Britain, France, Benelux Nations Agree on 'Council of Europe'

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3rd Week End Finds Legislature in Same Spot as 2 Years Ago

By Wendell Webb
Managing Editor, The Statesman

The Oregon legislature, after getting new proposals to increase its power and pay, recessed Friday in almost exactly the same status of the comparable time two years ago.

Not that leaders had given up hope of shortening the 1947 session's record (84 days), but they were a bit more cautious in predictions. There was a lot of "big stuff" yet to come. The odds were slightly better, however, that the sales tax would not be among it.

These were the highlights of the final sessions of the third legislative week:

(1) Bills were readied providing for constitutional amendments to let the legislature effect a tax program, by two-thirds vote, without risking a referendum; requiring signatures of 8 per cent of all registered voters, instead of just those who voted, before an initiative could be put on the ballot, and requiring a favorable vote of 25 per cent of registered voters in a school district to pass a bond issue;

(2) The senate passed and sent to the house a measure empowering the governor to authorize rationing of power during emergencies (all power in Salem went off 10 minutes after the action);

(3) A new bill was introduced in the senate to give legislators $1,200 a year (present pay is $200 a year and a bill introduced Thursday calls for $600).

Constitutional Amendments

The three proposed constitutional amendments carried the signatures of Reps Earl Hill, Cushman; Dean B. Erwin, Enterprise; John P. Hounsell, Hood River, and David C. Baum, La Grande.

Hill was a leader in the sales tax fight of 1947 when the legislature-approved measure went to defeat in referendum. The proposed amendment would provide that any such legislative action, if by a two-thirds vote, would carry an emergency clause and therefore become effective immediately without referendum.

May Delay Sales Tax Try

But there would have to be a referendum, in effect, on Hill's new proposal, so that even if it passes there can be no "go-ahead" to independent legislative tax action until the 1951 session. It has been indicated that another try to invoke the sales tax may be delayed until then. But there are no known promises along that line.

The other two proposed constitutional amendments seek to tighten the initiative process and to make it impossible for a handful of voters to impose a school bond issue.

McKay Signs Bill

Meanwhile, Friday also brought the signature of Gov. Douglas McKay to the bill continuing the $20 cost-of-living pay increase to state employes, so it will be reflected in their January checks.

Thirty-five new measures were introduced in the senate and house Friday, bringing the total to 310 (the figure was 325 on the comparable day last session). The house has passed 38 and the senate 17 (compared with 36 and 22, respectively, at the same time last session). Legislative action has been completed on 9 (compared with 7).

The house Friday passed and sent to the senate seven of its own bills, including those requiring county surveyors to be licensed; allowing county courts to set pay scales for justices of the peace, and appropriating $132,000 for new forest fire protection districts.

The senate passed and sent to the governor two house-approved bills letting Multnomah county acquire Columbia Pioneer cemetery and allowing school districts to bond themselves up to 10 per cent of their assessed valuation—thus continuing the 1947 law.

Classifies Counties

Major bills among the new introductions in the senate Friday included those classifying Oregon counties into six groups, based on population, for the purpose of fixing salaries of county officers. At present, county salaries are dealt with individually, and several bills calling for increases already have been introduced.

Several particularly-controversial issues were raised in new bills entering the house, in addition to the predicted proposal to double the basic school support fund.

Among the measures were those requiring licenses for building contractors at $25 per year; creating a state board of opticians; upping marriage licenses from $3 to $5; assuring right of trial to persons accused of mental illness or senility, and requiring candidates for partisan offices to have been a member of the party in which they seek nomination for at least six months prior to filing.

The latter measure, entered by Reps. Howard and John L. Logan of Portland, grew out of allegations that Sheriff Mike Elliott of Portland was not registered as a democrat until just before his campaign.

Both the senate and house will resume at 10:30 a. m. Monday.

(Additional details pages 3 and 4)

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The state of Washington has long been a more radical state than Oregon in its thinking, though not always in its doing One recalls the famous quip attributed to Jim Farley that the USA consisted of 47 states and the soviet of Washington. Back in 1919 when a general strike was called in Seattle there was considerable evidence that the fomenters of the strike thought they might be touching off a red revolution after the pattern of Russia; but it was promptly scotched. In that Mayor Ole Hanson got a lot of fame, not altogether deserved.

