



SESSION WARMS UP

For the past two weeks freezing storms loafed around the capitol. This week they moved and things warmed up, outside and inside the legislative halls. For the first time this calm and purposeful session drew its battle lines. This week a group of effervescing bills furnished the punch we have been waiting for. From now on anything can happen.

The Columbia Valley Authority proposal is not new but it's potent. Other proposals would sanction a privately owned dam on the Deschutes river; re-apportion the state's legislative set-up; give agricultural board power to appoint director of agriculture; create a commission on uniform state laws; eliminate liens against property of persons receiving old age assistance; appropriate \$1,818,740 to continue Oregon Vocation school at Klamath Falls; re-allocate gas tax revenues, motor license fees, etc. to small counties, and create a full-time liquor control director.

SPEAKER'S APPRAISAL
"Confronted with requests totalling \$175,000,000 and having a possible income of \$150,000,000, members of the legislature have been brought fact to face with an outstanding fiscal problem," says Rep. Frank J. VanDyke, the speaker of the house. "The difference of \$25,000,000, should it be appropriated, would necessitate a tax levy of 18 mills in addition to the load already being carried by real estate. The legislators take the attitude that the vote last November on the welfare measure is a mandate to supply each pensioner at least \$50 a month. This, in effect, means an additional \$3,000,000 contribution to the welfare fund," said Van Dyke.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS NORMAL

Those who deplore that Oregon's legislative sessions are increasing in length and more expensive are not completing the

story. Population increases with extended state business, higher salaries and general expenses should be taken into consideration. The session of 1947 cost \$160,540. Since then the population of the state has about doubled. The 1947 session, 20 years later, which was the longest on record, cost \$310,915, less than double the cost of the 1927 session.

THUNDERBIRDS A-WING

The less populated counties of Oregon vision Portland as dictatorial in the legislature and dominating the state, if the Neuberger bill becomes a law. The bill would provide for legislative representation solely by population with re-apportionment after every 10-year census.

The measure has sparked one of the hottest battles of the present session.

Eastern Oregon counties and those adjacent to Multnomah and some others would lose many senators and representatives under re-apportionment. Multnomah county would have a third of the membership of the senate and the house. The county, outside of Portland, would be out-voted by the city which would in turn control the state. The two-thirds majority could become a dangerous weapon with which legislation could be obstructed.

STATE SHORT ON BUYERS

Approximately \$5,656,226 was expended by state purchasing agents in 20,000 transactions during the last quarter of biennium ending Dec. 31, 1948. Rapidly-expanding business of the state purchasing department requires five purchasing agents the legislature was informed, two more than now employed.

ADVISOR

Gov. Douglas McKay received the following telegram from Washington this week:

"President has approved estimates for McNary dam \$8 million—Detroit reservoir \$2 million—flood control emergency fund \$2½ million which is to supplement the \$6 million made available last spring for Columbia River flood damage." . . . Conservation minded legislators are flabbergasted. Question: Has Oregon an enforceable forest conservation law? Present law was taken from Washington state law, which has been held unconstitutional. Committees have been appointed by Robert L. Elfstrom, mayor of Salem, and plans are under way

for Salem's reception for Gov. and Mrs. Douglas McKay, Monday evening, March 7, at Marion hotel, armory and Crystal Gardens. Senator Wayne Morse is undecided about proposed Columbia Valley Authority. Democrats at capitol are compiling voting records of Republican legislators who may be running for office come next election. (Read last sentence again, transposing the words "Democrats" and "Republicans").

Weather Report

For the past week, ending on Sunday:			
	Max.	Min.	Rain
Jan. 31	50	31	...
Feb. 1	48	34	.39
Feb. 2	40	31	.83
Feb. 3	53	34	.63
Feb. 4	43	36	.85
Feb. 5	44	30	.12
Feb. 6	47	37	1.81
Rain for week			4.63
Rainfall for January 8			1.96

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Abbott of Dayton were overnight visitors of friends here Friday. They were en route south on a vacation, but were experiencing road difficulties. While here Mr. Abbott called on Lloyd Stefani, with who he had worked at Gresham several years ago.

Henry Kerr, who made a business trip to San Francisco last week, returned Friday.

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