

Port Orford News

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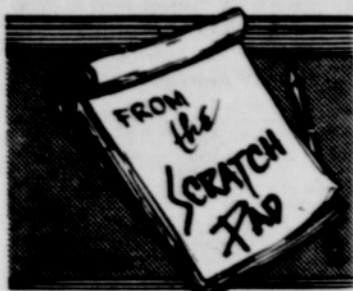
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THE EARTH IS SACRED. "The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. How can you buy or sell the sky—the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. Yet we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water. How can you buy them from us. Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shiny pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people."

"We know that white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother but his enemy, and when he has conquered it he moves on. He leaves his fathers' graves, and his children's birthright is forgotten."

"There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps because I am savage and do not understand—the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frog around the pond at night?"

"The whites too, shall pass—perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires, where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and the beginning of survival?"

Would you believe that the above words were written nearly 120 years ago? The author was Chief Seattle of the Duwamish Tribe in Washington. The letter was sent to President Franklin Pierce in 1855.

The wisdom of that Chief was pretty obvious, wouldn't you agree?

-P-

We ran a story on the NYC (Neighborhood Youth Corps) last week... but here is additional information you may find of interest.

The NYC provides an opportunity for young people to work in or near their own community for about \$1.60 per hour. Funds for the program are provided by the federal government through the U.S. Dept. of Labor to assist low-income family youngsters in school—ages 16-17 years are eligible. Applications or further information may be obtained at the local Community Action office, located in the old White hotel building, or you may call their number, 332-2421.

-P-

Who'd ever think that a little old clock radio could give anybody trouble... 'cept maybe by not playing? Let me tell you they can even be dangerous... mighty dangerous!

Tuesday morning, after I'd left for the office, bride rolled out of the covers as she usually does... for reasons that need no explanation... and smelled something a wee bit funny. Nothing she could determine right off... just a funny odor. She looked around but couldn't see anything out



Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

Public May Ponder Price Of Progress

The 57th Legislature maintained the Oregon custom of enacting progressive legislation.

But that seemed about the only tradition to survive the record 180-day precedent-setting Salem marathon.

It was obvious as early as last November that this would be a different type of session. Voters filled nearly half of the 60 House seats with freshmen and gave Democrats clear-cut ruling majorities in both chambers for the first time in a decade. School finance, property tax relief and land use planning had been election issues and were destined to dominate deliberations when sessions met.

Up to a point prognosticators were right on. But lawmakers tore up the script when the first gavel fell on Jan. 8 and adjourned for six months until late the afternoon of July 6.

Something more than 2,000 proposals of all types were introduced and the total may run as high as 2,500. An estimated 867 became law. Both figures, whatever they become when an accurate tally is completed, will be new records.

Although the Senate tended to retain relative composure, leadership of both chambers found it necessary to depose committee chairmen and pack committees in order to move favored legislation.

Waltzing together last January, executive and legislative branches finished the session dancing alone, fists clenched and cocked. Dissension in the ranks, animosity and even occasional fistcliffs are not necessarily unique when the Oregon Legislature meets, however. And considering lawmakers spent 23 more days together this spring and summer than any of their predecessors, the fact turmoil was kept to the level it was stands as some sort of tribute.

On the accomplishment side of the ledger, solons did bounce back from voter rebuke of their first attempt at overhauling school finance and relieving property taxes. Passed was a three-stage program boosting state support of schools now from 22 percent to 30 percent of operating costs and providing at least \$100 of property tax relief to homeowners making less than \$15,000 a year.

Renters also share in the relief and the only immediate tax increase involves payment of corporate taxes in advance.

of the ordinary. She went back in the bathroom and checked the heater. Nothing. Then she checked the living room heater. Nothing. But the smell was getting stronger. She went in No. 3 and 4 daughter's bedroom. The smell was stronger. It was like hot plastic. No heater on. She glanced up and spied an old radio on the bed headboard. It was plugged in, but turned off. She looked a little closer... and discovered a small fire burning right dab in the back of that little plastic radio box.

