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Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

Political 'Firsts' Habit For State's House Speaker

Inability of the Senate to achieve early organization failed to keep Oregon legislators from beginning the business of the 56th Legislative Assembly.

Even as Senators remained stalemated in their attempts to elect a leader, the House of Representatives launched itself into the lawmaking process. At the helm stands Speaker Robert F. Smith—only the third Oregonian to succeed himself in the position during the Legislature's 112-year history.

Legislative "firsts" are more of a habit with the tall, 39-year-old businessman and cattle rancher from Burns, however. And House determination to conduct business as usual reflects the no-nonsense attitude with which the Speaker approaches his job.

Representing Harney and Malheur Counties continuously for a decade, Smith entered politics reluctantly—twice withdrawing from his first race before determination of fellow Republicans prevailed. Once the die was cast, he traveled 8,000 miles to meet and convince voters in his initial contest. He was re-elected by increasing majorities during five succeeding elections and has won nomination of both parties since 1966.

The son of a physician, Smith early distinguished himself in athletics by being named to a national YMCA All-American basketball team with Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlain. He earned his degree in business administration and economics at Willamette University and returned to Burns to build a ranch business he runs primarily by telephone today. Intensive community activity as a Jaycee led to state and national honors, county GOP leadership and, ultimately, his role as a legislator at age 29—then youngest ever to serve in the House.

At the State Capitol, Smith renewed acquaintance with a fellow Jaycee, F. F. "Monte" Montgomery, and in sessions of 1965-67 served both as House Speaker Pro Tem and Majority Whip, another legislative first. As Speaker in 1969 (the first from Harney County) Smith's leadership qualities attained new highs. At the conclusion of a session many believed would never get off the ground, statewide news media were

nearly unanimous in praise of legislative accomplishment in general and the House Speaker in particular.

In his opening remarks to the House in 1969, Robert Smith called for unity to achieve goals in governmental reorganization, environmental enhancement and property tax relief. Legislative goals were largely met and he followed up with innovative interim Task Force studies to implement and complete the job.

Smith's opening remarks this year echoed his previous challenge and likely will achieve similar results. Highest on the Speaker's priority list for the '71 session is the toughest task facing this Legislature: finding a way for the State to live within its means without sacrificing necessities.

Reiterating his belief Oregon voters "legislate" their own taxes at the polls, Smith steadfastly maintains the 1971 session won't refer any major tax reform to the people.

Education also is near the top of Smith's priority list and the future of higher education is of special concern. Falling in the same category is the unfinished job of governmental reorganization, problems relating to Oregon's inevitable urbanization and those involving environment and livability.

At the same time he is determined the House should do all in its power to make Oregon's business climate attractive to present industrial residents and newcomers alike, providing both can operate without undue damage to the environment.

In this respect he is particularly adamant, calling for faith in the institutions of free enterprise and citing the necessity of economic development to pro-

vide new jobs required annually to employ Oregonians living in the state today.

The House under Smith's leadership has demonstrated its ability to work well with the Senate and the office of the Governor. Within its ranks, a sense of genuine respect pervades when Minority Leader Earl Haas vows partisan conflicts will involve only major issues.

This attitude was bolstered when-after Smith announced heavily GOP-weighted committee assignments, Haas remarked: "He is treating us as well as I would any Republican."

Oregon political tradition doesn't rank Speaker of the House in the same stepping-stone category with offices of similar responsibility, but chances are better than ever that Robert Smith's leadership—anaachronistically combining warmth and aloofness, could lead the cattleman from Burns to more political "firsts" before he sheds his boots.

"Shucks," declared an observant constituent, "He's even friendly with sheepherders."

