

With Watson at the Legislature The 'Big Top' Starts Its Show; Will the Acts Be Spectacular?

By Ralph Watson

Once again the legislature has come to town to visit for a couple of months or so, as it has a habit of doing every two years. It is a circumstance which folks take as a matter of course, except as a seeming necessity and cease worrying about it. It is a safe bet that 99 per cent of the rank and file of the citizenry in the state as a whole do not know how it functions, to what purpose or why. Those who have rooms to rent, or run restaurants, apartments or hotels harbor a fleet appreciation for its presence and wait for its adjournment when they once more may settle back into the even course of their daily routine.



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But, taking it by a large, folks generally have a very hazy idea about the legislature, what it does and how it does it. It is a candid and unwholesome fact that almost, if not quite, a majority of the taxpayers, even the businessmen who are supposed to constitute the directing brains of the community, don't know the real difference between the Speaker of the House and the Previous Question.

When they receive their tax bills they holler but they are like the calf caught in the barnyard gate. They are bawling at the gate or at the farmer who built it. They just bawl until they slim up enough to crawl through or some kind soul comes along, hits them with a direct property offset or the Walker plan or something and they head happily across lots for the next hole in the fence and another bawling spell.

Of course, a lot of this does not apply, in toto, to folks who live in Marion and Polk counties. They know what the legislature is for, even though they may not be quite sure why and be totally at a loss to figure out how it is going to do what they figure its primary purpose in coming to town may be.

Anyway it is here; it is due to clutter up the parking spaces around the hotels (if the courteous and unmercenary city administration will plug up the meters) for two months or more, so why not take its blankets off and see what sort of a horse it is.

If we are going to be perfectly frank about it, start at the beginning in an elementary manner so that the boys and girls can get the lesson, no doubt it would be best to use the "visual" approach which seems to be the New Look of the current primary school system; just nail the cat on the board for the children to memorize, without attempting to "learn 'em" the alphabet first.

So, we all know about Barnum and Bailey's circus. We have been to it. We have watched it unload the elephants; have heard the lions roar and shuddered when the big cats snarled in the cages. We all know that the circus has a Big Top, and two rings under it, a bunch of side shows, daring guys on the flying trapeze and a clown or two.

Well, so has the legislature. It has its Big Top stretched from one end of the statehouse to the other. And it has two main rings, in which the high and lofty tumbling is to take its turn. It is its flock of side shows. As to its clowns we will leave them for time and trial to develop.

There is the Big Top, the senate and the house which spread their canvas over the whole show. There is the committee on Ways and Means, the "Little Legislature," and the committees on Assessment and Taxation. The two main rings where they are to do the tight rope and the slack wire performances and the aerial financial trapeze work. Then on the side are the 51 side shows; the long list of committees where the tumbling is not so spectacular.

Another day, perhaps, will be a good time to tell about the side shows, the acrobats, how they happened to take up with the circus in the first instance.

State Income Tax Changes Are Proposed

Repeal of the entire state income tax law is proposed in a measure introduced in the senate by Sen. Ben Musa, The Dalles accountant and former federal revenue collector.

Musa, a tax expert with more than 20 years experience, said he believes the present income tax law is antiquated and no longer

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In the Senate

SIGNED
SB 1 (Routine, mostly supplies).
SB 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
SB 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
INTRODUCED
SB 1 (Musa)—To repeal entire state income tax law including provision for property tax offset.

SB 2 (Linn and Benton county delegations)—Providing for another circuit judge in the 21st judicial district of Linn and Benton counties.
SB 3 (Neuberger)—Providing for construction of University of Oregon Junior College at Portland by September, 1950.
SB 18 (By revision of Laws)—Providing that supreme court reporter's pay scale be changed from \$4,000 annually to an amount per volume of work at rate fixed by supreme court.
SB 3 (Neuberger and Holmes)—An act providing for election of a lieutenant governor.

In the House

PASSED
HB 2 (Ways and Means)—Appropriating \$200,000 for legislative expenses.
REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
HB 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
INTRODUCED
HB 16 (Hill)—Would increase gasoline tax from 5 to 6 cents after July 1 next.
HB 11 (Fisher)—Provides that a county surveyor must be a registered engineer or surveyor.