Well, sir, by the time she had unplugged the thing it was starting to burn to a fair-you-well. And by the time she had ran with it out to a burn pile there were flames leaping up a couple of feet. And by the time she threw it on the pile them old flames was a jumping four feet or so.

Had there been nobody home, that little fire would have touched off the wooden headboard, caught the curtains on fire, then the ceiling and bedclothes... and on and on.

Makes you mighty glad that "Somebody Up There" really does watch over us!

And it points out that you can't be TOO careful about the little things we don't give a second thought to as causing any problems.

Second and third stages -- destined to increase state support to 50 per cent, establish workable new tax bases, streamline distribution of funds and limit spending increases -- will be referred to voters at next May's primary election.

Money for these changes would come from increased personal income taxes and a 50 per cent jump in corporate taxation. Land use planning legislation was diluted sufficiently for an urban-oriented legislature to swallow. But rural interests already have mounted a campaign to obtain signatures sufficient to refer SB 100 to a statewide vote.

And next year's elections will be sprinkled amply with referendums and possibly initiatives -- all as a result of action or inaction during the 57th session. Lawmakers referred 16 of their own proposals to the people, four next May and a dozen the following November. And sponsors of legislation aimed at reducing conflict of interest among officeholders and regulating lobby activities have indicated they'll seek statutes stronger than those enacted during the session.

Majority lawmakers generally succeeded in perpetuating themselves in office by liberalizing voter registration procedures, limiting campaign spending, expanding interim staffs, extending substantive committee activity and enlarging a Democrat-controlled (11-4) Emergency Board.

Wage earners will find employers providing substantial additional benefits in Workmen's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance. And a complete review of labor legislation enacted provides goodies across the board for nearly everyone but the boss. Included are government workers (the right to strike -- excepting police and firemen), statewide elected officials and judges (sizeable pay boosts), state workers (ample raises), the privately employed (higher minimum wages), the unemployed (greater compensation for fewer weeks worked) and the unemployable (more welfare).

Lawmakers failed to vote themselves increases in pay and expense. But then they were paid substantial raises enacted last session, drew expenses nearly a month longer than '71 legislators and anticipate a special-session payday sometime after the first of next year.

Much of the session's precedent-setting involved inexperience and indecision. Legislative Counsel doubled the number of amendments written in 1971. Motions to reconsider bills became the rule, rather than the exception. One bill even was pulled back from the governor's desk for further doctoring just before he had a chance to sign it into law. The governor exercised his veto (rarely done by McCall) only to have it overridden by lawmakers (for the first time in 10 years).

Despite shortcomings and length, the session so far is attracting its share of praise from those in and out of government who usually attempt to assess success or failure.

But the consumer, for instance, is supposed to be better off for deliberations in the Capital City this year. And you'd have to say he is synonymous with John Q. Public.

Despite exhaustive hearings before legislative committees during the session, no one has heard from John Q. since adjournment. He knows the session was long and he knows it was different. But he doesn't know how much it's going to cost by the time the next session convenes in January '75.

Public reaction to the cost of the 1973 session might be just as "progressive" as the session itself.

ADVERTISING PAYS



George A. Fagment
Port Orford News

Dear George:

In the first place, if the man from the funny farm would watch where he is driving, things here 200 feet from the road wouldn't bother him.

I am having problems, too, though... when the peas get to the top of the net, they just keep right on growing—until they lop down over. The beans get to the top of the poles and wind around themselves until they fall down.

I suppose one solution would be to put up higher poles... but who wants to pick beans from a stepladder?

I took a look behind that rickety old fence up the river from here, and the people at the funny farm don't seem to be having that problem.

Do they plant dwarf seeds or do they have some other secret?

Maybe they just bought half-priced seeds so their garden would grow only half as big.

