

School, Veterans, Pension Bills Pass

Session Had Big Calendar Major Business Disposed of in 69-Day Meeting

By Wendell Webb

(Managing Editor, The Statesman)

The 43rd legislative assembly which ended last night, set a new record for length of time—69 days; but it also will rank high in the state's history in substantial accomplishments.

Faced with unprecedented problems regarding war veterans, and under heavy pressure on other issues born of world hostilities, it still found time to add greatly to state aid for schools, increase potential pensions for the aged, liberalize unemployment and workmen's compensation, add safeguards to the state's milk supply, protect sports fishing, and provide civil service and retirement for public employes.

Major legislation affecting major topics included the following:

SCHOOLS

Five-mill, two-year property tax (which would be levied if income tax surplus remains sufficient) to add \$10,000,000 to building fund for board of higher education and state institutions.

An increase in the school support fund from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

A cigarette tax to raise \$2,000,000 annually for schools.

Rural school districts to assure equalizations.

Allowing five teacher-training days a year to count as attendance days.

Authorizing a health program in the public schools.

Creating a new department of veterans affairs with \$5,000 director.

Giving veterans job preference in public works.

Liberalizing income tax exemptions for those disabled.

Providing loans up to \$3000 for farms and homes.

Providing \$35 monthly educational grants.

Authorizing counties to name service officers.

Allowing office-holders to retain jobs if re-elected while in service.

Giving free armory space to veterans' associations.

Allowing teaching credits to accumulate during service.

Assuring vote by extending from 45 to 70 days the time between filing of candidacies and elections.

AGRICULTURE

Providing for compulsory control of Bang's disease.

Specifying conditions under which milk must be pasteurized.

Calling for official state grading of milk.

Allocating \$50,000 for insect pest control.

Suspending seed inspections another two years.

PENSIONS

Lifting the \$40 ceiling on old-age assistance.

Setting up system of retirement and disability benefits, mandatory for state and school districts and optional with sub-divisions.

Permitting retirement systems in cities and counties of more than 100,000 population.

TAXES

Memorializing congress for tax parity with community property states.

Repealing community property tax law now deemed unconstitutional.

Creating commission to study Oregon tax structure.

Petitioning federal government to keep expenditures within budget estimates.

Exempting life insurance annuities from income tax up to price of policy.

Letting family incomes be divided into any proportion for income tax purposes.

Exempting from income tax gifts to governments and sub-divisions.

Providing a short-form for income tax returns in lower brackets.

Raising property tax cushion, from income tax surplus, from \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

Unemployment Compensation

Increasing benefits from \$15 for 16 weeks to \$18 for 20 weeks.

Reducing maximum payroll taxes from 4 to 2.7 per cent.

Reducing waiting period from two weeks to one week.

Exempting newspaper delivery men, insurance agents, real estate salesmen.

Workmen's Compensation

Increasing from \$25 to \$30 the benefits per degree of injury, and increasing possible benefits otherwise.

Extending from one to two years the time for claiming benefits for aggravated injuries.

Creating a second injury fund and a \$500,000 major injury fund.

Fish

Putting the state fish commission on a direct appropriation basis.

Barring commercial fishing in most coastal streams.

Placing master fish warden at head of commercial fishing laws.

Setting minimum shad size.

Barring fishing for crawfish from April 15 to June 1 annually.

Continuing fisheries interim committee.

Liquor

Authorizing and financing investigation of 1943 liquor purchase.

Compelling liquor commission to give preference to Oregon wines.

Strengthening laws of confiscation, forfeiture and abatement of nuisances.

Barring sale of liquor when election polls are open.

Other major legislation completed included:

Providing means for counties to adopt the manager form of government.

Providing a merit civil service system for state employes.

Extending for two years the operation of over-size trucks.

Prohibiting PUD's from serving outside areas without customer's consent.

Authorizing governor to restore voting rights to released convicts.

Letting counties spend up to \$25,000 for war memorials.

Authorizing state to take over North Pacific Dental college.

Empowering barber board to recognize price scales by counties.

Raising salaries of some state officials, and many district attorneys and county officers.

Providing for 31 (instead of 30) senators.

Studies were authorized regarding care of children, motor vehicle taxation, federal and state veterans' legislation, city and county planning, Columbia river fishing, the state's tax structure, hospitals and jails, the primary election law, and lower salaries among state employes.

In addition, the federal government was asked to include the national guard in postwar military policies, to return the country to standard time, and to give merchant seamen benefits under the G. I. bill of rights.

Other bills which passed both houses included these:

Barring mobile registration booths.

Strengthening control of forests regarding fires.

Validating past marriage consummated before expiration of

waiting period after divorce.

Validating divorces which might be questioned because of residence.

Repealing the bar against hiring Chinese on public works.

Authorizing statutes of Oregonians in statutory hall in Washington.

Increasing from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 the fund for state office building in Salem.

Raising pay of election clerks from \$3 to \$4 a day.

Compelling fire - proofing of tents used for public gatherings.

Dividing authority of state agriculture and health departments.

All legislation was not on the affirmative side.

The session killed, withdrew or let die measures which would:

Call for deporting alien Japanese and excluding all Japanese from the coast for the duration.

Give Oregon a lieutenant governor.

Compel all judges to wear robes. Ask a 25 per cent limitation on federal income tax.

Invoke a limited national service act.

Call for compulsory military training.

Bar discrimination as to race, creed or color (civil rights bill).

Raise the salaries of top state officials.

Compel small employes to come under unemployment compensation.

Put liquor revenues in the general fund.

Open workmen's compensation to private insurance firms (three-way plan).

Place all fortified wine in state liquor stores.

Tax wine 5 cents a gallon.

Provide for a governor's mansion.

Give Multnomah county a psychiatric hospital.

Provide for free-ways (limited access highways).

Eliminate three-day wait before marriages.

Provide a new highway transportation fee code.

Establish game management areas.

Veteran-statehouse attaches said the 43rd session probably set a record in the number of amendments to bills—a factor which considerably delayed adjournment

Eight Issues Referred for Popular Vote

The 43rd legislature left up to the people eight issues favored at the session just closed.

since an amended bill had to be acted on at least twice.

The house kept somewhat ahead of the senate most of the session, and the smaller group had to wade through exceptionally heavy business the last few days to speed the end. The session broke by three days the record of 66 days set in 1939.

To be voted on at a special election June 22 are these:

1. A 5-mill, two-year property tax (the money to be taken from income tax surpluses) to provide \$10,000,000 for a building program at state institutions and at institutions of higher learning.

2. A 2-cents-a-package cigarette tax estimated to raise \$2,000,000 additional annually for schools.

Left for later vote, probably at the next regular election in 1948:

3. The creation of rural school districts as a step toward equalization.

4. Permitting tax levies in 22 cities to provide armories.

5. Providing for the secretary

of state and state treasurer to follow the president of the senate and the speaker of the house in line of succession to the governor.

6. Permitting Chinese to own property and work mining claims.

7. Splitting the 17th senatorial district to add another (31st) senator and give Klamath county a senator of its own.

8. Letting bills be read by title only at the legislature, instead of

at first sign of a

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