



JOYCE AND BOB Grockett owners of Grockett Jewelry Store in Sandy show the special souvenir Centennial plate and cup and saucer set. The store has a limited number of these on sale. They will donate the 100th plate to the Centennial committee for the planned Pioneer Museum. (Post Photo)

Legislators report action on many bills

Sen. Ken Jernstedt
The battle over the proposed tax plan has moved into full swing this week and both the proponents and the opponents are distributing material and voicing their arguments on the proposed tax plan. If you would like to have a speaker come and talk on the plan, please contact me here in Salem and I will try to assist you.

Absentee ballots for the May 1 election are now available at the county clerk's office and I urge you to get one so you will be able to vote if you are out of town on that date.

This week the Senate reversed its decision on the fluoridation issue. After passing the bill one day, it moved it back to committee the following day. The measure requires the fluoridation of water supplies in communities with 500 persons or more. However, three per cent of the local voters can file a petition and ask for a special election on the issue, thereby deciding whether or not they want fluoridation in their own community.

The Senate passed a measure which prohibits smoking at any public meeting in a state owned building.

The House passed the "Shield Law" this week which protects news reporters' sources of information. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature. The law results from news men being forced in court to reveal their sources of information.

A bill which would require publicly operated, subsidized or tax-exempt hospitals to perform abortions was heard by the House State and Federal Affairs Committee before approximately 500 people. Opponents stated that the government had no right to ask recipients of tax money to do anything against their religious beliefs. Proponents believe that hospitals are public industries and have a responsibility to offer accepted medical services to the community.

The Senate Economic Development Committee was urged to support a bill which would establish a rural medical assistance loan fund. Students would be able to repay these loans by agreeing to practice in a rural area after they are graduated from medical school. The committee was told that rural areas have a hard time attracting doctors and they often leave after a very short time.

The Senate Environment and Land Use Committee has approved and sent to the Senate Floor a revised statewide land use planning bill which will be voted on early in the week. Under the adopted plan, the controversial authority for regional councils of government to develop and use plans has been deleted. Also deleted from the plan are the lists of areas of critical state concerns. Instead, the Commission is authorized to designate activities of statewide significance. The City of Portland is to be allowed to develop its own comprehensive land use plan, rather than have it done by Multnomah County. Land use planning legislation has been described by the Governor as second only to the school finance and tax revision measure which has already

been approved by the legislature.

Rep. Paul Walden

On Tuesday of last week, the Speaker of the House sent a memo to all representatives announcing an unprecedented change in committee schedules and in regular House schedules. By the time you read this, the House will have only two regular House sessions per week, Tuesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m. The rest of the time each week will be spent in committees trying to pry loose bills which have been allowed to pile up.

Well, the Speaker was right when he determined there was a log-jam of legislation. As of Wednesday afternoon last week, 1,156 bills were in committee. The House Judiciary Committee had the biggest problem with 165 bills before it. Local Government was next with 162 bills.

Back to the new schedule. What I am afraid will happen now is: first, a rush to move bills to the floor sacrificing careful consideration; secondly, unbearable committee sessions (we'll meet in committee eight hours each day); thirdly, waste of citizens' time (those who wish to testify may have to spend the day instead of just part of the morning or afternoon); and ultimately, a longer legislative session costing you more money.

There's an old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." There's a lot of truth in that that has apparently escaped somebody's attention.

As you know, the Governor's tax plan comes up for a vote May 1. That brings me to the second matter. The majority party voted recently to use state funds (your tax dollars) to defray the costs of any legislator who wished to tour the state to argue the pros and cons of the plan. I am proud to say the Republican Caucus voted 27 strong against the idea. Several Democrats are also against it.

Thought you might like to see how far along we are. As of Thursday afternoon (April 5) the 64th day of the session, the House had passed 172 bills. As of the 64th day of the 1971 session 321 bills had passed.

The Human Resources Comm. did what many had predicted last week. It tabled three death penalty bills, and a resolution which would have given the people a vote on restoring it in Oregon. Sixty-two per cent of those questioned in a recent statewide poll said they favored the idea.

The Revenue Committee, of which I am a member, is considering changes in laws relating to tax exemptions to churches. The committee has passed a bill to allow non-home rule counties to levy a hotel-motel tax. It will probably come to the floor soon. State & Federal Affairs, which has 112 different bills before it, drew a crowd of protestors last week when it heard testimony on a bill providing for abortions in hospitals. The committee is also looking at a bill which would provide for state takeover of Multnomah County Hospital.

