

The PILOT

BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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WE CONGRATULATE THE COUNTY COURT

First, congratulations are in order, as the County Court acquiesced to the wishes of the people and voted to give the school districts a portion of the O and C timber money. The budget committee, meeting with the group, overruled that group, in a 4-2 vote. Commissioners Tex Breedlove and Bob Ismert, both of whom believe the roads the more important at this time, cast dissenting ballots. This is their right, and we give them credit in standing up against what was obviously the will of the majority.

The school districts, especially the Brookings-Harbor district, can certainly use their share of the money to the best advantage.

OREGON ELECTION LAWS NEED REVISING

There is a rather obvious deficiency in the method of Oregon voting which is shameful, and should come to the attention of the Oregon Legislature at their next session. This deficiency is dumped into the lap of a group of citizens who are conscientious within their personal and legal limitations, to see that citizens have a clear path toward recording their wishes.

Let us consider Joe Doaks. Out of a clear sky he receives an official notice from the county clerk that he is to be chairman of the Skunk Precinct. The assumption is he has voted before and knows there is such a thing as an election board.

Beyond that he is ignorant of the machinery thereof, and doesn't know where to find out, nor does he know who else is on this board. He is required to return a stub to the county clerk stating he will or will not serve. Unfortunately, not everyone returns this stub.

Our boy Joe, we assume, arranges his affairs so he can serve. Next comes one or more gunny sacks of material, dumped at his door. It turns out to be all the paraphernalia required of an election board plus a rather thick volume of the election laws of the State of Oregon, under which laws he must see that his board functions. This law requires that he must have his board set up and ready to accept votes by 8:00 a.m. on the prescribed day.

At this time we would like to commend Superintendent of Schools, D. D. Williams, for his persistent efforts in securing the funds, The Budget Committee, the Brookings-Harbor school board, Curry County Superintendent of Schools Ed Seger and others from the Northern half of the county who attended the budget session. However, we would throw a special bouquet to the Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce's Taxation Research committee who did more than their part in passing the supplementary budget.

It is a step in the right direction. We're proud too of the increasing amount of interest being taken in County government by the people of this area.

HERE IS WHERE TROUBLE BEGINS

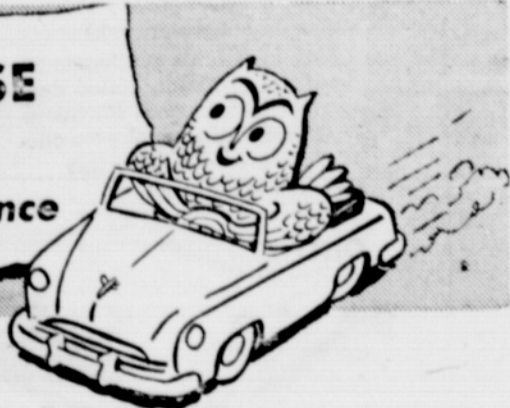
Joe could well be the only board member to appear on time, and it is likely that he may be in ignorance of who else should be there. There are certain mandatory functions of an election board which must precede the opening of the polls, at 8:00 a.m. For example, the composition of the board, in equal representation between Democratic and Republican parties.

Theoretically, our Joe could wait right up to the 8:00 a.m. deadline all alone, and when that hour strikes it is up to him to produce, immediately, his statutory quorum of Democrats and Republicans, and proceed with the first voter, who is within his rights in demanding his ballot at 8:00 a.m. This whole procedure, it is plain to see is a physical impossibility.

Poor old Joe, already confused with a harried and impossible situation, he turns to the election law volume for light. A big mistake—because to a layman the book is nothing but confusion. Written in legal gobbledygook it has little value for the layman who has an irate citizen in front of him demanding what he believes to be his rights.

As matters stand, the entire set-up of the Oregon election board laws are wide open to violation and especially by boards which are doing their best to see that every registered voter has his vote on all matters properly accounted for.

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FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

At the moment of this writing the nation is still in the dark as to whether President Eisenhower will announce his candidacy for re-election. Regardless of his decision and regardless of who is the victor in next fall's election it is time for something to be done toward limiting the duties of the chief executive.

It is already evident that if President Eisenhower decides to run, his opponents are going to make much capital of his recent illness. They will contend that he is not physically capable of performing the arduous duties required of the office.

Which brings up the highly pertinent point as to just how much of the daily routine now required of a president needs to be performed by him personally. From reports coming out of the nation's capital, it would seem that a large portion of his time is taken up in the performance of chores that could just as well be handled by lesser officials.

Certainly the responsibility of providing peace and prosperity for almost two million humans is in itself capable of shortening the life of even the physically strongest. But to add to these duties the filling of every available minute of his waking hours with handshaking, posing for pictures, welcoming the Bird Watchers from Ferny Ridge, Arkansas, or putting in an appearance at every convention within a radius of 1,000 miles is ridiculous.

It seems to me that we have two alternatives facing us. If

County Court Proceedings

A rough going-over of the expenditures at the February session of the County Court shows they have disbursed some 42,000 dollars of the public's fund.

Broken down, some \$21,500 were expended from the General Road Fund. Of this, about \$8,000 went for a new dump truck and about \$8,000 was payroll expense and around \$5,000 for incidental expenses—cat hire, gas, oil and odds and ends. There is also a per diem bill of \$360 for each of the two commissioners and also probably some of this should be charged to road accounts.

Some \$900 was expended on the Court itself, and in this sum is included the two per diems noted above. \$9,450 is charged against the Court House construction fund of which some \$6,000 went to the architect. It cost about \$780 to operate the old court house during that month and the expenses of the

we want a chief executive who is actually handling the reins of government, then he must be given those responsibilities and those only. On the other hand, if we want the country to be run by Congress, with the president being merely a figure-head, then let us change the constitution to so provide.

For some to argue that to lessen the president's duties is an attempt at shirking responsibility shows ignorance of the basic problems involved. Naturally we expect the utmost in sacrifice from whomever we elect; but we should not demand that he give his life in the bargain, particularly when such sacrifice is unwarranted.

County Clerk's office came to \$838 of which around \$588 went to deputy hire. The assessor's office called for \$1500 of which over half went for supplies while the sheriff's bills totalled up to some \$1,300 with over half of it going for his help. The district attorney's office required about \$266, with the most of that being charged to clerical help and the County School Supervision came to a little over \$200. The Treasurer did pretty well on \$6 while the county health required \$990. Unlike other budgets listed

above, this included the nurse's salary.

The Court tapped the emergency fund for \$2,308 for the State Welfare Commission.

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