LETTERS to the Editor

Need Foster Homes

TO THE EDITOR:
Do you have room in your heart and home for a foster child? This recently adopted recruiting slogan is being used in a state-wide drive to increase the number of active foster homes. A reasonably broad spectrum of foster homes is essential to insure appropriate placement of those children who require foster care. The reasons for placement are many, illness of parents, abuse, neglect, abandonment, but they all stem from one factor: inability of the parents to provide an adequate environment, physical or emotional, for their children. Do you have room—

for a few years for a child who needs a temporary home while his parents resolve their problems? If so, please call the Curry County Public Welfare Department, Gold Beach, 247-6666. If not today, tomorrow at the latest.

Very truly yours,
CURRY COUNTY PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSION

Insurance May Be Tax Free

Insurance payments covering living expenses incurred by the taxpayer when his home is damaged by fire, storm, or other casualty may be tax free, Arthur G. Erickson, IRS District Director for Oregon, said today. The exclusion is available when the taxpayer must find temporary living quarters while his home is being repaired.

People who have been denied access to their homes by governmental authority because of threat of such a casualty are also entitled to the exclusion, Mr. Erickson said.

The exclusion is limited to the excess of actual living expenses for the taxpayer and members of his household over normal living expenses.

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As I related last week, the flu bug did hit us in grand fashion, as it did a lot of other folks hereabouts. We even had a few earaches thrown in to make things more interesting. But finally the crew is cured . . . or mainly so. There's still a cough or two occasionally . . . and a swollen gland here and there . . . but they're all back at their school desks.

As bad as the flu is, I'm glad to say that some good came from the seiges . . . namely the two youngest daughters, No. 3 and 4, graduated from the pill chewing stage to the pill swallowing stage. Which means we no longer have to worry if there is no "baby aspirin" in the medicine locker . . . they can now take a "big" aspirin.

Maybe that doesn't seem like too much of an accomplishment to people who have been swallowing pills for years . . . but look at it from the youngster's side. In the first place, most pills have a bad taste, especially when they are aspirin, and they have a habit of sticking in the throat where they immediately begin to melt. I might also note that you can't really disguise the flavor of an aspirin by mashing it in honey or preserves, either. There's still that bitter taste. And once a youngster becomes aware that an aspirin tastes . . . it means that ALL pills taste.

And therein lies the trouble in teaching pill swallowing to youngsters . . . fear of taste.

But learn they must . . . and learn they did . . . after several mildly forceful and hilarious lessons from bride, No. 3 daughter (7 years) had the most trouble . . . requiring three or four daily lessons before mastering the art.

The first morning bride announced that the time had come to learn pill swallowing. No. 3 girl developed an immediate case of closed-mouth-fear. Nothing doing, thought she. But bride can be persuasive when the occasion arises . . . and it did. And there was girl child practically shaking from fright with her eyes shut against that little white monster in bride's fingers.

She finally opened her mouth so the pill could be slipped way back on the tongue. Snap went her jaws as a glass of water was placed in her hand and she was ordered to drink. She took a mouthful good as you please . . . but for the life of her couldn't swallow it. Nope, it just swirled around in her little mouth . . . and all the time that little pill was dissolving.

So she headed for the sink and discharged that water with some amount of force, I'll tell you, along with what was left of the pill. Nothing to do except start over. In went the pill . . . in went the water. Head tilts back. The swallow. Head drops forward . . . mouth opens . . . eyes open . . . pill drops to kitchen floor . . . soggy.

One more time . . . same results. By now the whole group is watching and whooping it up in grand fashion . . . which only makes it doubly hard on the youngun. But she's tough and agrees to another attempt.

And I guess you know that hard-coming tearful smile of success was worth it. Talk about proud of accomplishment . . . she was . . . or is, whichever the case may be. The littlest tot had less of a problem but went through nearly the same contortions before making the grade.

It's little things like this that keep family life exciting . . . and very challenging.

The fire department crabfeed is fast approaching and I expect everybody will attend to help

Dellenback Reports

by Rep. John Dellenback

Priorities For The 92nd Congress

Problems in search of solutions. The 92nd Congress begins this week to confront a number of pressing problems. Some were tackled—unsuccessfully—in the last Congress while others are just now emerging. As always it will be a matter of setting priorities—ranking problems in order of importance and then developing legislative solutions.

