

Legislature ponders pot, meat packaging

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Three legislative proposals aimed at restricting the sale and possession of marijuana paraphernalia have little "political chance this session," says Rep. Tom Mason, D-Port-

land, chairer of the House Judiciary Committee.

The committee will begin hearings on the bills Wednesday.

One bill outlaws the sale of paraphernalia to minors but allows those over 21 years old to

grow three marijuana plants. The second has similar anti-paraphernalia provisions but lacks the cultivation allowance. It also makes it a crime to allow a minor on the premises where the devices are sold. The third makes it illegal for anyone to

possess paraphernalia.

"This might be a phony issue," Mason says, noting that the Legislature decriminalized marijuana possession several sessions ago.

"I think it's bizarre that you would outlaw more stringently the devices used to smoke a substance that you've only made a violation."

The Senate ratified a constitutional amendment that would give Washington, D.C. one representative and two senators Monday.

Congress approved the amendment and sent it to the states for ratification in 1978.

The resolution now moves to the House, which must approve it if Oregon is to join the eight states that have accepted the change.

Supporters of the amendment repeated the classic American motto of "no taxation without representation."

But a more compelling motto is "no death without representation," says Rep. Gratten Kearns, D-Eugene.

"The people of the District of Columbia have been called upon to defend this nation in each of the wars of the last century, yet they've never been allowed a voice in the national legislature which decides the

policy and must declare that the United States will be engaged in armed conflict.

"It's the worst kind of inequity to be called on to defend freedom when you don't have it yourself."

Sen. Mike Thorne, D-Pendleton, was one of the six senators who voted against the measure.



"I felt for some time that the District of Columbia was established to create a neutral zone. Granted, it's not a clear issue — there's a lot of people living there now where there wasn't years and years ago when the zone was established. But I think the principle has to be upheld."

A similar measure was introduced last session but passed the two bodies in different forms. The House wanted to refer the issue to the people for an advisory vote, but the Senate refused. The bill died in conference committee.

Like any constitutional amendment, the D.C. voting rights measure must be approved by three-fourths of the states, meaning that 29 more must ratify it before the 1985 deadline.

Not every bill considered by the Legislature is monumental. Some are aimed at mundane aspects of life.

Rep. Glen Whallon's "pork chop" bill is a good example. The legislation would require meat to be sold in a clear wrapper. Whallon, D-Milwaukie, labelled the measure a "truth-in-packing" bill.

"For example, a package of pork chops might have two perfect specimens showing, but when you get the meat home you discover the three chops on the bottom — the ones that were hidden from view — are full of bone and fat."

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Northeast Eugene Sector

Date: 2/10/81 Place: Campbell Center, 155 High Street.
Time: 12:30-2:30 pm

Date: 2/11/81 Place: Cal Young Junior High Cafeteria,
2555 Gilham Road. Time: 7-9 pm

Thurston Sector

Date: 2/26/81 Place: Thurston Middle School, 6300
Thurston Rd. Time: 3-5 pm

Date: 2/26/81 Place: Thurston High School, 333 N. 58th.
Time: 7-9 pm

Southeast Eugene Sector

Date: 2/19/81 Place: Amazon Community Center, 2700
Hilyard. Time: 1-3 pm

Date: 2/19/81 Place: Roosevelt Junior High Library, 24th
& Hilyard. Time: 7-9 pm

Bethel/Danebo Sector

Date: 2/25/81 Place: Petersen Park Barn, 870 Bertzen.
Time: 1-3 pm

Date: 2/25/81 Place: Petersen Park Barn, 870 Bertzen.
Time: 7:30-9:30 pm

Springfield Sector

Date: 2/11/81 Place: Farwest Federal, 1570 Mohawk.
Time: 7-9 pm

Date: 2/12/81 Place: Willamalane Senior Center, "C" &
Water. Time: 1:30-3:30 pm

Southwest Eugene Sector

Date: 2/18/81 Place: Eugene Public Library, 13th &
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Date: 2/18/81 Place: Eugene Public Library, 13th &
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