

THE Sandy Post



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February 6, 1969



SALEM SCENE

by ERRETT CUTTER

House Taxation Group Studies Two Main Plans

Some wags here suggest that the reason recordings are made of committee meetings is so that each successive legislature can haul out the tapes and not have to discuss the same old issues.

But while problems often tend to be the same and proposed answers may sound familiar, the legislative process is far from instant replay. One big difference this year is that Oregonians almost certainly can expect to vote on that foremost issue of legislative and public concern: Tax reform.

Four main ideas have been put before the House Committee on Taxation according to its chairman, Rep. Floyd H. (Hank) Hart, R-Medford. Only two, however, have been presented in bill form, and they are getting most consideration now.

The two packages have been introduced in the House, where revenue measures originate, one at the request of Gov. Tom McCall and the other by Rep. Joe Rogers, R-Independence. Both have that ring of familiarity. The governor's plan is very similar to the property tax relief bill which was defeated by one Senate vote in 1967. Rep. Rogers' is virtually the same as legislation he introduced in the regular session two years ago.

Both plans would limit local property tax growth. Then they propose to reduce property taxes by about 25 to 30 percent through raising state aid to local school districts to 50 per cent of their operating costs. This goal, Rep. Hart notes, would require about \$100 million annually in additional revenue to the state.

Gov. McCall's plan would raise such an amount through a 3 per cent retail sales tax and 16 2/3 per cent increase in corporate taxes. Rep. Rogers' package would give the people a choice between a 3 per cent sales tax or increased income tax -- an increase which would amount to about 60 per cent.

"Our job in committee is to come up with what we think is best and most equitable for everybody," says Chairman Hart. Public hearing sessions are being extended since weather snowed out the committee's plans to travel for hearings to several communities around the state.

Leadership still wants to get a proposal out soon, Rep. Hart says, but decisions will not be made until the bulk of testimony is taken. Both the Senate president and House speaker aim for a special election in the spring, "to give the legislature direction while still in session," according to Rep. Hart.

There still is some question of Constitutionality concerning Rep. Rogers' bill, and it is being investigated, the committee chairman says. It involves the wording of proposed ballot language, which offers a choice instead of a specific yes or no vote on the revenue portion. "The Rogers' plan would give the voters two questions," explains Rep. Hart. "One allows them to adopt a new property tax limit and relief program; the other asks whether the first should be funded by an income tax increase or sales tax."

Perhaps more troubling is the possibility that either of the revenue programs could be

adopted by a minority vote. According to the bill, the one receiving the most votes would become law.

But if a significant number of voters left the ballot square blank, for example, a remaining split of 40 per cent - 30 per cent would allow a revenue measure to be instigated at the will of only 40 per cent of people. (This would be valid only if the portion calling for the relief program received a majority vote.)

Rep. Hart, 37-year-old Medford insurance man named "most promising freshman legislator" two years ago by The Oregonian, believes either the governor's program or Rep. Rogers' would pass the full House. Probably Gov. McCall's package stands a better chance in the Senate, he concedes.

Asked about the anti-sales tax forces now being mustered around the state by Sen. Vern Cook, D-Gresham, and former Democratic Rep. Beulah Hand, Rep. Hart says to look at the record:

"I think it's interesting to note that Sen. Cook, one of the most vocal proponents of increases in welfare and other social services, thinks there is enough fat in the state budget to raise basic school support to 50 percent."

The two other main property tax relief plans heard by the House Taxation Committee -- but not yet in bill form -- were presented by House Minority Leader Jason Boe, D-Reedsport, and by John Mosser, State Sanitary Authority chairman and former representative with impressive taxation knowledge.

Rep. Boe's plan would raise limited revenue to afford tax relief only for residential and farm property. Mr. Mosser proposes to raise the \$200 million annually through a combination of a 2 per cent net receipts tax and 2 per cent payroll tax. A net receipts tax basically is a gross income tax, taking its bite from the first dollar earned; the other would be a dollar-matching levy on employers, similar to social security withholdings.

"The Mosser plan raises valid points and certainly is worth consideration," says Rep. Hart. "As a program it may be too late, though. It represents a major shift in Oregon's tax structure, and we may have gone too far."

