

Kinsey Report

Of great importance to Portland, as well as to the entire state was the passage in the House this week of House Bills 1631 and 2115. HB 1631 changed the basic school formula, freezing the level of equalization at the present amount (\$89 million), which was the appropriation from the state last year for elementary and secondary education, but providing that any amount above the \$89 million mark would now be given to all the districts on a flat grant per pupil basis. Thus, the new funds going into state support will be distributed where the pupils are. For much too long Portland has been short-changed by the equalization formula.

By a unanimous vote the House passed HB 2115, which allocates to local schools \$24.9 million more than Governor Tom McCall requested in his biennial budget. The bill will pump the new moneys into the state appropriations to public elementary and secondary schools, although continuing to maintain the present level of state support at 22% dollars for the biennium in order to just maintain this level of 22%. The net effect is an increase of 1.1 million more dollars which will go to Portland School District No. 1 on the flat grant per pupil basis without any tax in-

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crease. We who are on the House Education Committee under the chairmanship of Rep. Carroll Howe, R. Klamath Falls, are very proud of finally effecting a change in the heretofore inequitable distribution formula.

These two bills now go to the Senate, where they will face tougher opposition than was seen in the House. I strongly urge you to write your Multnomah County senators, some of whom are oriented to the old equalization concept, to vote for HB 1631.

HB 1377, which would create an Oregon FAIR Insurance Plan, is being developed by the House Urban Affairs Committee and will be an exciting piece of legislation to come from this recently created committee. We have now had two extensive hearings on the issue, and hopefully will soon have the package ready to go to the House floor. I have been receiving a great deal of mail on this bill, and can assure those people who were concerned about the limitation of coverage on homes, personal property and liability that extended coverage will be amended into the main bill, and we will be able to offer full coverage to those citizens who are now denied protection because they reside in high-risk areas. I was greatly impressed with the acceptance of the challenge and the responsibility shown by the pri-

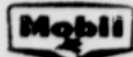
vate enterprise, i.e., the general and casualty insurance companies in providing this much-needed service to all of our citizens. The legislation is merely a vehicle by which insurance companies themselves will provide this high-risk coverage, and there are no tax dollars involved in any way.

In another development this week, Rep. House members endorsed the concept of a local option increase on motor vehicle license fees, favoring a maximum increase of \$10 which can be leveled on a local option basis by those counties which have a demonstrated need for additional highway revenues. These increased revenues could be used in three important areas: to increase law enforcement and traffic control efforts; to combat solid waste pollution problems by providing funds to remove abandoned car bodies; and to assist local areas in the construction and maintenance of needed highways and roads.

I'd like to close by saying that I appreciate the time that many of you have taken to write more regarding your thoughts and problems. I can't over-emphasize the importance that constituents' mail has to every Legislator. My address is State Capitol, Salem, Oregon 97310. Please let me hear from you.

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The winner will be entered as nominee for state title and state winner will then be entered for the President's trophy, Handicapped American of the Year.

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