Lloyd Goode
Elk River Road
(O.K., George, you can tell Lloyd that it's show-down time! Next week comes the actual authentic untouched photos of our respective bean crops... then the truth will out! —Head Honcho, Garden of Eatin', Elk River Road.)

TO THE EDITOR:

From time to time during the session I wrote describing certain legislation requested by the State Treasurer. Now that the dust has settled, I thought you might be interested in the survivors (and a few casualties).

House Bills 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146 and 3168: All of these bills, constituting our local government "investment package", passed the Legislature. The package of legislation should be of real help to our sometimes financially hard-pressed local government units. They should realize a substantial increase in

investment income because of this legislation.

House Bills 3143 and 3144 were combined by the Senate into one bill, and it passed without problems. These measures broaden the types of investments available to local governments. Our office will keep a current list of recommended investments for the assistance of local governmental units.

House Bill 3145 gives an additional small amount of assistance to local governments by requiring the Highway Department to distribute the funds to them quarterly, rather than semi-annually.

House Bill 3146 will allow placement of funds in mutual savings banks and savings and loan associations, which sometimes provide a greater return.

House Bill 3168, the main bill in the package, creates the local government investment pool concept. Under this legislation, local governments can pool their excess idle funds for investment by this office. Because of the greater expertise and wider range of investments available to us, it is anticipated that local government investment income will increase substantially. The City of Portland anticipates a 20 percent increase in investment income as a result of this measure.

HB 2250, at the request of the Oregon Investment Council, allows investments of up to 35 per cent of Public Employee Retirement System funds in common stock. Presently the authorization is 25 per cent and investments are actually at about 22 per cent.

HB 3077, at the request of the State Treasurer and the Attorney General, is a tough and sensible election law reform bill, designed to bring full disclosure of sources and amounts of dollars expended. The key is the single treasurer concept which outlaws several committees from boosting one campaign and thereby rather effectively hiding campaign dollars.

HB 2263, at the request of the Governor's Task Force on Collective Bargaining in the Public Sector, which I chaired, passed after a tough battle. The bill, in my opinion, is the best in the nation. Under it, all public employees have the right to bargain collectively, under prescribed rules. Its passage was the climax of years of personal effort, starting before the 1971 session, and it's good to see the job done.

Ways and Means also agreed to update the Treasurer's office operation and authorized installation of computers to help the staff's effectiveness. A few bills got away, including the Municipal Bond Bank



COMPROMISE ON CAMBODIA

The shootout at OK Corral got more publicity. Yet the recent "High Noon" in the nation's capital has been called by one close observer of the national scene "the most significant action taken by the American Government since the election."

This "shootout" was between the President of the United States and the Congress. For months and years the President and the majority of the Congress had been in agreement and working together to end this country's military involvement in Southeast Asia. With the peace agreement covering the Vietnam came a parting of the ways. The President wanted to continue bombing Cambodia until a peace agreement covering the country was also signed. But a majority of the Congress decided that Cambodia represented a beginning of a new involvement rather than an end of the old involvement.

The House of Representatives and the Senate passed amendments to two important funding measures calling for an immediate cutoff of funding for military efforts in Cambodia and Laos. The President vetoed both bills and indicated he would follow suit with any subsequent measures calling for an immediate bombing ban.

Many of us in Washington visualized a scenario that would have the Congress attaching anti-bombing amendments to vital spending bills and the President then vetoing each in turn.

Since the federal fiscal year was to end June 30, and since the business of the federal government could not have proceeded without the pending money bills being passed, both the President and the Congress were stymied. Without compromise, the United States would face national paralysis.

At almost the last minute, on June 29, both sides agreed to accept and enact into law a compromise amendment which specified a cutoff date for combat activities in Southeast Asia. While this move was a compromise and did not provide as early an end to the bombing as I, and many of my colleagues, wanted, it did several critically important things. First it put into law a specific date -- August 15 -- beyond which any military involvement in Indochina must have the explicit approval of Congress, and it added coverage of both Vietnam to the original coverage of Cambodia and Laos.