Seattle has had quite a nucleus of communists, including some intellectuals. The discharge of three professors at the state university on grounds of their being communists came at the end of a lengthy investigation. It is not surprising that it has brought some reaction. One professor has resigned. Eight faculty members (six assistant and one associate professor and one instructor in the physics department) have signed a statement in protest, evidently standing on the doctrine of academic freedom; and students scheduled a protest meeting. President Allen however says that the affair is closed; and as far as the regents are concerned it doubtless is. Perhaps the most significant thing is that more of the faculty did not enter objections to discharge on the basis of political opinion.

The incident reminds me of another trial, in 1914, when a public school principal in a town in Snohomish county was accused of

(Continued on editorial page)

Red Artillery Holds Positions Near Nanking

NANKING, Jan. 28 – (AP) – The Chinese communists were reported mounting artillery on the north bank of the Yangtze today in positions to cut this confused capital's communications with Shanghai.

The news contributed to the pervading gloom of Nanking on this lunar New Year's eve, ordinarily China's gayest holiday. By the Chinese zodiac, the year of the rat is ending and the year of the ox beginning.

Military reports said the communist guns were appearing at Icheng. While they apparently had not fired yet, they were capable of commanding traffic on the river and also on the south-bank railway and road.

The government's military spokesman in this half-abandoned capital said nationalist troops recovered and then lost Yangchow (Chiangtu), 17 miles northeast of Icheng, in an all-night fight. This was the only conflict reported in the civil war.

The Reds' slow maneuvering to isolate Nanking led to a growing conviction of remaining residents that there would be no battle for the city, except for the possibility that a few communist shells might be thrown this way.

BRITISH AUTO EXPORTS HIGH

LONDON, Jan. 28 –(AP)– Britain exported 24,475 automobiles to the United States last year compared with only 45 in 1938.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH

"Well, what do you expect—wool itches!"

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	41	17	.00
Portland	37	21	.00
San Francisco	59	40	—
Chicago	34	31	.02
New York	52	45	.48

Willamette river -1.1 feet.

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Increasing cloudiness with light rain or snow mixed with rain tonight. Cloudy with intermittent rain Sunday. High today near 40. Low tonight near 30.

SALEM PRECIPITATION
(Sept. 1 to Jan. 29)

This Year	Last Year	Average
22.06	26.23	22.10

Invitation Issued to Countries

LONDON, Jan. 28 –(AP)– Britain and her four Brussels pact allies agreed tonight to set up a "council of Europe," opening the way ultimately for a single parliament to represent all the European democracies.

The compromise decision was announced following a conference of the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. It constitutes a major step toward a full-fledged Western European union.

By giving the go-ahead signal for establishment of the council, the five ministers ended a deadlock which had extended for months. A communique said the ministers "decided to invite other European countries to take part in the negotiations for the establishment of the council of Europe."

The council, the communique added, will be divided into two sections — a "ministerial council," which will meet privately and be responsible directly to the various member governments, and an advisory "consultative body," which will debate in public any matters except mutual defense.

Authoritative sources in close touch with the two-day conference here said the council's headquarters would be set up in the French city of Strasbourg, near the German border.

115 Injured in Chicago Gas Company Blast

CHICAGO, Jan. 28 –(AP)– An explosion ripped off the roof of a gas company mixing plant today, injuring 115 persons, most of whom were cut by flying glass.

Only one person was reported critically hurt.

Scene of the blast was a mixing plant of the People's Gas Light and Coke company at 2250 South Racine avenue in southwest Chicago.

Virtually every window in an adjoining nine - story office and storage building of the Commonwealth Edison company was shattered. One hundred Edison employes were victims of flying glass.

15 Suffer Burns

Fifteen employes of the gas company suffered burns, cuts and bruises, and one, Michael Nolan, 55, was critically injured. Seven were in a hospital.

The explosion blew out a north wall and parts of the roof of the three - story gas mixing plant. Its cause has not been determined. Fire Commissioner Michael J. Corrigan estimated damage at $250,000.

Fire followed the explosion. Workmen ran about the flaming gas plant shutting off hundreds of valves. Firemen kept the blaze from two nearby gas tanks. Numerous industrial plants are in the immediate area.