Whatever may come out of the committee, Rep. Hart is confident its members will devise the best all-around plan for the people to make the ultimate decision. He is a serious young man with an exceptional sense of

responsibility, but he laughs easily:

"I can assure you we are not listening to tape recordings of sessions past," he says. "What we are doing is giving old problems a fresh look, and with the concrete, positive solutions we have before us, we are not going to let Oregon citizens down."

LETTER FROM CLAUDE...

Editor's Note: Hoodland residents Claude Gudge and Jack Fahie are on an extended tour of the Orient and South Seas. Claude is keeping friends up-to-date on their progress and experiences by sending letters to this column.

Petone, Wellington N.Z.
Jan. 15, 1969

Editor,
Sandy Post

Since mailing my last letter, we have finally arrived at our intended destination. Jack and I both had stacks of mail and papers. The Sandy Post and the Oregonian have both been mailed here since October, but the latest is only early Dec., so we have a month of papers still lost in the Christmas rush.

Our mail tells us about the terrific winter weather you have had and must be still having. Sorry I can't be there to help--suppose plumbers are at a premium. The weather here has been sunshine, rain, and wind. Not too comfortable, and Jack and I both have colds.

We finally arrived at the Roy Smith residence Monday afternoon and are staying with these lovely people in a quiet residential section of Petone. Petone is a town of about 10,000 people and is a suburb of Wellington, a town of approximately 160,000. Jack and I have been made honorary members of the P.W.M.C. (Petone Working Men's Club.) This entitles us to drink beer with the local men.

New Zealand was discovered by Able Tasman and later explored by Capt. Cook. Wellington was the first settlement by the British in 1840. It is an old English type town, but is being modernized and has a great suburban new home growth. Wages are low (plumbers \$1.40 hr.) and living is relatively high.

Cricket, rugby, horse racing, and beer drinking are the major recreational activities. Also much hunting, fishing, and water sports. The pubs are numerous and extensive, and you wouldn't believe the urinals.

Federal Land Bank Sets Annual Meeting

The Oregon City Federal Land Bank Association has set the date for their annual stockholders meeting.

According to Manager L. G. Perkins, the meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Sweetbriar Inn, with registration beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. followed by the business meeting.

Featured speaker will be Wilbur T. Cooney, O.S.U. Dean of Agriculture. Other activities will include a report on Association progress during the past year, and the election of three directors.

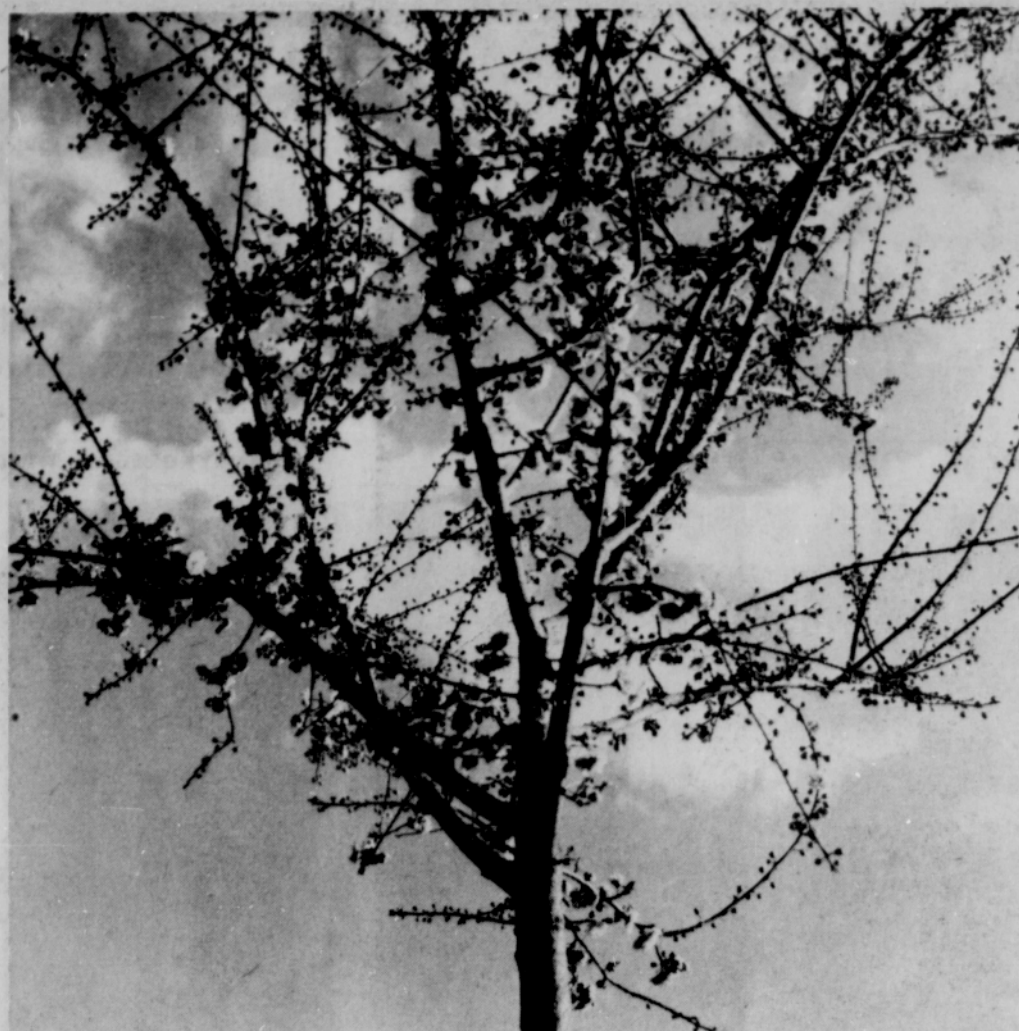
President of the Oregon City Land Bank Association is