HB 12 (Hendershott)—Sets district court fees same as circuit court.
HB 13 (Hill)—Would increase gasoline tax from 5 to 6 cents, exclude all exemptions except for aircraft, and put extra funds in special highway fund for debt amortization.
HB 14 (Hill)—Allows highway commission to issue bonds at not to exceed 3 per cent for location, construction and repair of highways.
HB 15 (Greenwood, Gile, Steelhammer)—Appropriates \$1,916,000 to continue temporary salary increases for state employees until July 1.
HB 16 (Harvey)—Bars minors from places serving alcoholic beverages.
HB 17 (Dickson)—Changes makeup of board of examining engineers, alters method of paying members and sets license fees.
HB 18 (Dreyer, Morgan)—Increases educational aid for World War II veterans from \$25 to \$30 a month.
HB 19 (McNutt, Hill, Hendershott)—Sets up regulations for fortune tellers outside of incorporated cities and sets \$25 annual license fee.

HB 2 (Ways and Means)—Provides for law books and newspapers for legislators.
HJM 1 (Chadwick, Steelhammer, Sene, Carson, Lamport and others)—Memorializes congress to proceed with flood control work in northwest immediately.
HJM 2 (Harvey)—Asks congress to provide means of holding advisory referendum polls in each congressional district.

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Legislative Tidbits

By IERYME ENGLISH

VISITORS OF NOTE... In the senate chamber Wednesday were Mrs. Richard L. Neuberger of Portland and Mrs. Robert Holmes of Gearhart, whose husbands are senators and serving their first terms... Mrs. Neuberger distinctive in a green and red plaid wool skirt with matching shawl and hat with perky red feather... petite Mrs. Holmes in a grey suit and fuchsia coat... Mrs. Carl Engdahl of Pendleton, who will be here most of the session with her senator husband, chatting with Mrs. Brazier Small, who is again gallery doorkeeper in the senate this year... Mrs. Engdahl wearing a grey suit and fur coat with a touch of purple on her hat and blouse for color... The Engdahl's son, Dick, sophomore at Oregon State college, a guest of his father in the senate on Tuesday... Also here Tuesday was Jack Steiwer of Fossil, son of former president of the senate and Mrs. W. H. Steiwer... Gordon Walker with his father, Senator Dean Walker, and Mrs. Walker for the inaugural on Monday... Here for the opening sessions and inaugural were Mrs. Howard Belton and newly married daughter, Mrs. Richard D. Birkmeier (Margaret Belton) of Canby... Hillman Lueddemann, Portland's "first citizen" this year, and T. H. Banfield, chairman of the state highway commission were glimpsed in the corridors during the week... Also Mac Epley, Klamath Falls newspaperman...
SECRETARIES... Just like old home week in the senate with many back as secretaries... Mrs. Lester Cour (a bride of last session) secretary to Sen. Alan Carson... Mrs. Robert Brennan chic in a brown and white plaid outfit working for Sen. Frederick Lamport... Others spotted... Mrs. Hillary Etzel... Mrs. Robert Needham... Mrs. Robert Armond... among the wives serving as secretaries for their husbands... Mrs. Eugene Marsh of McMinnville, whose husband is a former speaker of the house... Blonde Mrs. Austin Dunn of Baker... Mrs. William Walsh will serve as secretary for her husband, who is president of the senate... Assisting in their office will Edna Dunbar, sister of Mrs. William Burrell of Stayton, who is up from San Francisco for

the winter... From Medford came attractive Mrs. William McAllister, and their two children, Catherine and Bill... At the inaugural Mrs. McAllister seen smartly dressed in a cinnamon brown suit with green felt hat adorned with feather trim... They have taken Mrs. Walter Spaulding's home for the next few months...
More of the same... Mrs. C. L. L'Heuallien of Pendleton, secretary to her representative husband... their daughter, Suzanne, former Oregon State coed sitting two desks back as secretary to Rep. Henry Peterson of Ione... Mrs. Giles French of Moro again secretary to her husband... the same for Mrs. M. M. Landon of Sweet Home, who wore a good-looking green suit with burnt orange felt hat on opening day...
Here for the session only... Mrs. Richard Kriese, who is now living in Portland, has come down to serve as secretary to Sen. Rex Ellis... Incidentally the senate honored him on his birthday Wednesday... Mrs. Howard Stevens (Helen Ramsden), who now lives in Portland, is here as senate calendar clerk... During her stay she is at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, the Robert Ramsdens... Her daughter, Deborah, is attending Annie Wright Seminary in Tacoma... Mrs. H. R. Woodburn, who lives at Oceanlake, is back working in the senate... temporarily she is with her son and his wife, the Robert Woodburns... So far no large parties on the social agenda... but understand several are in the offing... clubs have already announced dates for their biennial affairs in honor of the legislative contingent... Sen. and Mrs. Frederick Lamport entertained at dinner at the Legion club Wednesday night for six senators and their wives... the group gathering first at the Lamport home... the affair the first in a series of dinners the Lamports are arranging during the session... A number of the wives here for the session and staying at the Marion hotel gather frequently for a round of bridge... a similar affair held Wednesday night in the lobby of the hotel...

