

Majority at House Hearing Opposes County Unit Plan

HOSTILITY TO BILL APPARENT

Gill Leads Offense, Asserts Unit System Not Needed; Efficiency is Cited

The rounds of applause which greeted speakers opposed to the county unit plan and the number standing when such an expression of opposition was called for demonstrated clearly that the great majority of people attending the education committee hearing on house bill No. 4, the Governor Martin bill fostering the unit plan of school administration, were hostile to the measure.

The bill would put all counties under the county unit plan for control of schools except in first-class districts, unless at an election petitioned for by 10 per cent of the voters, the voters rejected the plan. Mrs. Grace Kent Magruder, chairman of the house committee presided.

Putnam Leads Supporters
While the opposition had the best showing in point of numbers the supporters of the bill were well represented with debaters to present their side of the case. Superintendent Rex Putnam of the Albany schools called on five speakers to support the bill. They included M. S. Shrock, Milwaukie, County Superintendent Fred Peterson of Klamath county, which operates under the county unit; Ray L. Jenkins, former member of the Lincoln county unit board, and Guy M. Buford, present member; and County Superintendent L. B. Gibson of Hood River county, which adopted the unit plan a year ago.

Speakers opposing the bill were, in addition to State Grandmaster Ray Gill, R. W. Hogg of the Polk county farmers' union; W. Frank Crawford, of the Federated Country Clubs of Marion and Polk counties; H. Michelbrock of the Marion county tax league; Joseph Wells, Polk county school officer; M. Weinacht, Mt. Angel, Marion county rural education association; John Reese, Springfield school board, Yamhill county.

Success Cited
Principal arguments of the supporters of the measure were its success in counties where tried, its provision of better schools, equalization of taxes, and better financial control. Opponents of the bill centered their opposition on reducing local communities of self-government in school affairs, fear of "dictatorship," fear of higher taxes, and resentment against having the county unit "crowded down our throats."

Klamath county, said Peterson, has reduced its per capita cost of education from \$32 in 1921 under the district plan to \$53 last year. Twelve years ago the county had scarcely a single modern schoolhouse; now all are well equipped, most of them with gymnasiums and play apparatus. Seventeen hundred pupils are transported, 100 are boarded to save transportation costs; about 14 one-room schools are continued. Only experienced teachers are sent to the one-room schools, and a University of Oregon survey in 1923 was 24.6 mills, now under the unit plan it is 6 mills. Per pupil costs ranged from \$40 to \$300 and now are down to \$23. The county was the only one in the state with no school warrant infeltness in 1923, and has reduced its bond debt from \$50,000 in 1923 to \$17,000.

"Machine," is Criticism
Ray Gill drew a hearty round of applause when he said the county unit develops a school machine; and "if there is a dangerous machine in politics it is



Under the Dome
PRESS conferences were started yesterday by the governor and then abandoned when members of the fourth estate protested that they did not like the innovation. Hereafter the governor's office will revert to the old custom of releasing news of appointments, resignations, and messages to the session on typed, duplicate sheets, so members of the press receive them simultaneously. An "open door" policy will be followed by the executive offices in permitting newsmen to seek out the governor when special stories are to be obtained. The "breakers" in news time depend upon the wishes of the executive who indicated he would make the formal announcements when the news was received, thus distributing favors among the morning and evening newspapermen.

Arthur L. Moulton, Portland attorney, who comes biennially to Salem to argue the cause of the fish and game group, is a handsome chap, with a profile like Richard Dix, hair like Richard Bennett and a voice to make Barrymore jealous. Moulton knows the long, bitter history of fish and game funds from the general treasury because he feels that the ways and means committee of the two houses would never consent to a conservation and game propagation program such as sportsmen advocate—provided they can raise their own funds and expend them as they see fit. Moulton lead the fight against the fishing bill years ago; he was equally ardent yesterday in his appearance before the governor and before the house committee on administration and reorganization.

The ordinary public hearing on pending legislation does little more than provide a crowd of legislative fans with a show. Speakers are allowed to wander far afield in their discussions. Committee members ask few or no questions. The specific merits and demerits of the bill at hand are not weighed with any degree of care. The hearings do afford a chance for a flock of speakers to make some grandstanding. The real

the school machine." He declared equalization could be obtained without a county unit plan. The present bill calls for a vote in reverse, he said; and in 12 years only one county has adopted the plan.