As this area's Congressman, my top priorities include a number of projects directly affecting the Fourth District. My bill to create an Oregon Dunes National Recreation area took some giant leaps along the legislative road last year, but it will have to be introduced again in the new Congress. I will put it in the hopper on the first day of the session and will continue to push for early approval by the Congress. Another important measure calls for the construction of the Olalla project in Douglas County's Umpqua Basin. We have been hindered because this project has a very marginal benefit-cost ratio. High on my list is maximum funding for the Rogue Basin dams, for the Coos Bay Port, and for the Merlin project.

It is vital that this Congress do something about the nation's welfare program. We need a revised system which will give help where needed, but will also encourage participation in training programs leading to jobs to support individuals and their families. We see the need for federal action when we look at Oregon's welfare costs. Welfare expenditures have grown from 9.75 of the state budget in 1967-69 to an estimated 18.6% in 1971-73. Although the Family Assistance Plan cleared the House last year the Senate's refusal to act killed the measure.

Congress should enact a plan whereby a portion of Federal revenues would be distributed to states, counties and local communities. This would relieve some pressure on local real property taxes and permit local governmental units to set their own spending priorities instead of having them all set by the Federal government. While the 91st Congress refused to consider revenue sharing the proposal has widespread support and I am hopeful that this new Congress will act on this matter.

Major laws dealing with student aid and construction of educational facilities expire at mid year so we must give early and serious attention to developing new legislation to meet the urgent needs of the nation's colleges and universities. We also will be concerned with providing additional assistance for community colleges and vocational training programs and with coordinating day care programs.

While the last Congress passed laws dealing with clean air, water quality improvement and solid waste disposal, the 92nd must consider further remedial measures in this field. We must also deal with the urgent problem of the draft and how it should be modified.

In the political realm, in addition to future efforts on Congressional reform, there are two pressing problems which merit attention. If we are to change the method by which we elect the President before the next election, Congress must approve a constitutional amendment almost immediately. This is another instance in which the House acted only to be frustrated by inaction on the part of the Senate.

The other area is the manner of financing and conducting political campaigns. It is my strong belief that we should do something about the skyrocketing costs of campaigning before the next election. Although this is a complex problem to which there are no easy solutions, the voters and the candidates deserve a better system.

These are just a few of the major problems confronting the 92nd Congress. I hope and trust that partisan politics will not get in the way of the nation's welfare, and that the Congressional Reform Bill enacted last year will prove truly helpful in making the system function more effectively and more responsibly.

BIRTHS
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hilleman, Port Orford, girl, Roseanna Fay, born January 15, 1971, 8 lbs. 5 ozs.

the cause . . . and enjoy the meal . . . it's set for Jan. 30, which will give you a chance to go to the crab feed and attend open house at Hahn Hardware the same day.

Only it won't be Hahn's on that date 'cause the Baldwins are running a contest to change the name. If you enter you could win the \$50 gift certificate . . . why not give it a try? OR just drop by to meet the gang and have some coffee and a donut. Check their ad in this issue.

The other day bride got to noticing that No. 4 girl child (5 years) has resorted to telling a few little white lies. (Just to get her way and keep herself out of trouble, you understand.) So bride figured it was about time she had another (in a long series) talk with her about the importance of telling the truth.

At bedtime the other night she figured it would be a good time for the lecture and set about doing just that.

Their conversation went something like this:
Bride: "Shell, I think you've been telling a lot of lies around here lately, haven't you?"

No. 4: With brown eyes enlarged to their fullest and a look of utmost honesty on her face, "Oh no, mom, I haven't, honest and truly and cross my heart" . . . and so forth.

Bride: "Now Shellie, you know it isn't nice to lie so tell me the truth . . . you have been lying, haven't you?"
No. 4: "No, mom, honest . . . but I have been telling a lot of jokes lately!"

