Port Orford News

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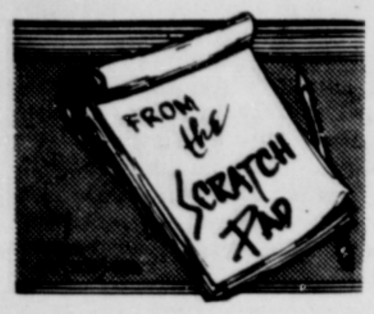

From where I set the good ol' U.S. of A. was mighty lucky to have pulled out of Nam when they did . . . else they'd have been whupped because of the lack of fuel to run all them planes and ships and choppers and big general's staff cars and such. Out in the nick of time, it appears. The current "shortage" also points out something else that I didn't know . . . all the gas companies pump their crude oil from the same well. Must be a fact—cause they all ran short at the same time. Wow.

Oregon gas dealers, however, don't go along with the shortage theory, and they said so at hearings of the Oregon Transportation Committee held in Salem May 17. About 450 persons attended the hearing . . . but all they could do was talk to each other. Seems that the oil companies fergot to send their representatives . . . even though they had received special invitations. Probably afraid of being asked questions that had no answers.

-P-

Was in Portland Friday and Saturday to take in the last two days of a whopping big conference. Not the kind I have occasionally attended in the past, however. This one wasn't the boozing-partying-and some business-type convention. This one was all business . . . and good business.

It was the annual conference of Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship. And I mean to tell you I have never seen anything to compare. It was held at the Sheritan Motor Inn across from Lloyd Center and attended by businessmen from all over the western states, and their wives and families. And these were men from all faiths and types of business. Manufacturers, hotel chain owners, doctors, lawyers, ministers, gas station owners, and like that. But they weren't there to talk business . . . they were there to fellowship and worship the Living God. The spirit of love in that grand ballroom could not be anything but REAL.

And the same spirit prevailed at the colliseum where the youth were holding services. Their sincerity and enthusiasm was a real sight to see. Many of these youngsters had been the route of drugs and alcohol and what have you . . . before turning their lives over to a Lord and Master who cares. There was a special light in their once sad and frustrated faces. They had finally found what they needed and they were full of joy . . . and ready to meet the challenges of life head-on.

Ask any one of them what gave them such new direction and without any hesitation . . . their faces would light up and they'd tell you that Jesus was the answer.

I'll tell you it was a real faith-building experience. The kind of experience you don't forget.

-P-

I know there is a front page story on the Pacific graduation tomorrow night . . . just want to remind those who don't read the front page. (Though I can't imagine who that could be . . . except maybe the bride.)

-P-

There are still thousands of Fabulous Fifties to be assembled yet, but we've got enough ready for you to send to all your relatives and friends. You can pick 'em up at the office free . . . or we'll mail 'em for you at 50 cents each.

Salem Scene

Legislative Report from the State Capitol EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries

by Jack Zimmerman

Direction Of Legislation Disappoints 'New' Minority

There's a discouraged minority in the Oregon Legislature at Salem these days.

It isn't partisan. This minority is agrarian.

For decades following its inception, farmers made up a natural majority in Oregon's Legislative Assembly. This situation began to erode shortly after the turn of the century and had fallen completely by the wayside by the middle of the present century.

As the 57th Assembly begins to consider adjournment of what most observers believe will be the longest session on record, the relative handful of bonafide farmers and ranchers among the 90-member body appear frankly disappointed in achievements favorable to their rural constituency.

This viewpoint is expressed individually by chairman of Agriculture and Natural Resourses Committee of both Senate and House. Freshman Sen. Mike Thorne (D-Pendleton) reports his seven-member panel from the Upper Chamber has considered 111 measures and could probably wind up its business within a week of receiving notice to do so. Sophomore Rep. Bernard (Bud) Byers (D-Lebanon) heads the 11-member House committee that has considered some 93 measures related to agriculture and believes that panel could finish its work within a week also.

But with adjournment relatively imminent, both believe farm legislation is a misnomer this session. Rather, most new laws relating to agriculture are more closely akin to consumer, environmental and recreation interests.

In a period when the Federal Government is withdrawing from its traditional farm-support role, when small farms are becoming a thing of the past and when producers of foodstuffs are taken for granted -- except when rising food prices provoke public ire -- the farmer in and out of the Legislature feels like the forgotten man.

Thorne and Byers tend to personally epitomize Oregon's agricultural plight. The 32-year-old Senator is a third-generation wheat and livestock rancher involved in a family operation on one of the 10 largest ranches in Umatilla County. But he divides his time between ranching and real estate to attain economic stability.