Frank Crawford expressed the view that the district system is the greatest democratic institution in the country and the county unit plan a step toward autocracy. "We're satisfied with the system as it is, we can petition and vote for a county unit plan where we want to," Michelbrock saw the city absorbing everything and giving nothing in return; that the movement would result in the destruction of rural communities.

Plan Optional Now
Joseph Wells urged a vote against the present bill though not necessarily against the county unit plan, holding under the present law voters could obtain the county unit whenever they wanted it.

The committee took the bill under advisement and will file its report later. Marion county representatives were reported to be lined up in opposition to the bill.

1929 MASSACRE IS REPORTED SOLVED
CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Reports were published here today that the underworld's most gory crime—the 1929 mass massacre of seven gangsters—had been solved by the statement of Byron Bolton, held as a member of the notorious Karpis-Barker mob.

The Chicago American in a copyrighted story said Bolton had named all participants in the crime and that his written statement was now in the hands of J. Edgar Hoover, head of the department of investigation of the department of justice at Washington.

Dissemination of the story brought immediate and conflicting statements. Said Hoover, "There's not a word of truth in it." Said Police Captain John Stagg, underworld authority of the Chicago force, "It sounds probable."

In view of the conflicting statements it was recalled that for 10 days federal agents denied having in custody Mrs. Lester Gillis, "half plait" widow of the slain "Baby Face" Nelson, and the refusal of local federal officers for days to admit they had custody of Arthur "Doc" Barker, apprehended the same night Bolton was taken after a raid in which Russell Gibson, another Karpis-Barker satellite, was slain.



Occurrence & Gossip
work of the committees is done in quiet sessions, where the proposed laws are gone over, paragraph by paragraph, and weighed with some degree of deliberative care. The public hearing changes few if any committee votes.

C. L. Starr was back in the lobby yesterday looking over his old halliwick. In the Patterson days, Starr was "Little Ike" and was the most potent adviser to the chief executive. Until his resignation from the state board of higher education, Starr continued to be extremely influential in the state political setup. He always maintains a very active interest in what is going on in state affairs for Starr's retention by lumber interests makes that part of his business. He has a large background of experience with Oregon's governmental problems and with men most influential in state affairs.

The legislature takes itself very seriously in considering memorials and petitions to congress. Actually the memorials are much ado about nothing and receives them in a perfunctory manner. The only importance of memorials and resolutions is to give an indication of what the state legislature thinks on some national problems. This test is inadequate for a legislator will memorialize congress to do something because a minority of his constituents want him to do so, when he would oppose the legislation if it were offered on the floor of his own house.

Old-timers at the session yesterday said Speaker Cooter had established a precedent. Excusing himself suddenly from the chair, he rushed back to his office and reclaimed a list of references he had prepared at the noon recess to guide him in assigning bills to committees. While he was absent, the chair was vacant. Always before the speaker has called another member to the chair during his absence; presumably the present speaker forgot this custom. During Cooter's absence, one house member was tempted to move to adjourn but saved the chair from this embarrassment.

3 MINOR BILLS IN HOUSE ARE PASSED
Manufacture or sale of tokens which can be used in lieu of coins in telephone receptacles or other places where money is sought for use of a machine, is banned under House Bill 14 which went through the lower assembly yesterday afternoon. Representative Lynch said 36 states in the nation had similar statutes.

Two bills by Representative Norton went through without opposition. One provided for turning over personal funds in the hands of a county officer to a county fund after seven years had elapsed and another made it illegal to sell badges to unauthorized persons, whether or to hold such badges after the term of office of the officer had expired.

The house turned down a bill which would have made it illegal to remove any improvements from a city lot until all liens against the lot had been paid.

KNOX LAW CHANGES SOUGHT BY SAMMIS
(Continued from page 1)

tering the state be reduced from two quarts to one quart. Another recommendation would fix the maximum alcoholic content of beer at 3.2 per cent by volume for draft beer and 3.6 per cent of alcohol by volume for bottled beer.

