

### Senate Passes Fish Measure

#### Unanimous Okeh Also Given to Education Of Handicapped

Contrary to all recent history, significant legislation on the subject of commercial fishing was approved unanimously and without long and noisy debate, Thursday in the Oregon senate.

The bill, a compromise between various interests worked out by Sens. Merle Chessman and P. J. Stadelman, provides for a spring closure of the Columbia river of 21 to 30 days and a winter closure of 45 to 60 days, and, by repealing certain existing laws, gives the fish commission certain additional powers.

Sen. Chessman said the measure had the approval of fishermen, packers, sportsmen and the fish commissions of Washington and Idaho.

"For the first time in many years the commercial fishing interests on the Columbia river have been brought into accord," Sen. Chessman said, "and the biennial fishing row on the floor of the senate has been avoided."

President W. H. Steiwer and Sen. Frederick Lampert and William Walsh thanked Senator Chessman for the manner in which he had handled the legislation referred to his committee.

The senate also approved without a dissenting vote a house bill by Rep. Harvey Wells providing for the education of physically handicapped children. The joint ways and means committee previously approved an appropriation of \$140,000 for the administration of this proposed law.

Sen. Dorothy Lee said there are more than 4000 physically handicapped children in Oregon who, under this measure, would receive proper educational opportunities.

Two bill having to do with the state gift tax law were approved by the senate.

One of these, by the house taxation and revenue committee, reduces the gift tax rates in Oregon to conform to those in Washington and California. The other bill, by the senate revision of laws committee, provides a gift tax exemption of \$5000 for adopted children.

A measure by Sen. Earl Newberry, Jackson county, provides for the refund of taxes on certain lands taken over by the federal government.

Minimum butterfat content of ice cream, under another bill, would be reduced from 12 to 8 per cent. Sen. W. E. Burke, Yam-

### Snell Urges Action for Funds To Liberalize Assistance; Pray Asks Police Salary Boost

Though no action has been taken upon Gov. Earl Snell's suggestion that utilities be taxed for the benefit of old age assistance, and Rep. John Steelhammer's bill proposing to tax pinball machines and mechanical phonographs for the same purpose

was defeated in the senate, Gov. Snell at a conference Thursday with a group of ways and means committee members stressed the desirability of providing additional funds to increase assistance payments approximately to the \$40 a month maximum provided by federal law.

"The necessity for liberalizing these payments is becoming more apparent each day," said Gov. Snell. "Living costs are mounting daily and supplemental assistance from surplus commodities through the food stamp plan is a thing of the past. The counties cannot match increases on account of the constitutional tax limitation."

Therefore, the governor continued, the state must find the funds required to match the maximum federal allotment.

"This is an obligation that we cannot ignore," the governor continued. "I hope, however, that we will be able to accomplish our aim without further appropriation from the general fund."

In the course of debate on the income tax bill in the house, Rep. A. Rennie indicated that the governor's request would involve about \$3,000,000.

Another ways and means committee group heard Charles F. Pray, superintendent of state police, plead for an additional appropriation for his department so the salaries of his officers may be increased.

Pray told the committee he had lost approximately 70 officers in the past year, most of whom have accepted employment in war industries or entered army service.

The increased appropriation for the next biennium, based on a bill now before the ways and means committee, would be approximately \$140,000. Of this amount \$86,000 would be contributed by the state highway

bill, said this was necessary in order to comply with federal regulations and provide a sufficient amount of ice cream for both soldiers and civilians.

Approval also was given a measure by the joint ways and means committee providing that all claims against the state must be filed not later than the twentieth day of each legislative session. This measure originally was proposed by Sen. W. H. Strayer, chairman of the claims committee.

commission, \$28,000 by the state game commission, \$4000 by the state fish commission, \$3000 by the state fire marshal and \$18,000 from the general fund.

The original measure, by Rep. John Hall provided that the salaries of privates in the state police department should be increased from \$160 to a maximum of \$200 a month, sergeants from \$185 to \$225, lieutenants from \$200 to \$235 and captains from \$250 to \$300. The ways and means committee recently reduced the increases 5 per cent.

The salary of the deputy superintendent of state police would be increased from \$3600 a year to \$4000 a year.

Pray declared that in order to keep men fully trained in police work it would be necessary to raise their wages somewhat in line with compensation received in other lines of work under war conditions.

### Bill Proposes Review Board

A bill introduced by the senate industries committee Thursday provides for the creation of an "Oregon Workmen's Compensation board," to operate in conjunction with the state industrial accident commission.

The board would be composed of five members, including the state insurance commissioner, three members of the state industrial accident commission, and one member to be appointed by the governor. It would have authority to review complaints brought against the commission and hold hearings.

### Action on Bills

- SB 36—Increasing industrial accident commission reserve fund.
- SB 79—Relating to the inspection and operation of elevators.
- SB 85—To define the phrase "group or number of different claims."
- SB 104—Relating to salaries of Morrow county officers.
- SB 107—Relating to jurors.
- SB 108—Increasing the salaries of Jackson county officers.
- SB 148—Increasing salaries of Klamath county officers.
- SB 168—Relating to state office building.
- SB 169—To provide for depositing of certain moneys by state board of higher education.
- HB 140—Relating to operations of state board of forestry.
- HB 149—To provide for certification of teachers.
- HB 196—Increasing salaries of Columbia county officers.
- HB 198—Relating to indemnity in connection with Bangs disease.
- HB 208—To prohibit livestock running at large within certain parts of Jefferson county.
- HB 272—Increasing salaries of Yamhill county officers.

### Diseases Noted Up 75 per Cent

PORTLAND, Feb. 25.—(P)—The state board of health announced Thursday that communicable diseases in Oregon last month were up 75 per cent from January a year ago.

Measles accounted for most of the gain, 1389 cases being reported last month. There were 66 cases of spinal meningitis, compared with none a year ago.

Meanwhile, the Portland health bureau reported 149 cases of pneumonia with 91 deaths and 25 cases of meningitis with 4 deaths so far in 1945.

### Civilian Defense Bill Expected

A bill under which the state will officially recognize the state civilian defense setup probably will be reported out Friday by the senate military affairs committee.

The measure has been before the committee for several days and has been amended on two or three occasions.

### Around Oregon

Funeral services were held at Tillamook for five-year-old Dona Bealy, killed when her grandfather, the Rev. Harold Bealy, accidentally backed his car over her. . . Two Reedport juvenile gasoline thieves were fined \$50 each by Justice of the Peace John H. Diehl. . . At Pendleton, a victory garden and home food production movement gained momentum. . . Death came to Arthur L. Edgerton, 66, Grants Pass lumberman. . . A Lincoln county pioneer, James J. Gaither, 81, died at Toledo. . . Martin H. Larson, 76, died at Roseburg of injuries suffered when struck by an automobile. . . Albert Charles Friedly, 72, retired railroad man, died at Pendleton.

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