Walter H. Markham, Boring. Other directors are James T. Thompson, Canby, Glendon L. Andrews, Molalla and Vernon DeYoung, Boring.

The Oregon City Land Bank Association makes a long-term loan to farmers in Clackamas and Multnomah counties. It is entirely owned by its member-borrowers.

Lamb Survival Meeting Topic

Second in a series of conferences on baby lamb survival is scheduled at Wilsonville Elementary School Thursday, Feb. 6, at 8 p.m.



THINK SPRING--and perhaps it will help to speed its arrival. The season can't come too soon for most of us this year, but just in case you have forgotten, here's a picture to remind you what it's like. (Post photo)

Letter to Editor

To the Editor:

I wish to take this means of extending my appreciation to our many friends for all their "well wishes," flowers and bundles of get well cards during the past several weeks.

A special word of gratitude goes to the friends for their prayers, both as participants in organized prayer chains and as individuals.

Many came to Mrs. Sutherland's assistance while I was in the hospital. Driving was hazardous much of the time during those weeks. Friends saw that Mrs. Sutherland was taken to the hospital and many times waited for her while she was allowed to spend some time with me. Snow blocked our driveway, which brought

shovelers and snow dozers. Space does not permit itemizing all these favors or naming all those who so generously gave of their time. For all this I am most thankful.

The school staff who are carrying on the school functions for me in my absence are due a debt of gratitude, I shall not soon forget.

Although my condition improves daily, it will still be a few weeks before I am released to resume all school duties unrestricted. Again my thanks to each of you--friends, neighbors and staff members.

Clyde F. Sutherland
Superintendent,
Sandy Elementary School

Correct Method Told For 1968 Tax Forms

Don't follow last year's Federal tax return when filing your 1968 income tax form.

This advice came today from A. G. Erickson, Director of Internal Revenue for Oregon. Erickson said that many taxpayers are failing to compute the surcharge enacted by Congress in 1968. Returns not showing surcharge computations must be pulled from processing, delaying refund issuances by one week or more.

Taxpayers are reminded that Line 8b on Form 1040-A and Line 12b on Form 1040 are for surcharge computations. Erickson said that many taxpayers completing these lines on their return forms are subtracting the surcharge instead of adding it to the tax due.

The annual surcharge is figured at 10 percent. Since it was effective for only nine months of 1968, the rate is 7.5 percent instead of the full 10 percent.

Check instructions in your tax package for additional information.

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A SALUTE TO THE BOY SCOUTS!

This week, February 7-13, the Boy Scouts of America celebrate their 59th anniversary of providing a program of character building, citizenship training, and physical fitness for our youth. Thanks for a job well done!



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Bye again, Claude