The liquor commission also asks for the control and sale of all vinous beverages and permission to handle all other alcoholic beverages containing more than 3.6 per cent of alcohol by volume.

Lane Delegation Opposes Milk Bill
A delegation of Lane county dairymen conferred with Governor Martin here yesterday regarding the state milk control bill. The dairymen said they were satisfied with the existing law and were opposed to any amendment which would limit price fixing to cream and milk purchased from the producers.

HOUSE ADOPTS MAJORITY PLAN

Adopts Majority Report on Memorial, Leeway for Pension Variation

(Continued from page 1)
have sacrificed their lives—they should not be offered only a pension, he said. This plan will give the young people of the country a chance to get work and to do their part in present-day society, Haight averred.

He said there was no reason the people of this nation could not have all the physical requirements of an abundant life. Dickson, Haight, Embroided in Debate Representative Dickson who requested the debate, rose to a point of order after Haight had talked for half an hour. "I'm the sucker who asked for this," Dickson said. "I wish the representative to confine himself to the question at hand."

Haight retorted to Dickson that the social conditions of the nation were such that "suckers" would be taken care of if conditions didn't improve. A group of Townsend advocates in the audience cheered.

Representative Erwin dragged in the Revolutionary war and the Civil war in talking of the crisis of today. He pointed out that the petitions of 300,000 persons in Oregon should not be ignored. Give Congress Chance, Asks Erwin "I do not know whether the Townsend plan will work but I am convinced that we should give congress a chance to solve the matter," Erwin declared. "There is so much political expediency played here I don't know which report for which to vote."

Roused by the debate, Mrs. Honeyman said that there had not been political expediency in the adoption of the report of the majority of the committee.

"We do not think it would be fair to 'pass the buck' to congress—that would be political expediency," she said. "For us to offer arbitrarily the Townsend plan only means defeat. We wanted to show in the amendment offered by Representative Semon that we did favor a form of old-age pension."

Representative Olsen said he thought pensions should be "adequate" but not \$400 a month to every family in the United States.

"I have talked to old people in my county and have found them opposed to taking anything away from younger people who have not more than enough for their own care. Olsen said wealth could not be created by taxation; that all taxation took from people who worked and gave to persons funds for non-creative work. He said all economists were by no means for the Townsend plan. He said no national labor organization was advocating the overthrow of the government by force."

R. Van Hoomson of Portland, representing the Knights of Columbus, said he could not stand passively by and hear persons advocate the overthrow of government by force. "I believe this is treason," he said.

Ray Bassett of Salem spoke against the repeal of the act, saying he thought Senator Zimmerman would look with different eyes at the proposal if some farm workers on his place would advocate destruction of his machinery if they disliked the conditions of their employment.

PRISON CHANGE STIRS SENATE

Indeterminate Sentence Law Evokes First Extended Argument of Session

A hot and extended argument was provoked in the state senate yesterday—the first of this session—when the committee on penal institutions reported out favorably a measure which provides an indeterminate sentence law in cases where a felony is involved. Under the proposed enactment felony cases would go to the state penitentiary on an indeterminate sentence with the state parole board fixing the length of term after a minimum time had elapsed.

Senator Lessard declared that the bill had been copied in part from the California statute and would go far toward correcting many of the abuses now possible under the existing criminal laws. He urged that the bill be given favorable consideration.

Senator Francisovich asked Lessard what the courts would do in cases involving second-degree murder and where no minimum sentence was provided.

"In cases where the law provides only a maximum sentence the minimum term would be one year," Lessard replied.

Senator Duncan said the Oregon legislature previously had passed an indeterminate sentence law but it proved unsatisfactory and was repealed.

Senator Hess opposed the bill on the ground that a judge would be compelled to sentence a defendant for a felony.

Prosecution Part Decried
"I do not believe that the prosecuting officers should have anything to say regarding the parole of a person from a reformatory or state prison," Wallace averred. "I am prejudiced against prosecuting attorneys and there is no closed season on these officials as far as I am concerned."