The last of the substantive committees, Transportation, is considering a bill for reimbursement of costs in selling abandoned vehicles, and another measure which passed committee, to exempt emergency vehicles from some studied tire requirements.

Rep. Ed Lindquist

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
Should journalists be required to reveal confidential sources of information?
The Oregon Legislative Assembly last week answered this question with a resounding "No."

But in approving an unqualified shield law by the lopsided margins of 23-7 in the Senate and 49-11 in the House, Oregon legislators were doing more than merely protecting a journalist's sources.

The real issue was the public's right to information that can be provided only through a free press.

Thomas Jefferson believed American democracy would establish the fact "that men may be governed by reason and truth."

He went on to say, "Our first objective should, therefore, be to leave open to him all the avenues of truth. The most effective, hitherto found, is the freedom of the press. It is, therefore, the first shut up by those who fear the in-

vestigations of their action." Once you compel journalists to reveal confidential sources, those sources will quickly dry up.

The mere possibility of causing a grand jury investigation, or having to answer a subpoena to "tell all" in court, has further eroded the public's access to information.

ABC recently canceled a discussion with Black Panthers in their Oakland headquarters. CBS declined to run an interview with a Chicago woman who was willing to explain how she cheated on welfare. Two reporters from the Boston Globe backed out of an investigation when two of their informants studied the risks and decided not to cooperate.

This sort of thing has reached near-epidemic proportions. If the air isn't cleared now, we'll soon be forced to accept only what the "official" sources want us to have.

Senate Bill 206 puts the Oregon Legislature on record as a champion of the public's right to be informed by a free press. Other states have either passed similar laws or are considering legislation.

Rep. Jack Sumner

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Other bills passed last week include the following:

HB 2347—Allows school district to another if the employee has been working for 30 days in the new district.

HB 2459—Increases the interest which an incorporated district improvement company may charge on delinquent assessments from 6 percent per annum to 10 percent per month.

HB 2462—Permits an irrigation district to assess service charges on land groupings of more than 10 acres.

HB 2474—Makes housekeeping amendments to the alcoholic liquor statutes to delete references to repealed statutes and the effective date of commission regulations and adds provisions relating to administrative procedures.

HB 2487—Repeals a provision in present law which prohibits, unless all board members approve, a contract between the school board and a teacher who is related to a member of the school board.

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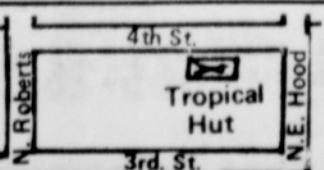
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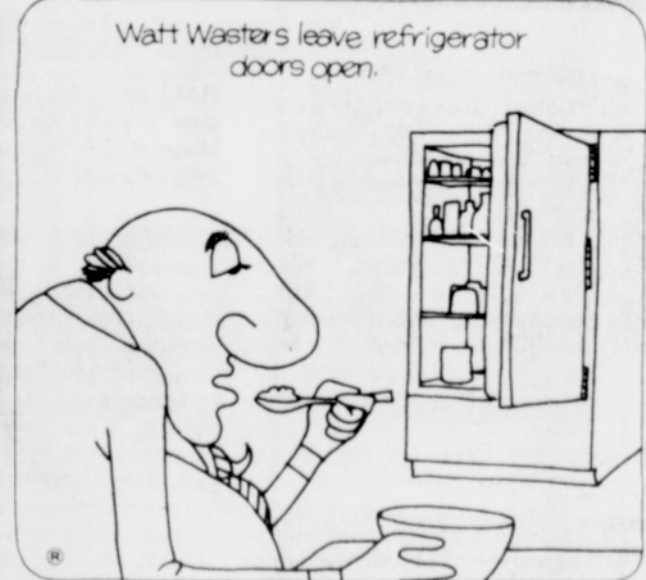
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only have to color one. Each age group and each cartoon subject will be judged separately and best entries in each age category will receive award ribbons and will be displayed in the Hall of Electricity at OMSI. All entries become the property of Portland General Electric Company. Sorry, no entries can be returned. Decision of the judges is final. Children of PGE employees and its advertising agency not eligible to win. PGE is not responsible for entries in transit and entries must be postmarked before May 1, 1973 to be eligible. Entry blanks also available at PGE offices.

All entries receive a PGE Junior Watt Watcher's Kit.

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PGE Contest Headquarters
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