits, as they are being used. No tax money goes into them. The classroom buildings do not show a direct profit.

The Register-Guard thinks the moral obligation is clear. Educators, with the backing of the Legislature, made a promise. They ought to stick to it. No hanky-panky, please.

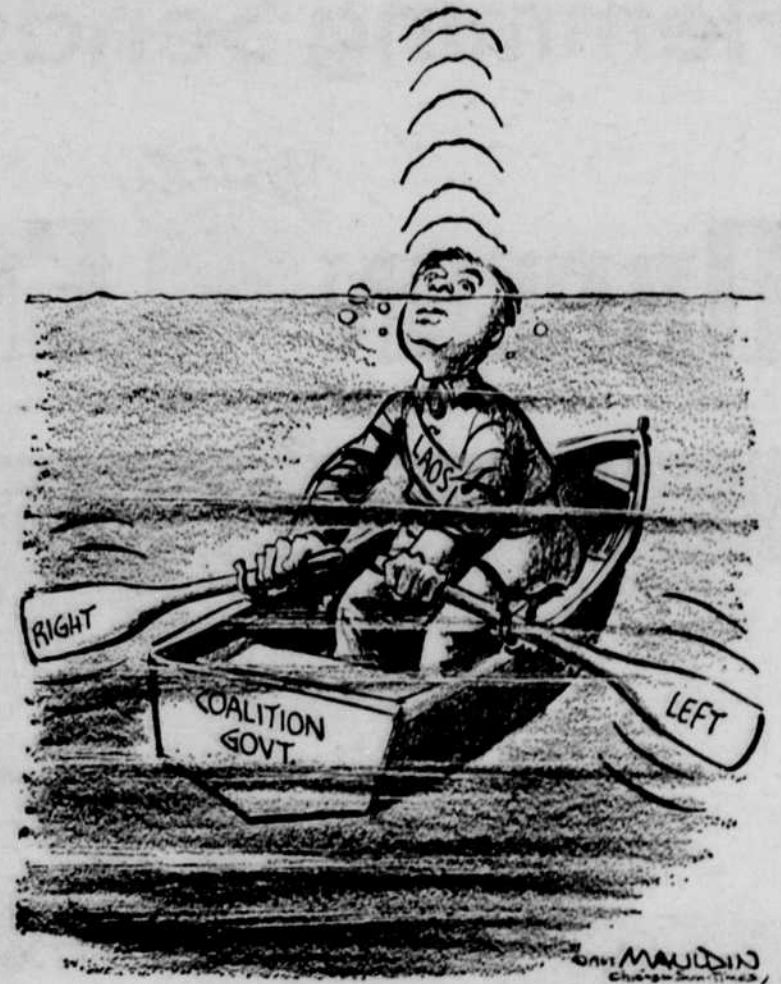
However, this newspaper also believes, as it believed at the time of the 1960 elec-

tion, that it is proper to bond for academic buildings. We do it for grade schools and high schools. We do it for our businesses and our homes, borrowing ahead for the buildings we'll be using over the years. There is no good reason why the principle should not be extended to college buildings.

However, the people must first approve such bonds. The proper course for the Legislature now is to put the question to the voters no later than next May, and possibly at a special election. Some three years would elapse between voter approval of the bonds and the first use of the new buildings. And those buildings are needed right now. By 1967, the need will be pressing, indeed.

The System of Higher Education had a superb organization at work for it in 1960, when it promoted authority for the dormitory bonds. Possibly that organization can be reassembled now to carry the message again to every village in Oregon. The need is pressing.

Meanwhile, to answer the immediate need, the legislators ought to scratch a little deeper. Higher education says it needs \$47 million in buildings in the 1963-1965 biennium. The governor says it can do with only \$20 million worth. The ways and means committee is talking of \$10 million in cash, another \$10 million in bonds. The likelihood is that history will repeat itself and show the Board of Higher Education to be right again. Certainly the governor's \$20 million is skimpy enough. That money just must be provided, and it ought to be provided in cash until the voters indicate their willingness to pass the bill on to future generations.



Doug Combs

## The Oregon Legislature An Analysis of Inaction

Doug Combs is a member of the Emerald Editorial Board and President of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity.

In legislative terms if there were a direct correlation between time spent and accomplishments the Oregon Legislature after nearly four months of session would be ready to wind up its business. But the fact remains that this time has passed and no major pieces of legislation have been approved. The members of the legislature have done little or nothing at all towards passing the state welfare budget or the State Board of Higher Education budget, which combined comprise the majority of the state's total budget. They have also failed to pass any adequate tax legislation.

What is the problem? Possibly, they feel that they are "damned if they do and damned if they don't" with the result that they are afraid to act. It is common knowledge that on nearly every item that passes, someone is hurt by it or is against it for other reasons. Are the legislators afraid of the voices of protest? Do they feel that by inaction they will be able to escape severe criticism? Or is it the fact that next year is an election year and after all—who wants to antagonize potential voters?

It seems to come down to this: the Oregon Legislators may be afraid of criticism. This could very easily be. Criticism and protest are forms of pressure. On April 2, Sen. Pearson made a comment to the effect that they (the legislators) are tired of being pressured. They seem to forget that pressure and the different forms it may take, such as protest and criticism, are some of the main ways a group attempts to get their legislation passed. These are legitimate parts of the political process—an outlet for a group to make their demands known and a means for them to peacefully agitate for its passage. In other societies without this outlet, the means often take the

form of subversive activity or even revolt. Every politician in any democratic society is subject to this pressure in one form or another, which is an integral and accepted part of the system. If a politician cannot cope with pressure and demands from his constituents, possibly he is in the wrong business.

Another aspect of the current session is that the expense accounts of the members expire after 120 days. At the end of this time, which is drawing very near, what will happen? The prospects of any major legislation being passed are very dim indeed. When the 120 days expire will the legislators remain in Salem and try to get something accomplished, will they act haphazardly in an attempt to get through, or will they adjourn without acting? Only time and the legislators themselves have the answer, which will be framed in the context of whom they are serving—the State of Oregon as a whole or themselves.

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### About Letters

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