Senator Bynor brand the bill as being bad from start to finish. "By this law we would support the judgment of a trial judge and place in the parole board authority to determine how long a person should serve in prison," Bynor continued. "The parole board is composed of political appointees who are here today and gone tomorrow."

Urge Lieutenant-Governor
A constitutional amendment introduced by Senator Stringer and others provides for the election of a lieutenant governor who would receive \$10 per day while serving as governor and president of the state senate.

In event the proposal is approved by both houses of the legislature it will be referred to the voters at the next general election. The lieutenant governor would serve for a term of four years and draw the same mileage as members of the legislature.

SYNDICALISM ACT AIRED IN HEARING

(Continued from page 1)

the grange declared. "Our organization does not favor communism or dictatorship; we believe in the law and its obedience. However, many people fear the drastic qualities of this law. They feel it may be used as a source of political oppression. As long as the law stands it is the source of constant agitation. There is only one question to decide: is the law right or wrong? I do not believe we need the drastic provisions of this law for our protection. The best way to overcome communism is to take away with economic conditions which cause suffering in this great land of plenty."

H. M. Esterly of Portland represented the American Civil Liberties union which he said stood for democratic government and the protection of constitutional rights. He declared the criminal syndicalism act was superfluous being covered in all essential points.

"The act also restricts free government," he said. "It puts down political opinion. It is a reversion to tyranny. The psychological reason for the law is that the law's instigators fear the social consequences of the situation of our day."

Tom Mahoney, former commander of American Legion post in Portland and legislative chairman for the state organization, opened the argument against repeal of the criminal syndicalism act. "Only communists have been hurt by the operations of this act," he said. "The law does not restrain the expression of political views or prevent advocating change. The only thing the law does is to restrain the expression of opinion calling for the overthrow of our government by force."

"The American Legion stands four-square for free speech. It does not stand for license. We believe there should be only one 'ism' in the United States—Americanism. Free speech ends where treason begins."

Tom Kerrigan, head of the commanders' council of war veterans in Multnomah county, said his group was unanimously opposed to the repeal of the criminal syndicalism act. "Our organization is for free speech; it is for the principle of the American ballot. We are against repeal of the criminal syndicalism act because that act restrains persons from advocating the overthrow of the government by force."

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Portland Man is Caught, New Law
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Rex Duell, indicted by the grand jury at Portland, Ore., on a burglary charge, was apprehended here today by department of justice agents under the new federal law making it unlawful to flee from pending prosecution. For conviction of flight alone, the new law provides a penalty of \$5,000 and five years imprisonment. Duell was held for Oregon officials.

AMELIA PLANS TAKEOFF
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Now that flying weather has improved, Amelia Earhart, ocean flier, and her publisher husband, George Palmer Putnam, expect to take off Friday morning for New York, she said today.

BO DIE AS WINTER FURY WIDESPREAD

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maintained steadily only through wireless. Vancouver, New Westminster and towns in the Fraser river valley battled snow, ice and rain, with two dead and damage estimated at \$100,000.

Small Towns Are Evacuated; Rivers Up
Several small towns in Washington state were evacuated as rivers rushed over their banks, while Grays River and Roseburg, on the shore of the Columbia river, were inundated.

Damage mounted into the hundreds of thousands of dollars as roads were overtopped with rushing torrents or blocked by snow and earth slides at many points. Hundreds of marooners were taken from their homes by boat.

Cowlitz Valley, Olympia Peninsula Worst Hit
In Washington, the Cowlitz valley and the Olympia peninsula appeared hardest hit. Bridges went down or were threatened by ice jams, and traffic and communications to several towns and cities were cut.

MARTIN ASKS NRA SETUP FOR STATE
Governor Martin moved yesterday to place Oregon under a state NRA when he addressed a special message to each legislative house, asking for the enactment of an Oregon Recovery Act.

The governor said the act had been prepared by the national recovery administration and had been recommended for adoption by the several states. It provides for the making of codes which apply only to intra-state business, a field the national government has been unable to touch.

"Every code authority and every trade association of which I have knowledge desires the state recovery act," the governor said in his message. The governor said he was advised the A. F. of L. was behind the act in every state where legislatures are considering it.

