

# Governor Meier Outlines His Views in Inaugural Address

## JOSEPH DEARS ARE RETAINED

### New Machinery for Handling Utilities Regulation Is Fully Outlined

Listened to attentively by a great crowd which filled the house chamber and the adjacent lobby, Governor Julius L. Meier delivered his inaugural address Monday afternoon. The time of reading consumed about one hour and was over by 3:35 p. m. It was broadcast over KEX.

The inaugural was an elaboration of the familiar Joseph platform upon which Mr. Meier ran for office, supplemented with counsel respecting state legislation.

He closed with a glowing tribute to his friend and associate, the late George W. Joseph. After introductory remarks urging the legislature to provide ways and means to meet the present state deficit of \$3,500,000 under the authority of sections 2 and 6 of article IX of the constitution, and to abolish machine rule, the governor took up the planks of his platform. He branded denial of free speech a double wrong, and then launched a discussion of public utility regulation, the following language he urged abolishing the public service commission and setting up new regulatory machinery:

#### ABOLISH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

"Because regulation, as it now exists in this state has proven an utter failure, I recommend that the Public Service Commission, as now constituted, and the creation of a department of public utilities, consisting of a single commissioner, appointed by and removable at the discretion of the governor, with salary adequate to secure the services of a man of experience and first class ability.

"In addition to being vested with powers which the public service commission may exercise, the commissioner should be charged by law with the specific duty of representing the public in all matters affecting rates, valuations and service, and his chief duty should be to protect the interests of the people in all occasions to the end that the people may obtain adequate service at fair rates.

"Such commissioner should also have supervision over the issuance of all stocks, bonds, securities and obligations by utility companies, all consolidations, mergers, purchases and sales of property, and all matters which may be vested in a Hydroelectric commission, and all projects constructed or operated under license issued by such commission.

"I recommend that legislation be enacted extending the Home Rule principle, with adequate safeguards, to municipalities, so that they may enjoy, if they so elect, the right to contract by franchise, or otherwise, with any public utilities as to rates, service and facilities within their respective boundaries.

"I recommend that the so-called Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Act, under which all competition is barred in the utility field, be repealed.

"I recommend further that legislation be enacted limiting and restricting the right of one public utility corporation to contract with another corporation for service, or the use of property, or the purchase of property or supplies, when:

"The public utility corporation owns the majority of the voting stock of the other contracting corporation; or

"The majority of the voting stock of the public utility corporation is owned by the other contracting corporation; or

"The majority of the voting stock of the other contracting corporation is owned by a third corporation.

He commended the Umatilla rapid development which he said would produce 420,000 hp. at a generation cost of 1.3 mills, the lowest rate in America and would aid in irrigation and river navigation. The governor's recommendations on a hydro-electric program are as follows:

## Inaugural Impressions

### A Moving Pencil Runs Here and There Over the Installation Ceremonies

WHAT a crowd! It looks as though we'll not make it to the press table... guess we will... by using freedom of the press... and going ahead with some advantages in being a man... and not afraid to thrust aside etiquette... and a few women or older men.

How serious everyone looks at that air of expectancy has affected even Governor Norblad... usually he's happy go lucky but he looks serious... not as much as the newcomer, though... Julius has on a turned down collar and a frock coat... almost fit for the ball tonight... he's seated just to the left of Senator Marks, president of his branch of the legislature... the senator is a handsome fellow... and looks self-possessed... he and Senator Hall from Coos county would have a real contest in a beauty race.

That is some crowd in the back... one should have a press or political pull to sit alongside a member of the house... probably there are as many more people out in the lobby listening through the special speakers... and thousands over the state are to hear the message by radio... Governor Meier's own in this case... for some reason he wanted his speech and some other broadcast... whether it was afraid some supreme court justice would get in a word?

It's getting warm... if the speeches are long someone will be asleep... the sun is coming in through the window now... one recalls this house the day of Governor Patterson's funeral... how packed the room was, Dr. Fred Taylor who eulogized the late governor is here today... he's a Portlander now and has come down to see his own city's commercial leader installed.

The day of the Patterson funeral an early sun went down behind clouds and the rain began to fall as the governor's body was laid away forever... odd of nature... today she showing her sun-face after a cloudy morning.

Those newspaper photographers are a ubiquitous bunch... they walk right up to a man and stare their cameras at him... and he can't say a word... however I'm glad they don't use the old flashlight powder...

Ratify child-labor amendment. The governor endorsed the work of the state chamber of commerce, urged buying Oregon products, announced his intention to defend the direct primary, to base appointments strictly on merit, and to keep the people fully informed.

An important recommendation was the creation of a state police force to consolidate law-enforcement work; also the abolition by the state of the one-mill market road tax now a special levy.

## LONERGAN HAS SPEAKERSHIP

### Elected by 33 to 24 Vote Over Gordon; Bloc to Remain Intact

Frank Lonergan became speaker of the 36th house of representatives yesterday morning despite determined effort of the Herbert Gordon "bloc" to seat its candidate, like Lonergan, a member of the Multnomah delegation, as speaker. Although the movement failed by a vote of 33 to 24 to give Gordon the speakership, Representative Gill who nominated Gordon served notice on the house that the Gordon supporters could be looked to as a bloc to support anti-Lonergan policies and to protest against the system of picking voters for a speaker at a previous session.

