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dellenback Report
BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DELLENBACK

Oregon Today
by Don Willner

CONGRESS WORKS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The President designated May as "Senior Citizens Month." A small gesture, some might say, in these days of many causes and many such designations. But "Senior Citizens Month" represents an important and significant point: the needs of the elderly are not being forgotten in Washington.

At the close of "Senior Citizen Month" it seems highly appropriate to review some of the developments in recent months that will have an impact on older Americans.

It was nearly 18 months ago that over 3,500 Americans met in Washington to tackle the huge task of accurately determining, and then finding ways to meet, the needs of our elderly. At the time of the White House Conference on Aging, I said, "Needs of the elderly have too often been quiet needs, but they have now reached a point of the greatest urgency and cannot be ignored."

Since that time Congress has taken action. Just a few short weeks ago President Nixon signed into law the Comprehensive Older Americans Services Amendments which I co-sponsored. This bill created a number of new programs and strengthened the role of the Administration on Aging by placing it directly under the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Among the changes to be implemented as a result of the new law are the establishment of a national clearing house for information on the needs of older Americans and a program to employ persons age 55 or older in local community service projects. The new provisions encourage communities to better utilize the talents and free time of older Americans by continuing funding for the National Older Americans Volunteer Program and for Foster Grandparents, as well as other volunteer programs.

On another front, Congress is finally moving on another important piece of legislation which I have strongly supported. Last year a program to meet the nutritional needs of the elderly was passed and signed into law, but no monies were appropriated to fund the program.

It now appears that something in the neighborhood of \$75 million will be available for the program this year. An important proviso has been added to the legislation which would make 1973 fiscal year funds available until the end of the calendar year. These funds will provide grants to communities for the purpose of serving well-balanced meals in a central location.

Obviously there is much yet to be done if we are to be truly responsive to the problems of the elderly. Two specific measures now being considered would provide pension protection for workers and property tax relief to low and middle income taxpayers 65 and older. These proposals and others are in the beginning stages of development and will be receiving a good deal of legislative scrutiny in coming months.

There is much yet to be done in the way of making the future more secure and livable for our senior citizens, but we have made a start.

Legislative Log

NEWS FROM COOS-CURRY LEGISLATORS
Sen. Jack Ripper

Rep. Ed Stevenson Rep. Bill Grannell

The 1973 Legislature held its regular sessions on Memorial Day even though most other state operations were closed down for the Memorial Day holiday. Key state officials were on duty to work with various legislative committees. Monday's calendar for the Senate had 24 bills under consideration. It's amazing how much work we can get done even when we wish we were out camping, too!

North Bend Airport will be the beneficiary of a new provision which will allow municipal airports to be more self-supporting. Senator Jack Ripper announced, HB 2274, which would exempt from taxation property leased by the airports where rentals are used exclusively for airport purposes.

"This is a law that will help keep the North Bend Airport solvent. The money saved by the exemption of property taxes on this leased property must be spent on maintenance of the airport facilities. The airport is operated as a separate utility and all of its revenues are used exclusively for airport purposes, and it is not permitted to be subsidized by taxes. HB 2274 would provide about \$10,000 each year in additional net revenues for this airport. It does not penalize the citizens of North Bend, while the service offered by the airport is regional in nature and serves all of South Oregon." Senator Ripper said. Sen. Ripper first introduced the bill in the 1971 session.

The open container bill passed the Senate following much debate on the floor. HB 2728 would prohibit persons from drinking alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles or having an open container of alcoholic liquor in their automobile.

The bill specifically spells out that "no person shall have in his possession on his person, while in a motor vehicle upon a highway any bottle, can, or other receptacle containing any alcoholic liquor, which has been opened, or a seal broken, or the contents of which have been partially removed." The bill is part of a package of bills pertaining to safety on the highways.

In the House, Rep. Grannell and Rep. Stevenson spoke in opposition to proposed increases in commercial license fees and sports licensing for crab, ocean fishing and clam digging. The bill would have increased commercial fishermen's licenses from \$23 to \$150, and would require a \$2 sports license for crabbing, clamming and ocean fishing in addition to requiring a regular fishing license. The bill, not having enough votes to pass is still before the House at this writing.

Rep. Grannell, in a letter to Attorney General Lee Johnson urged that he undertake investigation of the oil industry in possible anti-trust violations

and prosecute if evidence warrants. Grannell pointed out that in other states experiencing gas shortages, the Attorney General is making vigorous investigations into the shortage and in four states have filed lawsuits against the major oil companies. "These investigations overwhelmings point to deliberate shortages created by the companies," said Grannell.

In Ways and Means committee HB 5095 was passed out to the floor of the House, which would appropriate \$35 million to the basic school support for the biennium. It is estimated that this bill, if approved will provide for State support to elementary and secondary education equal to 34 percent of school operating costs.