REPAIRS ON LOG BUILDING
PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(P)—The world's "largest log cabin" is undergoing repairs. Built as the Forestry Building for the Lewis and Clark world's fair here in 1905, the structure is being strengthened by the city, which now maintains the building as part of its city parks.

Continuance of State Salary Raise Sought
An appropriation of \$1,916,000, designed to continue until July 1 the recent \$20 monthly pay increase granted state employees, is sought in a house bill introduced Wednesday by Rep. John Steelhammer of Salem.
The cost of living increase expired January 1, and the bill would keep it in effect for the rest of the current two-year fiscal period. The legislature will consider making it \$30 for the next biennium.
Sponsors of the bill also include Reps. Jack Greenwood, Wenme, and Robert C. Gile, Roseburg.

House Approves Parking Plans
The house of representatives Wednesday accepted a plan whereby North Summer street between Court and Chemeketa would be closed to all parking other than for legislators. The plan was explained by Rep. Douglas Yeater of Salem who said it had been approved by Mayor R. L. Elstrom.
The senate is to caucus this morning regarding the parking problem.

Senator Asks Junior College For Portland
A senate bill calling for construction of a state-supported junior college in Portland by September of 1950 was introduced Wednesday by Sen. Richard Neuberger of Portland.
To press construction, the bill stipulates that not more than \$100,000 may be spent for construction at any other single state institution of higher learning until the junior college is established.
The school would be named the University of Oregon Junior College at Portland. Enrollment would start by March of 1950 and the school would offer all lower division courses now taught at the university.
The bill stipulates that Vanport college may be continued until the junior college is opened.
"Although the state of Oregon has no publicly-supported junior colleges, Washington has nine and California more than 50," Neuberger said Wednesday.
"Possibly as a result of this situation, there are fewer men and women in proportion to population receiving a higher education in Oregon than in other Pacific coast states."
Neuberger estimated at least 5,000 students would attend the junior college. This figure compares with 1,207 students now attending college in Portland.

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SEN. ELLIS FELICITATED
Sen. Rex Ellis, Pendleton, was 55 years old Wednesday and the senate solemnly passed a resolution wishing him a happy birthday. Sen. Frederick C. Lamport, Salem, referred to Ellis as an able legislator who is loved by his colleagues. Ellis, now serving his 7th session, is second in seniority.

Second Plan For Governor Assistant Filed

A second measure calling for establishment of a lieutenant governorship in Oregon was introduced in the senate Wednesday by Sens. Richard Neuberger, Portland, and Robert Holmes, Gearhart.

The Neuberger-Holmes senate joint resolution followed another similar resolution submitted Tuesday by Sen. Thomas Mahoney, Portland, but the measures differ on several points.

The Neuberger-Holmes measure provides that a lieutenant governor be elected simultaneously with the governor for a four-year term. The job would carry a salary of \$4,800 annually, and the number two executive would serve only as senate president. He would vote only in case of a tie vote in the upper house, when his ballot would be a decisive factor.

Mahoney's resolution calls for election of a lieutenant governor for a four-year term. But the assistant chief executive would serve as executive secretary to the governor and budget director in addition to his duties as senate president.

Neuberger said Wednesday he did not believe a lieutenant governor, with a vote in the senate, should be connected with any executive state positions as proposed in Mahoney's measure.

Another Judge For Linn-Benton District Sought

A bill to provide another circuit judge in the 21st judicial district covering Linn and Benton counties was introduced in the senate Wednesday.

Sponsoring the measure were delegations from the two counties — Sens. Orville Thompson, Albany, and Reps. Max Landon, Sweet Home, Warren Gill, Lebanon, and Francis Ziegler, Corvallis.

The delegation pointed out that the district is entitled to another circuit judge because of the tremendous population gain. Judge Victor Olliver is the only judge at present.

Amusement Tax Proposed to Aid Assistance Plan

A proposal for a 10 per cent amusement tax, covering the same ground as the federal government's 20 per cent, is being readied for the legislative hopper by Rep. Paul Harvey of Portland.

Harvey said the federal tax yielded \$3,000,000 in 1946, and that if the 10 per cent state tax returned that much revenue in a biennium it would pay the estimated \$4.50 per case needed to bring old-age pensions up to a \$50 minimum.

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