



RECORD-LONG SESSION

Oregon's longest and hardest-worked legislature adjourned sine die at 9:07 Saturday—the 97th day. It was 14 days longer than the record-breaking session of 1947 and cost approximately \$750,000, including \$200,000 allocated to interim research committees charged to report to the 1951 session. The 1947 session cost \$310,918.50.

This was a deliberate, unhurried session and gave all it had towards solving the many tangled problems created at former sessions and by uninformed voters on initiative and referendum measures. There was an absence of the usual steam-roller tactics although an ultra conservative bloc occasionally threw its weight around and liberal democrats did some fancy needling to build up what they assert is a "a stockpile of more political ammunition than we can use," in the 1950 campaign.

"BALANCED" BUDGET

The state budget estimated at \$102,837,000 was balanced—poised would be a less fallible word—when the legislature utilized \$51,000,000 of accumulated corporate excise taxes, \$3,000,000 of the left-over funds from the 1947-49 budget and \$48,000,000 of income tax returns estimated to be paid during the next two years.

As Joe Dokes would quip, they said: "Put \$48,000,000 on the cuff during that time."

There is an apprehensive 'if,'—if the estimated revenues do come in the budget will stay balanced. If not, the budget will topple into the red.

OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE

A \$50 monthly old-age assistance bill was passed dependent on availability of funds with the state given prior claims on recipients' estate and able children of needy elders were ordered to support their parents or be penalized. Leaders opposing the claim provision announced the referendum would be resorted to in an attempt to repeal the measure.

(Pressure is being brought to bear upon Gov. McKay to veto the measure).

ACCIDENT BENEFITS UP

Industrial accident benefits are increased 25% and unemployment compensation was increased from \$20 for 20 weeks to \$25 for 26 weeks, with a maximum raised from \$400 to \$650.

INTERIM COMMITTEES

The legislature created interim committees to study taxes, highways, Multnomah consolidation, natural resources, state institutions, higher education, cruelty to animals and whether to create a state botanical garden.

GAME AND FISH LICENSES UP

Hunting and fishing licenses were increased an average of 30 per cent. The game commission's 10% tithing fund for general fund was eliminated. Persons wounding another while hunting will be prosecuted. There were 15 police-wardens added to the present 50.

LEGISLATIVE POST OBIT

The good record of the late session is augmented by the many controversial bills defeated. There were no new tax measures invented, although some of the old ones were accelerated. Auto licenses were upped from \$5 to \$10 a year and gas tax was boosted a cent a gallon to net the highway department \$5,600,000 a year and counties and cities \$2,400,000 kickback.

Bills defeated or pigeonholed in committees would have:

Barred state tax on property, prohibited expenditure of state highway funds within cities; permitted the serving of mixed drinks on trains; increased cost of drivers licenses; abolished the office of chancellor of higher education; given the governor right to ration power; repealed law prohibiting sale of colored margarine; repealed milk control law; required initiative petitions to state cost of measure being promoted; prevented sale of beer on Sundays; reduced the voting age to 18; legalized legislature to meet each year instead of every two years; prohibited cities from levying income taxes; eliminated advertising signs near highways; abolished the death penalty; repeal of state civil service; barred minors from places selling beer; created a state rent control authority; prevented cities from taxing slot machines.

GEORGE AIKEN PASSES

George Kemp Aiken, state budget director and executive director to four Oregon governors, died from a heart attack at his home in Salem Monday morning. He was a newspaperman all his life until being appointed budget director in 1942 by Gov. Sprague. His passing could be recorded as a casualty of the strenuous and lengthy legislative session. Saturday night he said to this writer, "It does my heart good

to learn that the legislature accepted every item of the budget as we sent it to them."

Hold Sale, Saturday

Saturday, April 30, at the former Leming Barber shop, the V. F. W. Auxiliary has set their rummage, white elephant and food sale, when clothing, odds & ends will be sold, besides food to raise funds for the use of the unit. —adv.

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