Byers, a former Western Oregon seed grass grower, who grew up on a Linn County farm, now looks to electrical engineering to sustain his family.

Thorne's extra occupation is a typical situation among Oregon farmers and ranchers. Byers' shift from farming is indicative of what has happened to Oregon's traditional basic occupation. By headcount, the present Assembly contains no more than seven fulltime farmers and ranchers -- one in the Senate and six in the House. Statewide some five percent of the population lives on farms and derives the bulk of its sustenance from those farms. From a percentage standpoint one might say farmers have more than their share of representation in the Legislature.

But Oregon's agriculture problem involves more than those who actually till the soil. Many thousands more are dependent upon farmers for the payrolls they receive from the food processing industry.

Biggest complaints from both Thorne and Byers probably involve the negative aspect from the farm-ranch point of view regarding current legislation. It's predominantly regulartory and restrictive. Both men would like to see a more positive thrust.

They point out agriculture is a sizeable contributor to the state's general fund -- second only to the timber industry. And they believe the state should be more actively involved -- not just in protection of agriculture -- but it's vigorous development. They look upon agriculture as another proverbial golden egg-laying goose, in danger of extinction unless a more positive legislative stance is adopted.

They cite the need for agricultural research and market development. Thorne, for instance, believes wheat production could be doubled and beef production quadrupled.

Byers believes scant fiscal attention paid to soil conservation is an insult to agriculture -- compounded by the monetary generosity bestowed upon land use planning.

Farm interests are not happy with movements this session and last that would further change the Agriculture Department to one dedicated even more strongly to consumer interests. They are disappointed this Legislature will probably fail to enact meaningful farm labor legislation.

And both Thorne and Byers' speak for all agricultural interests when they deplore the lack of knowledge about the problems of farmers and ranchers -- not only among their legislative peers -- but the public in general.

So what is the outlook for legislation favorable to Oregon farms in the 57th Assembly? No good, according to the farmer - rancher delegation. Not bad, according to the only sizeable farm lobby. But the latter statement, although far from optimistic, is tempered by the fact the farm lobby primarily is holding action -- forced by circumstance into an attempt to preserve what the farmer now has and compromise propositions that make more difficult his ability to make a living off the land.

Farmer lawmakers generally are bitter that major farm legislation doesn't become an issue until it involves a problem of scandalous proportions. Examples this session could include tansy ragwort, coyotes and the tussock moth.

The farm delegation believes this attitude can be changed only through long term public education -- backed by a positive thrust on the part of state government dedicated toward improving the lot of agriculture, not just sustaining it because we all have to eat in order to live.

Oregon Today

by Don Willner

Being a member of the Joint Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature is always a tough job. This Legislative session the task of matching appropriations to anticipated revenue is almost impossible. As I wrote in an earlier column the Nixon Administration's proposed federal budget significantly cuts state programs. And there is still no way of knowing to what extent the United States Congress will agree with the President's budget cuts. With an anticipated state general fund budget of about $1,025,000,000 for the next two years this leaves somewhere between $50,000,000 and $100,000,000 of anticipated federal monies uncertain.

The second new factor is what effect the gasoline shortage and the power shortage will have on anticipated state revenues. If gasoline is rationed and fewer tourist dollars are spent in Oregon, one of Oregon's major industries, the tourist industry, will pay less income tax and motorists will pay less gasoline tax. Similarly, much of Oregon industry only receives interruptable power which will be cut off if there is a power shortage and this could mean shutting down of factories in the next two years and less income tax paid by the factory owners and workers. Though we know there is a gasoline shortage and power shortage, no one can predict its precise impact from now through June 30, 1975, which is the budget period now being considered by the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Both of these considerations clearly will require a special session of the Legislature next year. Meanwhile, most of the big budgets are still in the Ways and Means Committee even though a normal Legislative session would be about over. As of this writing welfare, education, higher education, children's services and highways are still being considered in committee and this means that the Legislature is no where near being finished.

In addition, the failure of the Governor's tax program at the polls and the likelihood that no major tax changes will be made by the Legislature itself means a great crunch on the financing of new programs. If the Legislature extended property tax relief to renters and increased the level of state school support from the present 23 per cent to 35 per cent, this in itself would take most of the available uncommitted money. Still awaiting funding are a whole variety of new programs for people and the environment. For example, start-up money for bonding for low-income housing, half-way houses for alcoholics and the alcoholic education program, the financing of the new land use planning buill and the current cost of sewer and sanitation bonds are all still in doubt. The chances are that few new programs will be funded.