Broke Many Windows

The force of the blast broke windows up to a mile away. It blew the glass 50 feet inside the Edison building and piled it up two feet deep beside the desks.

The plant was used to mix natural and artificial gas for lighting and heating.

Parked automobiles along Racine avenue were shoved together and smashed. Stores, restaurants and homes in the area quickly emptied as people ran into the streets when the blast occurred about 1:20 p. m.

PRICE SUPPORT TOTALED

PORTLAND, Jan. 28 –(AP)– Forty per cent of Oregon's wheat crop last year was placed under government price support loans and purchase agreements, the U.S. department of agriculture said today.

Woman Not Very Convincing Talker

BOISE, Jan. 28 – (AP) – It's a woman's prerogative.

Rep. Edith Miller talked at length today in support of a bill which would make writing checks with insufficient funds prima facie evidence of intent to commit fraud.

Then when the roll came, she voted no on the measure.

Her explanation: "I changed my mind."

New Labor Bill Set for Debut On Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 –(AP) The administration's new labor bill headed for Capitol Hill tonight after a day's delay which aroused congressional speculation that officials were in disagreement over its terms.

Senator Thomas (D-Utah), chairman of the senate labor committee, announced that the measure, which provides for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and revival of a revamped Wagner act, was ready for delivery to him. He said it probably will be made public Saturday.

The bill delivered tonight was reported to lend itself to "one package" handling — that is simultaneous repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and amendments to the Wagner act. But it was reported, too, that it could be broken up into two bills, with repeal in the first and Wagner act amendments in the second.

Labor unions want the two-package treatment; they want the Taft-Hartley law wiped out swiftly.

The text of the new bill was kept secret tonight, but some officials said it contains the following Wagner act amendments, among others:

1. Machinery, somewhat similar to the railway labor act, to avert national emergency strikes for at least 60 days. Provision would probably be made, these officials said, for use of court injunctions to prevent walkouts during the cooling off period.
2. Bans on jurisdictional strikes.
3. Prohibitions on certain secondary boycotts.

New Storms Slow Work in Blizzard Zone

By the Associated Press

More planes and bulldozers were thrown into the battle of the western blizzards Friday, but a new storm dealt rescue efforts a severe set-back in some areas.

The new snow, forerunner of another cold wave, whipped across Wyoming, Nebraska, eastern Kansas and southeast South Dakota and on into southeastern Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.

It intensified the suffering of snow-stranded livestock and humans in the stricken western areas.

President Truman allotted another $500,000 for blizzard relief during the day, boosting the amount of federal aid so far to $800,000.

In Nebraska, one of the hardest hit blizzard states, the storm virtually ice-locked the state. Twelve inches of snow fell in Omaha, with lesser amounts elsewhere. Scarcely a road in the state was open.

Weatherman Sees Relief from Cold

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Valley Affected by Power Failure

Temporary Cut Due to Blown Transformer

A 20 - minute power outage throughout Salem and the Willamette valley Friday morning was a forceful reminder that the northwest power shortage is still serious, as the power pool reasserted the area's choice "between a breakdown of power facilities or drastic shutdowns of large industries."

The power was off here from 10:48 a.m. until about 11:10 as the result of a breakdown in the Bonneville 115,000 - volt transmission line between Oregon City and St. Johns, according to power companies. The trouble was in a low voltage transformer at the main Bonneville plant in Portland, it was said.

Both Portland General Electric company and Salem Electric systems were affected by the outage.

Only 10 minutes before the lights went out the state senate had approved unanimously a bill giving the governor emergency powers to restrict sale of electricity to help relieve the power shortage.

While the breakdown was not attributed to the present crisis, the Northwest Utilities Conference committee, which met Thursday at Tacoma, issued a statement Friday, declaring that any relaxation of conservation measures by consumers and increase in adverse weather conditions would immediately bring the choice of "breakdown or shutdown." The committee said that river flow conditions and continuing freezing weather leave no room for an optimistic view of the power situation, adding that plans to cope with the problem are being projected through February and possibly March.

(Additional details on page 2)

SP to Lay Off 2,520 Men

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 28 –(AP) The Southern Pacific today announced that 2,520 employes in its shop forces would be laid off January 31.