The roll call, taken after all the officers of the house had been placed in nomination, was: Lonergan—Allen, Anderson, Andrews, Angel, Bronaugh, Byrnes, Chindgren, Chincock, Day, DeLapp, Deuel, Eckley, Gouley, Hamilton, Heilberg, Hill, Johnson, Knapp, Lee, Manning, McCort, Mott, Nash, Norton, Oxman, Proctor, Scott of Umatilla, Snell, Stewart, Swift, Taylor, Wells, Yates.

Gordon—Fisher, Gill, Glass, Howard, Janssen, Keasey, Lawrence, Lewis, Macpherson, McAllister, McCormack, McGraw, McPhillips, Nichols, Peters, Schapp, Scott of Morrow and Umatilla, Stockdale, Temple, Thornburgh, Tompkins, Weatherford, Winslow, House Officers.

All Re-elected. Allen Byrnes, Portland lawyer, placed Lonergan in nomination, terming him a man of proved business and legislative ability. All other officers of the house were reelected on unanimous ballot. They are W. Fred Drager,

the grace of a well-coined sentence... oh, well... a man can't do everything... It's over... out they file... less pressing now... liked it... "historical speech"... one keen observer rues the supreme court attack... Carl Brockhagen of the Telegram says he's the timber for a remarkable governor... Hamilton of Washington moans over the fact he lacks the color of Hartley... we get to the lobby... Miss Walton is at her new job... the new administration is in... thank God, says she... the salary's started... and like Pepys, to typewriter.

McMahan introduces Meier... the former's voice is strong now... he's more poised than the governor... we're off... even the newspaper boys are a little eager about this speech... it wasn't released until a few hours before the inauguration... gossip says the governor didn't want certain editors to have time to write editorial attacks... what business has gossip running into a reporter's mind... the governor's speaking after waiting for the audience to quiet down... sounds as though there were some jabbers in the outer lobby.

His voice is that of a chairman of the board... not an Ingersoll... or a Norblad voice... for that matter... how vigorously those Portland people applaud... It's a day of triumph... Marks calls for order... firmly... the doorkeeper is asked to help... the noise bothers the new governor... he's confined to his notes and must have quiet.

The speech is carefully worked out... with the Joseph platform to start it... and the Joseph slogan to conclude it... no one can doubt the seriousness of Governor Meier... he does want water-power development... and he talks business sense... too... lowered taxes... more efficiency in office... just like a business man would talk it in his store... no quarrel with the personnel of the public service commission... but with the system... we'll bet the commissioners... those remaining feel a ray of hope there... but the new plan... a one-man control... hard job for that one man... where can he be found... able... strong... impeccable in honesty... some job.

Here... mind... back to work... the speaker of the house has canvassed the vote... and by gum, Meier wins... what an upset to find the papers were wrong and Phil Metcham has been elected... an anachronism... this canvassing of the vote... perhaps needed a century ago... now a mere formality.

Judge McMahan mumbles through his words... and omits "so help me God"... so does Meier... who says alone... "I will"... the governor is dead... the governor lives... democracy has spoken. The People again are in the saddle.

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Up comes Colonel Mercer... he's happier than Meier or Meier's wife... the Col. is back at his old job... he flourishes his hands and warns with solemn mien... those fussy cameramen... can't they get themselves arranged... good thing for the colonel to be working... hard job... doing nothing... for an old man...

Judge McMahan has yawned... probably a bit warm... and a bit to ease his nerves... even judges have nerves... and even Judge McMahan... he's a southerner by birth... you know... suppose he's trying to think of his job impending as all in the day's work but it's an honor nevertheless.

It's done... we timed the applause... 15 seconds of it... which is quite sustained if you'll note... into mind flash the time President Wilson spoke in Portland... 16 minutes of solid applause... tremendous... overwhelming... moving... then came the break and the men who applauded... what would they have done after the senate fight... our mind philosophizes a bit... the pomp and glory soon dies... Cromwell said the men who applauded the most vigorously would be more violent in their cheers if he were being taken to the scaffold...

## BENNETT SEEKS TO PROBE PHONE RATES

### Appointment of a committee of nine persons to conduct an investigation of the rates of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, was provided in a resolution introduced in the senate on Monday by Senator Bennett of Multnomah county.

Three members of the committee would be appointed by the governor, three members by the president of the senate and three members by the speaker of the house. The resolution authorizes an appropriation not to exceed \$1000, and that the report of the committee shall be filed with the legislature within 15 days after its creation.

It is proposed that the committee shall first confer with officials of the telephone company in hope that a rate reduction may be obtained without the necessity of a lengthy investigation at a large expense to the taxpayers.

## 3 Desks Vacant As Senate Opens

There were three vacant desks when the senate convened here Monday. Two of the absentees included Senator Dunne of Multnomah county, who has been summoned to Denver, and Senator Burke of Yamhill county, who is ill. The third vacant desk was that formerly occupied by the late Senator Lloyd Reynolds, who died here a few months ago.

## ROSEBURG HOME FAVORED

Congressional approval of Roseburg as the location for the proposed new national soldiers' home was urged in a senate resolution introduced by Senator Eddy.

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