Senate Bill 105 was also favorable considered by W and M. This bill directs the Mental Health Division to develop a statewide system of evaluation and treatment of those persons requiring medical and mental treatment who are convicted of

The new revised and limited tax program of the Oregon House of Representatives will probably be debated during the week in which this column is printed. If it passes the House it then must go to the Senate Revenue Committee and then to the floor of the Senate. But the Senate tax experts have already been considering ideas that are very similar to those in the House package so Senate consideration should not take so long. Though legislative leaders are still talking wistfully about completing their work and going home in the third week in June the July 1 date still looks to be more realistic.

The tax program has to be put in final form before ultimate decisions can be made on the size of the budget.

In addition to tax and appropriation matters there are still a number of bills in the legislative works. A major revision of the state's environmental law has not passed. Though most of the changes are just rewritings of the present code, there is some new language, especially in the sewage disposal area, which still needs attention. A complete revision of the procedures in Oregon's Criminal Code has not yet been approved. Both of these tasks are the results of two years of interim study and though they are less controversial than some of the matters before the Legislature, they are of major importance.

The bills dealing with conflicts of interest of legislators and other public officials and regulation of lobbyists are still in the Committee of Professional Responsibility. These bills are on the "must" list of the speaker and the president and will probably pass in some form. Certainly the Watergate hearings are making it easier to pass this legis-

driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor, and would be financed in the budget adopted for Mental Health.

SB 505 in Ways and Means, also was passed out, which establishes a State Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology within the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources. The bill as approved would permit the state Board to waive the examination requirement for those individuals who are now actively engaged in the practice of speech pathology or audiology.

In other action they favorably considered a bill to increase the minimum standard of need for Aid to the Blind in the Public Welfare Program from \$110 to \$135 per month. Financing of this increase will be provided in the budget of the Public Welfare Division.

The Special House Revenue Committee appointed to work out an alternate plan for property tax relief and school financing is finishing a month's work on a cluster of bills which will be voted on separately. A report on this tax plan and other legislation of interest to our area will be explored in next week's Legislative Log.

Dust Oiling Change Made

Due to weather conditions the dust oiling project previously announced by the Siskiyou National forest has been changed.

The following is the new schedule for the Chetco, Gold Beach and Powers Ranger districts.

Winchuck Road #3907, June 4.
Chetco River Road #376, June 4 and 5.
Lobster Creek Road #343, June 6.

Agness Road #333.4, June 11 and 12 (end of pavement to this side of Illinois River bridge).

Agness Road 333.3, June 12 and 13 (from Agness Pass to this side of Agness).

Agness Road #333.1, June 14 (by Daphne Grove campground).

Experimental Road #3301, June 14.

Agness Road #333.2, June 14 (from junction of road #321 to Agness pass).

Elk River Road #325.1, June 18 and 19.

Anyone driving on the above listed roads is advised to drive at 5 m.p.h. There are alternate routes for some roads. Advice as to the alternate route and any other changes of oiling dates can be obtained from Chetco Ranger district, 469-2196; Gold Beach Ranger district, 247-6651; Powers Ranger District, 439-2421 or the Westside Engineering Zone office, 247-7026.

Municipal Court

MAY
David M. Kirby, Port Orford, careless driving, \$53.
Richard Wilson Major, Coquille, driving on wrong side of highway, \$17.
Stanley Jack Allison, Port Orford, excessive noise, \$17, \$6 suspended.

Diana Lynn Forty, Port Orford, improper U-turn, \$17.
John Patrick Byrd, Coos Bay, following too close, case dismissed.
Gene Fredrick Curtiss, Brookings, non-appearance, case pending.

Gerry Lee Jankowski, West Linn, improper U-turn, non-appearance, case pending.
Richard Jeffery Marr, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, 30 days.

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Well, George, after only three short weeks the old garden is showing some results. That means that so far everything is showing through the sod as it should be... and it looks like we're well on the way to another big year's savings on vegetables. We're going all out to top last year's production... as well as going along with the gov't's suggestion to grow a garden and help the over-strained budget. (You know the old pitch... grow a garden and help food costs. Only thing I don't understand is where I can get seeds for a few rows of beef steaks and some pork chops.)

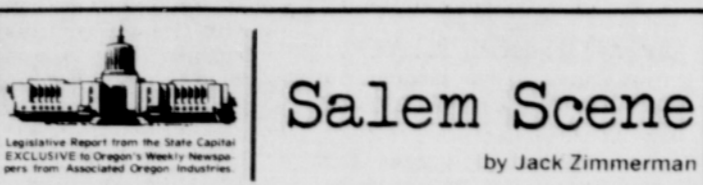
Only thing I don't like about the garden is its location. Nobody can see it behind the high board fence between it and the Elk River road. So therefore passers-by are deprived of the thrill of seeing all them rows sprouting beans and peas and spuds and onions and carrots and squash and so forth like that. I mean it's a sight that would almost bring tears to your eyes. It's really sad to know so many people will not get to enjoy the beauty of things springing forth from row after row of delightful green vegetables. But that's the way things go.