Second, this compromise between the Executive and the Legislative Branches kept the government functioning. Coming as it did in the face of a crisis which potentially could have brought government operations to a standstill, it demonstrated both the capacity and the need for flexibility and responsible compromise which are such a critical part of our system of government.

If Congress had continued to attach stop-the-bombing-immediately provisions to important legislation, and if the President had continued to veto bills containing such provisions -- vetoes which no doubt could not have been overridden by Congress -- many absolutely vital government services and activities would have come to a halt.

And third, the final action established the principle that the Congress will be involved in any future war-making foreign policy decisions. For the first time in this, our nation's longest war, carried on almost totally by Executive fiat, we have an Administration agreeing that it will seek Congressional approval before any further significant action of a war-making nature is taken.

This last point is extremely important, and yet it has been overlooked in almost all news coverage of the compromise. A number of us in Congress have been pushing for legislation which would spell out the respective roles of Congress and the President in initiating and overseeing any future foreign military involvements. We have now taken an important step toward re-establishing Congress' war-making responsibilities and I hope we have laid the groundwork for passage of a meaningful War Powers bill.

and the bill at my request which would have set the primary election in late August.

HB 3280 died in Senate State and Federal Affairs in the closing days. It would have required special attention and planning by governmental units for the waters and immediately adjacent lands throughout the state. Presently, I am working on a policy declaration for presentation to the State Land Board which will accomplish this, at least, for state-owned waters and our submerged and submersible lands.

This session did pass bonding proposals totalling some \$1.47 billion. Two measures can be implemented without a vote of the people. They are the sixty million dollar increase in Department of Environmental Quality funding authority for pollution control devices, and the \$150 million for highway construction.

The proposal to authorize 200 million dollars in revenue bonds for low cost housing does not specifically require a vote of the people, but may require a court test to insure potential bond purchases.

Three proposals -- two hundred million dollars for community development projects, four hundred million dollar increase in veteran's loan capacity, and three hundred sixty million dollars for irrigation and water development -- will be subject to voter action at the next general election.

Prior to, and during the session, I contacted bond rating firms in New York. They feel Oregon is still on solid ground with our overall evaluation at 20 billion dollars. Not all of the bonding projects are general obligations, but are revenue bonds which do not have a direct impact on bond ratings.

All in all, it was an extremely productive session, not only for this office, but for the people of the state.

Very truly yours,

JAMES A. REDDEN

State Treasurer

An Open Letter To The People

As President of the Oregon State Senate, I would like to share with you my thoughts about this most recent session and to tell you about some of the important laws enacted.

January, 1973 marked the 57th time since the writing of Oregon's constitution back in 1859 that elected men and women gathered in Salem for the regular meeting of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. In several respects this session differed markedly from previous assemblies.

The most obvious difference was the sheer volume of legislation we processed. Nearly 2,500 separate bills were in-

troduced this year, which is roughly 600 more bills than any Oregon Legislature has ever considered before. This fact suggests that more groups and more people were sufficiently concerned with our society to come to the Legislature, publicly express their ideas, and try to have them translated into law. It is precisely for this purpose that the Legislature exists.

To handle the work load, both the House and Senate spent more time in committee meetings and held more hearings than any of the other 56 Legislatures that preceded this one. In their work, the legislators have been ably assisted by a larger, professionally oriented staff. Developing a high quality legislative staff is something that we have begun to do this session. It has already paid dividends by reducing the paperwork the lawmakers themselves must cope with and by improving the quality of the legislation that is eventually passed. A highly capable group of non-partisan consultants and researchers whose primary loyalty is to the legislature itself will be invaluable in helping the Senators and Representatives make the unbiased, informed decisions they should make.