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Oregon Flood Info Available

Victims of the Oregon floods can obtain tips on first aid for flood damaged homes and household equipment ranging from wood floors to sewing machines, through a series of emergency flood information fact sheets prepared and distributed by the Cooperative Extension Service, Oregon State University.

Fact sheet subjects include directions for repairing and refinishing wood floors, plus first aid and salvage recommendations for water damage smooth floor coverings, sewing machines, leather objects and books, rugs, walls, household metal objects, furniture, bedding and household linens, clothing, home electrical generators and motors. A separate sheet lists methods for cleaning and care of flood damaged tractors and farm implements.

The emergency flood information was prepared by extension specialists at OSU. The free fact sheets may be obtained by calling your county extension office, or by writing to the Agricultural Information Office, Oregon State University, Corvallis.

Log Exports Still Raise

A total of 188.8 million board feet of logs, Scribner scale, was exported from all ownerships in Washington, Oregon, northern California, and Alaska in November 1970, according to David Research Economist David Darr of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland. Although the November volume was down 14.4 percent from the total for October, the volume was up 4.9 percent compared with November 1969 shipments.

Washington and Oregon exports amounted to 168.9 million board feet, a decrease of 13.5 percent from the October volume. November shipments from northern California declined 10.6 percent from the previous month to a total of 14.1 million board feet. Alaska exported a total of 5.7 million board feet in November compared with shipments of 9.6 million board feet in October. Japan was the destination of 182.5 million board feet, or 96.7 percent of all November shipments.

Douglas-fir accounted for 21.2 percent of November shipments, and Port-Orford-cedar, 1.2 percent. Other softwoods, primarily western hemlock and

Myers Wants Book Change

Secretary of State Clay Myers said today "the taxpayers don't get their money's worth" with the present lack of restrictions on candidate's material included in the Voters' Pamphlet.

Myers told the House Elections and Reapportionment Committee that the Voters' Pamphlet does not give voters the kind of objective information they need to make knowledgeable decisions.

The Secretary of State said he will again submit a bill to the legislature asking that candidate's material be at least partly standardized in the Voters' Pamphlet. Myers said the material should contain the candidate's age, education, present occupation and prior governmental or professional experience.

"Such basic information would enable the voter to assess the candidate's qualifications for the office he is seeking," Myers said, "whereas now the voter has to indulge in a kind of guessing game about office-seekers."

Myers said the Secretary of State's office compiled, printed and distributed about 2 million Voters' Pamphlets during the primary and general elections in 1970 at a cost of \$261,392.

He noted that a similar bill submitted to the 1969 legislature did not pass. But he said this session the measure will be jointly endorsed by the League of Women Voters and the State AFL-CIO, and he hoped "this additional prestige and support would be sufficient to get the bill through."

PARENTS VISIT

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bill May and children last week-end were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Cook of Oakland. Joyce McGraft of Medford, sister of Mrs. May, spent Monday night with the Mays.

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true firs, accounted for the remaining 77.6 percent. November shipments had a total value of \$24.1 million. The average value of all shipments was \$127.58 per thousand board feet. Douglas-fir averaged \$117.10 per thousand board feet, Port-Orford-cedar, \$413.23, and other softwoods, \$125.94. Softwood log exports totaled 2.3 billion board feet through the first 11 months of 1970, 15.9 percent more than for the same period of 1969.

Women Elect New Officers

Thursday, January 14, the Womens Missionary Council of the Port Orford Assembly of God Church elected new officers for the coming year.

Joyce Klinner is the new president, Irma McDaniel, vice-president, and Marge Reese, secretary-treasurer. These officers were formerly held by Marie Hawks, Jo Frost, and Nita Colson, respectively.

The next meeting will be held January 28, at 10 a.m. at the church. All women are welcome to attend.

ROBINSON GUESTS

Recent visitors at the Harold Robinsons were Mike McBride from Kapowsin, Wash., Lanette Anderson from Grants Pass, and AIC Larry Robinson from Beale AFB, California.

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