

Hon. Earl Snell

GOVERNOR OF OREGON ADDRESSES 43rd LEGISLATURE

Governor Snell's message to his second war time legislature could be construed as a pat on the back for state employees, from the department heads who have successfully carried on with only a minimum of personnel to the rank and file of state employees who are carrying an extra burden in order that Oregon could contribute her just share to the war effort. Said Governor Snell, "Oregon can well be proud of the tremendous contributions she has made to our all-out war effort. Oregon has established outstanding records in enlistments and volunteers; in purchase of war bonds; in blood plasma contributions; selective service activities; civilian defense; and many other phases of our war activities. Oregon has met the challenge of the home front—on the farm and in the home; in the factory and in the yards; in the forests and in the mill."

However, the Governor continued, "This is no time to rest on laurels or records. We must continue to do our utmost. Therefore, in all our deliberations let our thoughts and action be guided primarily in the interest of war and total victory . . . postwar opportunity and security . . . a lasting peace throughout the world."

The Governor stated that Oregon was in the best financial position in which it has been for a long time and, "No one man is responsible for Oregon's present most favorable financial condition. Credit belongs to many state officials and office holders, both present and past."

Governor Snell in his reference to taxation showed Oregon's tax burden to be lower than that of our neighboring states, Washington and California. Old age assistance has increased from an average of around \$24.00 in 1943



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to an average of \$37.00. Said Governor Snell, "Forty dollars per month is little enough to provide sustenance and reasonable comfort for those elderly citizens." The budget for the Public Welfare program has been increased for the ensuing biennium.

The Governor recommended legislation to make Oregon Veterans' benefits effective and the creation of "A Department of Veterans' Welfare to be manned by a single commissioner or director appointed by the Governor." He stated that agriculture and Forestry production have reached an all time high. Farm income for each of the two preceding years exceeded two hundred sixty million dollars and forestry production exceeded seven billion board feet.

Governor Snell recommended "an increased allotment from highway funds be set aside for tourist promotion in the postwar period. . . . I believe that it is generally recognized that Oregon is the top ranking recreational and in-

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