

Labor Omnibus Bill Approved By Committee

The house labor committee Tuesday voted to recommend passage of employer-labor "omnibus" bill which makes sweeping changes in Oregon's unemployment compensation laws.

The committee, however, turned down a suggestion to change the name of the unemployment compensation commission to the employment security commission.

Maximum unemployment payments under the proposed bills would be boosted from \$20 for 20 weeks to \$25 for 26 weeks. The increase is expected to cost \$1,000,000 annually.

Changes in the employers experience rate structure are expected to save about \$4,250,000 a year.

Bar Sought to Benzadrine at Penitentiary

The legislature was asked Tuesday to stop traffic of benzadrine to convicts at the Oregon state penitentiary.

A bill was introduced in the senate to make it a misdemeanor to bring any drug into the prison without permission from the warden.

Warden George Alexander, sponsor of the measure, said it is designed to stop prison guards and visitors from giving or selling benzadrine inhalers to the convicts. Violators would be subject to fines up to \$500, a year in the county jail, or both.

The tubes, commonly used to clear stuffed nasal passages, can be purchased at stores and drug stores without restriction.

Alexander said convicts have used the benzadrine cores from the inhalers to "go on some awful jag and cause a great deal of trouble." He explained that the convicts either chew the cores or "steep" them in water and drink the mixture.

Senate Passes Retirement Bill

The senate Monday passed and sent to the house a bill creating a new retirement system for supreme court and circuit judges.

Under the measure the judges may retire at half pay at the age of 60 after 20 years service; at 65 after 16 years service; or at 70 after 12 years service.

The new act also includes two circuit judges who were retired before the judges' retirement law was passed. One is Judge A. K. McMahon, former circuit judge in Salem, who was defeated here the retirement act was enacted.

In the House

PASSED
HB 235 (Mullinmohr del.)—Would allow non-citizen teachers to get teaching certificates if they have applied for citizenship.
HB 418 (Tax. com.)—Would exempt from state excise tax the dividends paid to Oregon corporations by foreign corporations in which an Oregon firm holds 50% or more of the voting stock.
HB 419 (Van Dyke, Day)—Sets up regulations for oil-well drilling.
HB 204 (Rev. of Laws com.)—Limits hours to 72-hour weeks (vote 48-10).
HB 127 (Thompson et al.)—Permits trust companies and estate guardians to invest funds in stocks, bonds and corporate obligations (so-called "prudent man" act).
HB 177 (Thompson)—Validates school districts formed in last two years when law technicalities were not complied with.
HB 216 (Peters)—Lets hospitals dispense drugs if they are compounded elsewhere by licensed pharmacists.
HB 268 (Hardie et al.)—Ups salaries of Wheeler county officers.
HB 23 (Dunn)—Permits district school boards to contract with board of higher education to provide courses on subjects of lower college level.
HB 184 (Mullinmohr del.)—Raises salaries of Tillamook county officials; commissioners \$6000 to \$6000, coroner \$1000 to \$1000.
HB 348 (Ballou, Rand)—An act to validate formation of rural fire districts consolidated within the last two years despite legal defects.
HB 297 (Educ. com.)—Requires county assessors to get unexpended balances of old school support fund in the state and county fund.
HB 348 (Educ. com.)—Allowing consolidated school districts to pay off the indebtedness of separate districts incurred prior to consolidation.
RE-PASSED
DO-PASS REPORTS ADOPTED
SB 228, 234, 23
HB 66, 71, 72, 667, 668, 296, 297, 278, 282
RE-REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
SB 296, 274, 482
REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
SB 25, 161, 214, 261, 264, 281, 281, 287, 284, 282, 267
SB 19
INTRODUCED
SB 232, 234, 232
HB 489 (Food, Dairy com.)—Allows producers of milk adulterated (legal low grade) to retain same without having to add identifiable color, but bans sale within Oregon.
HB 476 (Educ. com.)—Amends law affecting consolidation of city and county school districts; provides for petitions, effective dates, meetings.
HB 471 (Rev. of Laws com.)—Boosts salaries of district court judges from \$4500 to \$6000.
HB 478 (Tax. com.)—Extends for another two years the law taxing ships.
HB 28 (Doerflinger et al.)—Provides for interim legislative committee to study feasibility of developing botanical gardens as proposed by Oregon Federation of Garden clubs; specifies \$500 as maximum committee expense.
HB 473 (Ways, Means com.)—Provides \$10,000 revolving fund for state board of control.
HB 474 (Agr. com.)—Requires county clerks to issue collar tags with dog licenses.
UP FOR FINAL ACTION TODAY
HB 64, 71, 72, 333, 667, 668.
SB 11, 22, 230, 235.
SB 19.
HOUSE RESUMES 10 A.M. TODAY.