Another laudable characteristic of this legislature was the extent to which bi-partisan cooperation in the Senate has replaced the inter-party antagonism which characterized some former sessions. On many of the most important issues which came before the Senate, members of both parties repeatedly showed a willingness to tackle the problems on their merits rather than on dogmatic party lines. I made every attempt to reinforce this spirit by being fair and reasonable. I felt that the Senate President should preside over the entire Senate -- not just the majority caucus. The amount of work accomplished this session would not have been possible had it been otherwise. There was less partisanship in the Senate than in any legislative session in which I have ever participated.

The bi-partisan spirit was most evident in the two School Finance and Property Tax Relief plans which the legislature drew up during the past several months. No legislature in the history of this state has ever referred a major tax proposal to the people while the session was still proceeding in Salem. When the McCall Plan was turned back by the voters, we went back to the drawing boards to redesign a new program of property tax relief and school finance. After hours, days, and weeks of negotiation, the second plan reached its final form and passed the Senate in the last week of the session.

The new tax plan would require three different steps. Phase I would come a year from now, when the voters decide on the issue of establishing new tax bases for schools throughout the state. Included also will be a reduction from the automatic 6% yearly tax base increase to one of 4.5%. Elections to exceed the base would be limited to two a year.

The final phase is also subject to voter approval, and would increase state funding of schools to 50%. Other provisions of this proposal would include an increase in corporate and personal income taxes, a new decrease in property taxes, and a limitation on federal deductions on state tax rates to \$3,000. School funds would be distributed through an ingenious equalization formula that would guarantee an equal educational opportunity for every boy and girl in Oregon.

The Legislature these past months was not burying its nose just in tax matters. Laws that will be important to most of us were passed in a number of different fields. Of criminal procedures thanks to months of work by the Interim Committee on Judicial Reform and painstaking efforts this session by the House and Senate Judiciary committees. These new statutes, when added to the revisions made last session, give Oregon a completely modernized criminal code.

Senate Bill 100 will have a direct or an indirect effect on almost every one of us, for it establishes a comprehensive land use planning program aimed at preserving one of the state's most valuable non-renewable resources -- the beauty and liveability of the land. The bill provides for a reasoned approach to the problem of land use, aiming to regulate haphazard development which would harm rather than contribute to the welfare of the whole society.

Phase II would come a year from now, when the voters decide on the issue of establishing new tax bases for schools throughout the state. Included also will be a reduction from the automatic 6% yearly tax base increase to one of 4.5%. Elections to exceed the base would be limited to two a year.

The final phase is also subject to voter approval, and would increase state funding of schools to 50%. Other provisions of this proposal would include an increase in corporate and personal income taxes, a new decrease in property taxes, and a limitation on federal deductions on state tax rates to \$3,000. School funds would be distributed through an ingenious equalization formula that would guarantee an equal educational opportunity for every boy and girl in Oregon.

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In a time when national events are stimulating distrust and cynicism regarding the political process, the Oregon Legislature has enacted several measures which will help insure integrity in all branches of state government. A lobby registration and spending control law will insure that interest group tactics are not abused, and a bill calling for the disclosure of conflicts of interest for important public officials has passed both houses. An open meetings law will guarantee public access to the governmental decision-making process. Mention should also be made of the newsman's shield law which protects news sources from being investigated because their story was revealed in the media. In addition, SB 541 puts a lid on campaign spending and should prevent large amounts of money from overly influencing an election.

Two bills which affect the field of housing were considered and favored by the Legislature. HB 2398 permits the state to issue \$200 million in bonds to finance medium and low cost housing. A landlord-tenant act was set forth in SB 159. This measure, which spells out the rights and duties of both parties, received approval from both houses and will soon become law.

Steps were taken to continue the remodeling of state government through the creation of a Department of Economic Development, a Health Commission, and a Transportation Commission. A proposal amending the Constitution to permit highway funds to be used for mass transit will be sent to the voters for their consideration.