The act itself, which is expected to be introduced today, provides for the formation of codes and code authorities, in much the manner provided under the national act. State courts would be the places of appeal in case the code authority decisions were opposed by code members.

The governor accompanied his message with a long list of Oregon trade associations backing the state code law.

Land Board Asked For Full Report
The state board of control yesterday made demand upon the state land board for a complete detailed report of its operations during the past biennium.

GEORGE SAMMIS OUT AS ADMINISTRATOR

(Continued from page 1)

of granting licenses the political interruptions have made the post difficult. I have always thought and I still think that the administration of the liquor system in Oregon should be utterly free from politics."

Asked for comment on the state liquor system inaugurated at the second special session of the 1933 legislature, Sammis said he thought the Oregon plan superior to any other system of which he knew for handling liquor. He urged that it be absolutely free of politics. Sammis said he thought it would be wise that the collection of taxes be entrusted to a separate department.

Undecided, Brodie Successor Mr. Barry, one of the liquor commissioner who was at the state capital when the resignation was announced, said no successor had been named until Governor Martin named a successor to E. E. Brodie, former chairman of the liquor commission, who resigned when business took him to California.

Governor Martin said late yesterday that he was undecided on a successor to Brodie and would announce no appointment for several days.

BRUNO'S ATTIC IS LADDER SOURCE, SAY
(Continued from page 1)

fense, expects to have Hauptmann on the stand during the afternoon. Hauptmann's eyes, usually cold and indifferent, snapped in annoyance as his tool chest was thrown open to the gaze of a crowd that braved a driving snowstorm to jam the tiny Hunterdon county courtroom.

Carpenter's Plane Is Demonstrated to Jury
He hunched his shoulders and braced himself in his chair as Koehler calmly improvised a little work table on a corner of the judge's bench and sent crisp pine shavings curling to the courtroom floor with Hauptmann's well worn plane.

Carefully, he explained to the jury how an upright of the ladder from which the famous baby allegedly fell to his death matched perfectly a piece of flooring taken from the attic of the Bronx house in which Hauptmann lived at the time of the kidnapping—March 1, 1932.

License Gambling, Montana Proposal
HELENA, Mont., Jan. 23.—(AP)—A bill for the legalization of gambling is proposed in Montana today by representatives. It also provides a plan of local option.

Another measure offered would establish a system of old age insurance.

The Call Board...

GRAND
Today—Will Rogers in "The County Chairman."

ELSINORE
Today—Barbara Stanwyck in "The Secret Bride."
Friday—"Pursuit of Happiness" with Charles Ruggles and Mary Boland.

CAPITOL
Today—Double bill, Ramon Novarro in "The Night is Young," and "The Notorious Gentleman" with Charles Bickford.

STATE
Today—Lee Tracy in "You Belong to Me," and Buster Keaton in "Allez-Op."
Saturday—"Ridin' Gents," a western, and "The Line-Up" with William Gargan.

HOLLYWOOD
Today—"Born to Be Bad" with Loretta Young, and "You Can't Buy Everything" with May Robson.
Friday—"Wheels of Destiny" with Ken Maynard and "Whom the Gods Destroy" with Walter Connolly.

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CAPITOL TODAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

THE NIGHT IS YOUNG
Gay With Love and Laughter
RAMON NOVARRO
EVELYN LAYE
EDW. EVERETT HORTON
CHARLES BUTTERWORTH
"The Night is Young"

"A Notorious Gentleman"
HE CONFESSED ONE CRIME... So that he could commit another!
with Charles Bickford • Helen Vinson

500 SEATS 15c

STATE THEATRE NEW SEVEN DOLLAR 10c

Today and Friday!
A happy-go-lucky guy whose whole life was a joke—on himself...

LEE TRACY and HELEN MACK in
"YOU BELONG TO ME"
David Jack Holt Helen Morgan

ADDED BUSTER KEATON in "ALLEZ-OOOP"

HE COULDN'T KISS HER ON SUNDAY
...but the other six days of the week... oh boy!

FRANCIS LEDERER in
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS
The Bundling Hit
A Paramount Picture with
JOAN BENNETT CHARLIE RUGGLES MARY BOLAND