Bill Penalizing Most-at-Fault Driver Passes

By Lester Cour
Staff Writer, The Statesman

The senate, 18 to 11 Tuesday, passed and sent to the house a bill to reverse the present contributory negligence law which vitally affects damage suits growing out of automobile accidents and other mishaps.

The action followed a heated, two-hour debate between lawyers of the senate, most of whom favored the new proposal.

Introduced by Sen. Allan Carson, Salem, the measure would permit either party involved in an automobile accident to recover damages in court even though both parties were found negligent. The person found the least negligent could recover damages—minus his amount of negligence contributing to the accident.

Under the present contributory negligence law, neither persons involved in an accident may recover damages in court when both are judged negligent.

Carson attacked the present 80-year-old law citing that a person judged guilty of only one degree of negligence cannot collect damages in court even though the other party is 99 degrees negligent and responsible for an accident.

Sen. Paul Patterson, Hillsboro, opposing the measure, contended insurance premiums would go up if persons are allowed to recover damages in court in most cases.

Sen. Thomas R. Mahoney, Portland, attacked Patterson's arguments, declaring that:

"Under the present law, a driver can speed 90 miles an hour and hit another motorist guilty of having a dirty windshield, and get off without paying a cent."

Sen. Frederick Lampert, Salem, said he favored the change, despite the fact that he represents more insurance companies than persons seeking to collect damages.

"I have had to hold my nose many times when I destroyed a perfectly sound case, brought by persons seeking damages, because they were guilty of minor negligence."

Tax Bill Spurs Cleavage in House Debate

Rep. Howard Morgan, Portland democrat, and Rep. Ralph Moore, Coos Bay republican, tangled during debate on a corporations tax bill Tuesday.

Morgan opposed the bill, which in effect would reduce tax paid by Jantzen Knitting mills and Iron Fireman, and in so doing mentioned that the firms were "prosperous."

Moore, who had objected some days ago to Morgan taking so long on "theories of government," arose to declare he was "quite disturbed by remarks that show a hate for the American system of free enterprise," and said the bill was based entirely on equity, not on special tax privilege.

Morgan arose to answer under "personal privilege" and when Speaker of the House Frank Van Dyke tentatively declined to let him talk because "I don't think your personal motives have been impugned," Morgan declared: "I think they have."

Van Dyke said: "Do you wish to dispute the ruling of the chair?" "That's up to you," Morgan answered.

"Do you wish to appeal (to the assembly) from the ruling?" Van Dyke asked.

"I will not," Morgan responded. Later he observed that tempers were becoming short and that "the silly season is here."

The bill, which was passed and sent to the senate, would exempt from state excise tax the dividends paid to Oregon corporations by foreign corporations in which an Oregon firm holds 50 per cent or more of voting stock.

In the Senate

PASSED
SB 236—(Carson & Hendershott)—Repeals the contributory negligence law, and enacts a comparative negligence law. In case both parties involved in an accident are judged guilty of negligence, the one less negligent will be able to recover damages minus the amount of his negligence. Under present law any party found negligent in any degree is barred from recovering damages in court.
SB 332—(Rev. of Laws)—Prohibits livestock from running at large.
SB 113—(Hwy. & Gardn.)—Raises salaries of Tillamook county officials.
SB 114—(Gardens & others)—Boosts the pay of Douglas county officials for two years.
SB 123—(Fisher & others)—Increases the pay of Washington county officials.
SB 218—(Clackamas Del.)—Raises the pay of Clackamas county officials.
SB 225—(Agriculture)—Allows use of county funds to eradicate and control predatory animals.

INTRODUCED
SB 236—(Rev. of Laws)—Exempts graduates of Oregon law schools from taking bar examinations to earn law certificates.
SB 281—(Med., Pharm. & Dentistry)—Makes it a crime to bring any drug into a public institution, prison, county or city jail without permission of their supervisors. Directed at persons allegedly bringing benzadrine into the penitentiary.
SB 282—(Rev. of Laws)—Sets fees for foreign insurance companies and mutual associations doing business in Oregon and places them under the insurance commissioner.

REFERRED
SB 272 to 289 Inc.
SB 18, 27, 122, 222, 227, 233, 251, 252, 256, 423, 424, 481.