What I should do with that fence is move it... down the road a ways to hide that terrible mess my neighbor is trying to grow. People driving up river should remember to keep their eyes straight ahead after they round the curve past the Marsh ranch. That way they would be spared from the horrible mess the Goodes' laughingly call a garden. You'd think that after all the year's they've been trying they'd have learned something. I've been evaluating their efforts as I drive by and think maybe I've come up with some suggestions they could use for next year.

In the first place, their soil is too dark and rich. This may be the reason their garden seems to be growing so fast. Another thing is the overall appearance. I mean it really looks funny to see this dumb garden setting out their smack in front of their house (where it'll no doubt sadden the eyes of the beholder) with its uniform perimeter and straight rows. (I laugh just thinking about it.) Straight rows... get it? And those vines (peas or beans... who can tell I ask you?) getting themselves all tangled in a great big net-like thing they had to build just to keep them vines from spreading all over the ground and snuffing out whatever else they're trying to grow.

I noticed, too, that they're keeping out the weeds... which means that the vegetables will receive the full impact of all nutrients in their soil. And ol' Lloyd should have remembered about them nutrients from last year. 'Cause they're the reason for his over-production year after year. (They probably forgot how the bride had to go down and help them out of their predicament by taking a bunch of produce off their hands... just so they wouldn't be the laughing stock of Elk River!)

But the Goodes are good people and we try to do what we can. After all... what are neighbors for?



Sunshine 'Clouding' Work On Ways & Means Committee

With the 57th session of the State Legislature in Salem virtually assured of becoming the longest in history, increasing attention focuses on efforts of the 12 men and two women who make up the Ways and Means Committee.

Deliberations by that body generally dictate each biennial session's length. And when Ways & Means completes its job, the Assembly usually adjourns sine die within two weeks.

Why is Ways & Means so important? Because it handles the money, that's why! The welfare of the state's many wards, the hopes and aspirations of zealous bureaucrats and the very livelihood of thousands of state employees all depend upon decisions made by Ways & Means.

And -- on the surface at least -- it would appear those decisions are being made with painful slowness. After nearly five full months in session, something less than half of the more than a hundred budgets Ways & Means must address have been passed out of committee.

The committee's pace, however, is misleading. That pace may be more painstaking than usual. But the work is in hand and the Legislative Fiscal office -- the Legislature's full-time staff of financial analysts -- believes the remaining pieces of the current biennial money puzzle could fit quickly into place.

Under the best conditions, the work of Ways & Means is tedious. Conditions this session have been -- and still are -- far from ideal.

Chaired by two veteran Democrat lawmakers, Sen. William Holmstrom (Gearhart) and Rep. Phil Lang (Portland), the partisan-majority leadership was hard pressed to find equally experienced people to complete its roster. Only six have served before on Ways and Means. Three from the Senate work seats in the Upper Chamber this session after relatively short periods in the House. And two from the Lower Chamber are freshmen.

Lack of experience is bound to be a factor. But bigger factors abound. For the first four months the committee was somewhat hampered while the Assembly struggled with a revenue program. And that struggle continues.

Belt-tightening in Washington, D. C., also continues to give the committee fits. Some

school of the Port Orford grade school. The school budget has been reduced by \$20,000, according to a front page story... and certainly deserves your consideration.

In case you've forgotten, the big Jubilee Auction is set for next weekend at the fire hall. That's June 15-16. Marie Hawks and Floyd Chase are heading up the fireworks benefit and you may call them at 332-3621 or 332-3371 to donate items. And they need lots of them.

Dates of this year's Jubilee will be June 29-30, because July 4 falls on a Wednesday and the chamber felt a weekend celebration would be better for all the poor working folks.

The chamber meets at the Pizza Parlor next Monday to wrap up plans for the Jubilee, and if you've a mind to help why not attend the meeting, or send your representative. Time's mighty short and there's still lots to do.

By now all you dear ol' moms no doubt realize that school has recessed for summer vacation. Ain't it gonna be a fun summer?

Workers Will 'Give' Nickel

An amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Law requires employers, starting July 1, to retain five cents from each day's wages paid to their employees. Since 1941, workmen in Oregon have contributed two cents daily to assist their less fortunate fellow workers who have suffered injuries on the job.

The daily five-cent contribution will go into three special funds to benefit injured workmen. Three cents will be for a Retroactive Reserve to pay increased workmen's compensation benefits to claimants and beneficiaries. One cent will be for the Second Injury Reserve to encourage employers to hire previously injured workers and the other cent will be placed in an Administrative Fund to help pay for a new disability prevention center.

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