Consumers will be glad to know that the regulations in the Bottle Bill have been tightened up to conform with the original intent of the legislation, and perishable foods must now be labeled to indicate their freshness.

That significant bills were passed this session is of course welcome news to all Oregonians. But it is also important that bills were defeated.

Bills are not just dry laws; they are vital ideas about the way in which our society should be shaped. Every time a bill is defeated, it indicates a choice has been made between the old way of proceeding and a new. New ways are not necessarily better, but the very fact that they are seriously proposed forces us to reevaluate customary procedures and regulations. Such reevaluation acts as insurance against inflexible agencies and laws, and as a stimulus towards social evolution.

This most recent legislature has been an important one for the people of this state. As legislators, as lobbyists and members of the press, and especially as concerned citizens, I wish to thank you for your help in making the 57th

State Joins Program To Evaluate Safety

Oregon's Motor Vehicles Division will begin participating this month in a nationwide research program designed to evaluate the effectiveness of highway safety programs. It was announced Thursday by Chester W. Ott, Administrator.

The program, developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and called the Fatality Analysis File, will be nationwide.

Ott says the program of fatality analysis will go far beyond the usual accident report statistics compiled by the Motor Vehicles Division and will provide detailed information on questions that have long been unanswered.

Among other things the study will include data on blood alcohol levels, number of fatally injured occupants who were wearing lap and/or shoulder harnesses, number ejected from vehicles, type and degree of injuries and the types of vehicles involved by make, model and year.

This information will be correlated with information relating to the driver's previous history, highway and vehicle history.

Ott says the information will be compiled for entry on a computer at NHTSA headquarters and the data will then be made available to the states participating in the program.

The federal government is paying all costs for the program, thus the state will be able to receive and utilize data not previously available without any increase in expenditures.

White House Record Poor In Survey

Ninety percent of the 45,000 Oregonians responding to Senator Bob Packwood's May questionnaire opposed aid to North Vietnam, and 42 per cent said they thought the White House was doing a poor job.

Twenty-two per cent of the respondents, however, said the White House was doing a good job, and 6 per cent evaluated the White House job performance as "excellent."

Congress did not fare as well. Eighty per cent of those responding said Congress was doing a fair or poor job. Fifteen per cent of those polled thought Congress was doing a good job and only one per cent evaluated Congress' job performance as "excellent."

The questionnaire, which was mailed to more than 550,000 Oregonians without regard to party affiliation, sparked concentrated response on the question of log exports. Eighty-five per cent of the respondents said that all log exports should be phased out except for those surplus to our needs. Six per cent of those polled favored retaining the present law which places a limitation only on exports from federal lands, 3 per cent wanted no restrictions on log exports and 6 per cent had no opinion.

The question on capital punishment showed a marked contrast to the results of a referendum on capital punishment in Oregon in 1964. At that time, 60 per cent of the persons voting were opposed to capital punishment and 40 per cent of the voters were in favor of capital punishment.

In Packwood's latest questionnaire, 86 per cent of the persons queried favored capital punishment for certain crimes, and only 12 per cent opposed capital punishment. Two per cent of the persons responding had no opinion.

Compared to a year ago, opinions still ran high against granting amnesty. Last year, 85 per cent of the persons responding to a question on amnesty were opposed to it. This year, an identical question showed 80 per cent of the persons responding opposed amnesty.

Other highlights of the survey showed: *35 per cent of those polled thought we should provide economic assistance to South Vietnam, but 61 per cent were opposed.

*63 per cent of the respondents thought all farm subsidies should be abolished.

*53 per cent of those answering the questionnaire said poisons should not be allowed to control animals such as coyotes, while 39 per cent favored the use of poisons.

*61 per cent of the respondents said 18 should not be made the age of majority, and 35 per cent thought it should.

Legislative Assembly the busiest, the most open, and perhaps the most effective in Oregon's history.

JASON BOE, President Oregon State Senate