

Pension, Other Reports Due In Few Days

(Story also on page 1)
Subcommittees of the joint ways and means group of the current legislature swung into action Friday with the result that a number of reports, dealing with some of the smaller state activities, may be ready to file within a week or 10 days.

The subcommittees will investigate the budget requests of all state departments, institutions, boards and commissions along with the recommendations of the state budget division. Two subcommittees will take advantage of the week-end recess and visit state institutions in the Salem area.

Eye Social Welfare

One of the outstanding subcommittees, including Sens. Rex Ellis and Austin F. Flegel and Reps. William Morse, Earl McNutt and Francis W. Ziegler, will investigate child security problems. Important among these activities is the public welfare commission which administers relief.

A bill is now being whipped into shape providing a minimum \$50 a month pension, based on need, for all men who have attained the age of 65 years and women who have reached 60 years. Such a bill was approved at the last guidance clinic, but later was held unworkable by the attorney general.

\$2,750,000 Estimated Need

(Loa Howard, state administrator of the public welfare commission, told the house social welfare committee that an average of \$4.55 a month per car for a total approximating \$2,750,000 for the biennium) would be needed for the \$50 minimum.)

A subcommittee composed of Sens. Carl Engdahl, Angus Gibson and Dean Walker and Reps. Alex Barry and William Morse, has been assigned to investigate the wants of higher education. In addition to strictly budget requests of the state board of higher education this committee will probe the budgets of Doernbecher hospital, child guidance clinic, blind students subsistence and the proposed state building program.

\$12,000,000 To Be Asked

The board of higher education was expected to center much of its argument on a request for capital outlays, probably in the amount of \$12,000,000 for construction of new buildings. This request was eliminated from the state budget. A state building program, involving individual income tax revenues, may be referred to the voters at a special election.

The subcommittee to investigate salaries and wages for state workers is composed of Sens. Gibson, Engdahl and Stewart Fardie and Reps. McNutt and Rudie Wilhelm, Jr. It was expected this committee would follow closely the recommendations of the state civil service commission for an average \$30 per month increase for all state employees. Divided funds are available. This would include the \$20 a month cost-of-living increase granted by the state emergency board last June which terminated on December 31, 1948.

Chairman on All Groups

A special finance committee is composed of Carl Abrams, clerk of the joint ways and means committee; Sephus Starr, state auditor; and C. C. Chapman, publisher of the Oregon Voter. Ex-officio members of all committees are Sen. Howard Belton, chairman of the senate ways and means committee, and Rep. Henry Semon, chairman of the house ways and means committee.

Portland Port Governors Are Appointed

Appointment of two members of the Port of Portland and re-appointment of three members was announced by Governor Douglas McKay here Friday.

Reappointed were Robert H. Atkinson, Edwin Dwyer and Captain Clyde Raabe, all of Portland. New appointees are Chester E. McCarty and Olin Harrison. They succeeded James H. Cassell and F. N. Youngman, who expressed a desire to be relieved of their port duties. McCarty, a Portland attorney, has been active in development of the aviation industry and served as a colonel in the air corps during world war II. He formerly served as a member of the state legislature and as assistant attorney general for Oregon from 1930 to 1935.

Harrison is a teamsters union secretary. Supervision of airports in the Portland area is under the Port of Portland.

Reginald Williams Named to Committee

Reginald Williams, Salem attorney and former deputy prosecutor of Marion county, was appointed Friday as chief clerk and legal adviser of the senate revision of laws committee.

Williams, who left the district attorney's office January 1, performed similar legal work for several law committees in the Oklahoma legislature. Sen. Allan Carson of Salem is chairman of the committee.

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Eleven Men Launched on Job Of Fixing Up State's Finances

With Watson at the Legislature
By Ralph Watson

(Editor's note: In Friday's Statesman, Ralph Watson described the makeup and duties of the "Little Legislature"—the 16-man joint ways and means committee which shapes the appropriation bills. Today, he details the taxation committees which cut the cloth from which the appropriations are made.)