The difficulty of the Ways and Means Committee again point out the necessity for the Legislature meeting at frequent intervals through out its two-year term rather than trying to budget in advance for the two-year period.

Legislative Log

NEWS FROM COOS-CURRY LEGISLATORS

Sen. Jack Ripper

Rep. Ed Stevenson Rep. Bill Grannell

With adjournment expected within a month, the pace of the Legislature is really speeding up. Many bills which have had hearings in the prior weeks are now being tabled or passed from committee, and the workload of bills on the floor of the house is increasing accordingly.

Rep. Stevenson reports that several bills have passed the House in the past few weeks which he feels are not in the best interests of our area. In spite of his active opposition, SB 100 dealing with land use, HB 2282 banning off-road vehicles on public lands, and HB 2276 allowing use of gas tax money for mass transit, have passed the House. Of these bills only SB 100 has previously passed the Senate and is on its way to the Governor for his signature. Senator Ripper and Rep. Grannell voted for SB 100 in its amended form, considering it the most workable of the several land use bills before the Legislature.

The Fisheries Conservation Zone bill which was sponsored by your Coos - Curry Legislators has passed from/Ways and Means, sub - committee, again with amendments which take the teeth out of the proposal. The original 50-mile limit was returned to the bill at the request of Sen. Ripper, since the suggested 200 mile limit was considered unrealistic and unenforceable. The sub-committee deleted the State Police enforcement authority and the appropriation of funding. Sen. Ripper will make an effort to have these provisions put back into the bill when he carries it before the Full Ways and Means committee.

As the Bill now stands, it would provide for management and regulation of fisheries resources by the State Fish Commission to the continental shelf a distance of 50 miles offshore. It would be a step in establishing the State's rights to the fisheries resource, and the protection and regulation of seasons and types of equipment which may be use.

The House has passed a bill which would extend property-tax deductions for the widows of veterans and disabled veterans. Rep. Grannell said it would affect city and county revenue "very little, but "it provides further tax relief to those widows and disabled veterans who earn less than $4,000 per year." The bill would provide relief on property valued up to $10,000.

A bill concerning taxing of airport properties was passed from committee this week. Airports, such as North Bend Municipal Airport, which provides service to the entire county, would be exempt from paying property tax to the county.

Senate Bill 312, the Tansy Ragwort Control program, is still in the Ways and Means Committee, and Rep. Stevenson is organizing an attempt to get it passed out.

Sometimes stopping a bad bill is as important as passing a good one. A county merger bill, aimed at consolidation of Oregon's 36 counties into 8, was defeated on the floor of the Senate, according to Sen. Ripper who spoke against the bill. In speaking against the bill, Sen. Ripper pointed out the unrealistic approach used by the authors, which did not take into consideration geographical barriers such as mountain ranges, or lack of connecting highways between parts of the super - county proposed for southern Oregon. "There isn't even a highway from Curry County to Grants Pass," Sen. Ripper told the Senate. "It might be convenient for the Portland-Tri County area to become one county, but it would add nothing but hardships for the people in downstate areas who have to do business with their government."

A bill which should have beneficial effects of boosting the economy and stimulate investment in Oregon businesses was voted by the Senate and sent to the House. AB 228 would make investment of State funds within the state have a priority, and would authorize the State Treasurer to invest in Oregon if there was not substantial sacrifice in monetary yield. Among funds invested by the State Treasurer is the public employees retirement fund.

Log Exports See Record

A total of 327.1 million board feet of softwood logs was exported from all ownerships in Washington, Oregon, northern California, and Alaska in March 1973, the U. S. Forest Service reports. The volume for March was up from the previous monthly high of 326 million board feet in August, 1972, according to David Darr, research economist with the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland. March exports increased 44.3% from the February total and 3.2% from the March 1972 volume.

Some 316.1 million board feet or 96.6% of west coast exports were shipped to Japan.

March exports from Washington and Oregon totaled 313.2 million board feet, 46.4% more than the February volume. Northern California's exports increased 14.2% to 11.6 million board feet. Shipments from Alaska totaled 2.3 million board feet in March compared to 2.7 million board feet in February.

Douglas Fir accounted for 33.2% of March exports and Port Orford cedar, 0.8%. Other softwoods, primarily western hemlock and true fir, made up the remaining 66%.

The value of March shipments averaged $281.33 per thousand board feet, with a total value of $92 million at port of exportation, a new monthly high. Douglas fir averaged $254.76 per thousand board feet; Port Orford cedar, $354.32; and other softwoods, $293.80.

Export of softwood logs from the west coast totaled 771.5 million board feet for the first three months of 1973, 38.1 percent more than for the same period of 1972.