The company said the personnel reduction was caused by a decline in traffic, primarily due to the extremely cold weather.

The reduction in the total employment of 19,000 persons will apply to the Pacific lines, west of Ogden, Utah, and El Paso, Texas, and south of Portland, Ore.

J. W. Corbett, vice president in charge of operations, expressed the hope that improved conditions "woul make it possible soon to expand employment at the shops."

Firemen Answer Wrong Extreme of Temperature

PENDLETON, Jan. 28 –(AP)– Firemen dashed to the Pendleton Woolen Mills plant today when the automatic alarm went off.

Then they dashed home again. The alarm — which functions when the sprinkling system goes on and reduces water pressure — had been set off by frozen water pipes.

5 Die in Subway Station Fire

BOSTON, Jan. 28—Firemen attempt to enter a subway station through a second-story tower to fight a fire which started underground causing three deaths and then swept upwards through station. The fire halted all subway traffic and blocked surface traffic in the congested waterfront area. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman).

Traffic Project May Halt Plan For Bus Depot

Chances were slim Friday that City Transit Lines will establish a downtown bus depot after all.

The newly released state highway department's $7,6000,000 traffic improvement plan for Salem, with a one-way street grid included, makes the depot plan unworkable, bus and city officials agreed.

The bus firm had planned early this week to lease space in the Breyman building adjacent to Quisinberry's pharmacy for a depot, and to move its terminal loading point from the south to the north end of the block of Commercial between Court and State streets.

Now even the half-block move of terminal facilities is in doubt, according to R. J. Davidson, city bus manager.

Under the state highway improvement plan, Commercial street would be a one-way street for southbound traffic. Although buses could still pull in on the east side of the street, passengers would have to unload toward the traffic lanes in the street, rather than onto the sidewalk.

Although the grid plan may not be in effect for a year or more the interim is considered too short for further negotiations for the depot site. When the grid plan is established, major rerouting of buses will be necessary.

Red Scare Raised In Debate Over Anti-Filibuster Bill

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28– (AP) – Senator Lodge (R-Mass) raised a new argument today against permitting unlimited filibustering debate in the senate. He said some day communists might get a foothold in that body and use the filibuster to tie up vital legislation.

Senator Eastland (D-Miss) retorted that such a situation could be met by a rules change that would permit debate to the limited in matters of national emergency, but not on ordinary domestic legislation.

Lodge, Eastland and other senators expressed their views at a session of the rules committee, which is considering proposed changes in the senate's debating rules which would outlaw the filibuster.

MRS. BOETTIGER ARRIVES

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 28 –(AP) Mrs. Anna Roosevelt Boettiger arrived here by air today for a visit with her daughter, the former Sistie Boettiger, and a speech before the Americans for Democratic Action tomorrow night.

Bill to Tax, But Not Legalize Gambling Machines Readied

Legislation to tax — but not to legalize gambling machines — was prepared for introduction in the Oregon house Monday.

Co-authors of the bill are Giles L. French, Moro, a republican, and Henry Semon, Klamath Falls, a democrat. French introduced a similar bill in 1947 and it was killed in the house by a narrow margin.

The bill would take 30 per cent of proceeds from one - armed bandits and other gambling devices not involving the chance element.

Some pinball machines, or other devices involving skill, would be taxed 10 per cent of their take.

600 Dead in China Tragedy

SHANGHAI, Jan. 28 –(AP)–More than 600 Chinese were missing and believed dead in a collision which sank two ships about 100 miles southeast of Shanghai near last midnight.

Thirty - five survivors, picked up six hours later by the Australian destroyer Warramunga, were landed late tonight at Shanghai.

The Warramunga, en route from Japan to a standby assignment at Nanking, was the only vessel known to have been in the vicinity.

The sunken ships were the 4,000 - ton passenger liner Taiping, bound to Formosa with refugees, and the 2,700 - ton Keinyuan, enroute from Formosa with coal. The Kienyuan had a crew of about 70.

The Chunglien company, operators of the Taiping, said it carried no more than 500 passengers and a crew of about 75.

Truman Delays Railroad Strike

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 –(AP)– President Truman today created an emergency board to avert strike action by locomotive engineers.