Eleven men, five of whom have had no previous legislative experience, have started on the job of fixing up the state's finances for the next two years. They face the problem of finding a way to meet \$109 million of the state budget, which is some \$38 million in excess of the last two years, and which does not take into consideration any money for the \$28 million building program of the state educational and other institutions.

On the face of it, the chore handed the 11 gold diggers would seem to be a major endeavor and it is. So who are the 11 strong men who during the coming 50 or 60 days or so are to discover the key to the jack pot?

Officially the group makes up the house committee on taxation. Its members are supposed to be the wise men of the west who can find a way to unlock the \$8 per cent tax limitation amendment to unlock the \$36 million "surplus" tied up in the state treasury by the corporate excise and income tax laws and release it for the benefit of the taxpayers, and to do a few other feats of financial jugglery to make the constituents happy.

Chairman of this group is Ralph Moore, of Coos county, timberman and logger. He has spent a lot of time and printers' ink writing about taxation. He was a member of the committee two years ago.

Other members who served with him on the committee in the 1947 session include Herman Chingreen of Clackamas, who usually has a lot of bills about county fairs and similar subjects. He is a farmer. Robert Gile, chairman of the 1947 committee, of Roseburg, is a fruit packer. E. W. Kimberling of Prairie City is a hard-headed veteran of a lot of former sessions, owner of an 1,800-acre eastern Oregon stock and wheat ranch, Lyle Thomas, school teacher of Polk county who has turned aside from the teaching profession to become the executive secretary of the Oregon Farmers' Union, also is a member, as is Giles French.

The freshmen on the committee include J. F. Short, who owns and operates 700 acres of irrigated land near Redmond; David Baum of La Grande, farmer, secretary of the county fair association and field man for a fraternal group; Ben Day, farm operator of Gold Hill; Phil Dreyer of Portland, recently through Reed college, and John Sell, The Dalles, auditor, former banker and now office manager for the Seufert Brothers Cannery.

When this group of 14 finish with their work of finding the way out of the financial woods, their remedy for the tangle in the budget will go into the senate there to be given the scrutiny of another group of financial experts, four of whom were members of the 1947 committee on assessment and taxation, and all of whom have

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In the Senate

INTRODUCED
SB 53 (Com. on High)—Provides for registration plates issued to owners of motor vehicles, instead of to vehicles, with owner to keep same number on whatever car he has.
SB 54 (Com. on High)—Would stagger registration of motor vehicles, except trucks, buses, motorcycles and miscellaneous, so that renewals are due a year after issuance, and yearly due a year after January 1.
SB 55 (Com. on High)—Would tax gasoline sold to military except for ships and aircraft.
UP FOR FINAL VOTE MONDAY
SB 2 (Sissonhammer)—Would eliminate designation of illegitimacy on birth certificates.
RESUMES 11 a.m. MONDAY.

In the House

INTRODUCED
HB 29—(Medicine, Pharmacy & Dentistry)—Raises cost of birth certificates from 50 cents to \$2 a copy.
HB 21—(Roads & Highways)—Making minor changes in chauffeur license law.
HB 22—(Forestry & Forest Products)—To set up administration of 1947 forest rehabilitation act.
HB 23—(Forestry & Forest Products)—To provide \$125,000 appropriation for insect control in western Oregon.
HB 24—(By Lampport, by request)—To effect minor changes in law governing filing of plans.
ADOPTED
SB 13—(By Resolutions)—Providing for appointment of clerk for committee on forestry and forest products and resolutions.
SB 14—(By Resolutions)—Providing for chief clerks in committees on state affairs, mining, railroads and public utilities.
RESUMES 11 a.m. MONDAY.

New System Proposed for Car Licenses

Permanent car license plates, already adopted by some states and proposed in others, are sought for Oregon in bills introduced in the legislature Friday by the house committee on highways.

The bills were formulated by Secretary of State Earl Newbry who several months ago indicated a preference for the proposed system. He has expressed hope it might be applicable for 1950.

The plan calls for plates to be issued to owners, rather than to vehicles, with the owner to keep the same plate on whatever car he acquires. Licenses would be renewable annually, but in staggered rotation—1/12 each month so there would be year-around licensing activity rather than a single crush.

Insert tabs with new dates would be provided to go with the permanent plates at each renewal. The move toward the new plate system has no connection with proposals, still in the talking stage, to increase registration fees for cars. The permanent plates would not be used on trucks, buses, motorcycles and miscellaneous vehicles.

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Forest Plan Brought Out In Senate Bill

Administration of the 1947 forest rehabilitation act is provided for in a bill introduced in the senate Friday by the committee on forestry and forest products.

The measure was passed by the 1947 legislature as a constitutional amendment and was approved by the voters in last November's election.

The act permits the state to issue bonds for reforestation not to exceed 3% of 1 per cent of the state's total assessed valuation. The bonding measure will provide a gross income of \$10,500,000 for the forestry department.

Under the proposed act, the board of forestry would be authorized to sell bonds in various denominations, but not to exceed \$500,000 in any one year. The money derived from the sale of bonds will go into a special "Oregon Forest Rehabilitation fund."

The bonds are to be retired from moneys to be deposited in a sinking fund. These funds will come from sale of forest products on lands acquired under the act and from other forest lands benefited by the act. Most of the bond retirement, however, will come from state taxes.

It is contemplated that between 10 and 15 years will be required to carry out the replanting program.

Value of New Deutsche Mark Gains Ground

FRANKFURT, Jan. 14—(AP)—The high prices which provoked Germans to riot last fall are tumbling down.

The new Deutsche mark which Germans used to distrust is gaining in value. The American dollar and American cigarettes, which used to yield such high black market profits are losing their lure.

All these signs, U. S. military government officials say, point to a rapid recovery of health by the war-sick German economy.

The price decline set in right after Christmas, some German officials were skeptical at first. They thought maybe it was only because the Germans had spent all their money for Christmas presents and stores were trying to get rid of Christmas wares that had not been sold.

But prices are still dropping. Now officials are hopeful the back of the price boom may be broken. Legal as well as black market prices are going down. Shoes and leather goods have dropped 20 per cent in Frankfurt, though textile prices still hang high.

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Governor Draws Winner in DAR Contest



This was the recent scene at the Oregon statehouse when the new governor, Douglas McKay, drew the lucky number for Doris Groves of Lebanon which awarded her the good citizenship \$100 prize of the Oregon Daughters of the Revolution. Left to right, Mrs. R. M. Hayden of Lebanon, state DAR chairman for the contest; Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction; Governor McKay and Mrs. Martha Ferguson McKeown, state DAR regent. (Statesman photo).

Florence Chief Of Police Fired

EUGENE, Jan. 14—(AP)—L. L. Ray, local lawyer and city attorney for Florence, Ore., told the Associated Press here yesterday that Mayor Paul Womer and the Florence city council dismissed A. R. "Ray" White and his wife from the positions of chief of police and police matron, respectively, of the coast city.

White was the central figure in a tiff at a Florence tavern Sunday night when he lodged three citi-

Soviet Keeps Alive Talk Of Truman-Stalin Meet

MOSCOW, Jan. 14—(AP)—The possibility of a Truman-Stalin meeting is a subject that is being kept alive in Moscow.

The Soviet press this week published two stories in which such a meeting was mentioned.

Timber Tract Bidders Few

PORTLAND, Jan. 14—(AP)—The declining lumber market echoed in a public timber sale Wednesday. There weren't many bidders.

The bureau of land management reported that bids were offered on only 15 of 21 tracts placed on sale this month. And the bids totaled only \$296,972.05—not much above the appraised valuation of \$292,173.50.

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