The Brotherhood of locomotive engineers has set a strike deadline of 6 a. m. Monday on 15 western lines employing 25,000 engineers.

The union has demanded a second engineer on diesel locomotives.

Mr. Truman's executive order would delay a strike for 60 days.

How to Win Votes and Influence Constituents

Rep. Paul Geddes of Roseburg is quite certain that not all Oregon voters are hard to please these days.

Geddes told the Salem Board of Realtors Friday that he recently received a card from a lady voter stating simply, "Abolish all liquor drinking in Oregon and reduce taxes and I'll vote for you."

Icy Pavements Take 2 Lives, Fuel Scarce

Forecasters took a second look at their weather maps Friday night and predicted a break in Salem's 29-day-old cold spell. A warm air mass, laden with moisture, was moving in from the northwest and was expected to rout the cold, dry air that has plagued the entire area for weeks.

Salem was expected to catch the front of the new storm tonight with rain or rain and snow mixed. Minimum temperature Sunday was expected to be about 30. Rain was forecast for Sunday.

With warmer weather still on the way, most of the area was still feeling the unabated cold spell. Icy pavements claimed two lives in the northwest Friday. John W. Cottrell, 66, a hearse driver, was killed at Portland when his hearse skidded on an icy grade and collided with another vehicle. H. J. Maulbetsch, 53, Portland, died when his car ran into the rear of a sanding truck.

Shortages of fuel were worsening throughout the area. Sawdust was almost unobtainable and the gas supply was beginning to run low in some areas.

The bitter winter struck new blows at transportation Friday when ice jams blocked the Columbia river ferry between Westport and Puget Island. In Baker county, road crews were fighting a losing battle to keep roads clear of snow drifts.

At Porter Flat, in the lonely country near Vale, the snowbound Norman Woods family appealed to state police by phone to clear their road. Their food supplies were running low.

Oregon State college began converting its sawdust burners to oil as the freeze kept sawdust-producing mills idle. Oil was apparently the only fuel still plentiful throughout the state. Gas remained adequate in some areas.

Store to Add Second Floor, Moving Stairs

A series of moves by Salem firms which will result in considerable alteration of one building, and bring the city's first moving stairway, was disclosed Friday. Effective next Tuesday, the Roberts Bros. store, 177 N. Liberty st., is to take over the second floor of that building for expansion purposes.

Preparation for installation of the motor-driven stairs has already begun, along the south side of the store, near its main entrance. They will be for upward traffic only.

Vacating the top floor will be the Modern Beauty college, which is to be closed for three weeks or more while waiting to occupy the building at 476 N. Church st., temporarily in use as the Greyhound bus terminal. The terminal is expected to be in its new building adjacent to the present location, by March 15 or earlier.

Leonard L. Kremen, manager of the Salem store of Roberts Bros., said remodeling of the new floor is expected to be complete by mid-March, when the stairway will also be ready for use, in order to offer new merchandise for the spring season. The expansion will provide for the broadening of all present departments of the store, addition of household appliances and other lines. It is also planned to enlarge the green stamp redemption station in the basement. All new fixtures and furniture will be installed upstairs.

Roberts, a Portland firm, assumed the local store, formerly Worth's, two years ago.

The beauty college, started in 1934, has been owned the past two years by Dr. W. C. Heringer. Managed by Wilma Lee Phagans, it now has 27 students.

State Welfare Budget Raised

PORTLAND, Jan. 28 –(AP)–Faced by heavy relief demands because of the long cold spell, the state public welfare commission decided today to add $75,650 to its January budget.

The money will be distributed among counties whose funds have run short. The state's share in the original January budget was for $497,850.

Administrator Loa Howard reported the largest case load since 1940. Aid totalling $1,863,028 went to 35,091 persons in December.

New Oregon Liquor Commission Organizes

Oregon's new state liquor commissioners, meeting for the first time Friday, announced they will continue present policies for the time being. Pictured above with Gov. Douglas McKay, seated, and Attorney General George Neuner, far left, they are, left to right, Richard W. Reed, Eugene, Chairman Carl Hogg, Salem, and A. W. Spangler, Klamath Falls. (Statesman photo).