TABLED
SB 122, 124
DO-PASS REPORTS ADOPTED
SB 64, 131, 132, 247, 255, 257, 261, 268.
SB 164, 189, 194
UP FOR FINAL ACTION TODAY
SB 235, 237, 261, 269.
SB 219, 222, 232, 265, 422.
THE SENATE RESUMES AT 10 A.M. TODAY.

Valley Births

SILVERTON — At Silverton hospital March 18, a daughter, to Mr. and Mrs. George Higley (Lola Richards); March 14, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Adach, and March 13, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Edwards of Mt. Angel.

FOUR CORNERS — Barbara Ann Glines, born March 2 to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Glines, 4168 Glenwood dr. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shrull and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frisk, all of Salem.

MT. ANGELO — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Prosser announce the birth of their first grandson, to their daughter Elaine, now Mrs. Don Palmer of Tillamook.

Senate Honors Sen. Walsh, Wife

The senate, senate secretaries and employees presented Senate President William E. Walsh, Coos Bay, with a wrist watch Tuesday, and gave his wife a silver tea set.

CLACKAMAS BILL OK

The senate passed a bill Tuesday increasing salaries of Clackamas county officers \$300 a year. It now goes to the governor.

Robert Wagers Heads Scouts

MIDDLE GROVE — The regular Boy Scout committee meeting for March was held at the home of John Van Laanen. Present were Deputy Council Commissioner Norman Frost, Chairman Robert Wagers, committeemen, William Kleen, Clec Koppenger, Theodore Kuenzi, Jack Wilcox and John Van Laanen, and assistant

scoutmaster, Hubert Aspinwall. Robert Wagers was elected scoutmaster to succeed Robert Pickeral, resigned. Clec Koppenger was chosen chairman. Following the meeting a surprise birthday party was given for John Van Laanen by wives of the committeemen. Candles and a "toy duck" decorated the birthday cakes.

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South Com'l. at the Liberty Y



Hidden tank farm to keep 50,000 homes warm

Deep in the fir near Puget Sound one of the largest heating oil tank farms in the West is being built...and motorists passing by on the highway will never know it exists.

A large ring of trees has been left standing around the tanks to preserve the scenic beauty of the area; the farm itself will store 28,896,000 gallons of oil...enough to heat 50,000 homes all winter long.

Actually, the six tanks are not needed under normal weather and shipping conditions. They're being built at a cost of more than \$1,000,000 to make certain there will be enough oil on hand to meet any emergency spell of unusually bad weather...to make certain the homes of the people we serve always will be warm. Similar expenditures are being made constantly in the important job of serving the West well.



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Metropolitan Reports to Policyholders on 1948 Business

HERE IS THE Financial Statement of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for last year. It is more than just figures, because back of them is the story of what 32,700,000 policyholders have done for their families and themselves.

The role of Metropolitan, like that of any Life insurance company, has been to help policyholders to make effective their individual plans for protection against the uncertainties of life. This Statement is a brief account of its stewardship.

The amount paid to policyholders and beneficiaries in 1948 was \$721,366,364. Of this sum, \$263,780,734 went to the beneficiaries of 235,000 policyholders; \$147,045,672 to some 450,000 individuals for Matured Endowments and Annuities; and \$59,403,238 for 650,000 claims for Disability and Accident & Health benefits. In addition, the total paid included sums for cash surrender values, dividends, and other payments due under outstanding policies.

The total payments by Metropolitan to policyholders and beneficiaries during the last 16 years aggregated \$9,346,330,825—a sum which has served as a stabilizing influence in homes and communities throughout the country. This total exceeds the Company's assets of \$9,125,145,007 as of December 31, 1948.

These assets are held to meet obligations of \$8,391,210,201, of which more than 90% represents statutory reserves for future payments to policyholders and beneficiaries. Over and above these obligations, there remained a surplus of \$533,934,806, which is about 6% of obligations—a backlog which must be available against the possibility of epidemics, adverse economic conditions or other unforeseeable situations.

The Company's assets guarantee the fulfillment of the \$39,958,517,854 of Metropolitan life insurance in force. In addition, they assure the payment of the 448,394 annuity and supplementary contracts outstanding, and the 6,546,412 policies or certificates providing benefits in event of either accident, sickness, hospitalization, surgical or medical expense.

A few other highlights of the Company's 1948 annual statement are: the net rate of interest earned on total assets reversed the trend of many years and increased from 2.94% in 1947 to 3.03%; in line with the experience of business generally, there were some increases in expenses; the rate of mortality was slightly lower than in 1947; the lapse rate was one of the best on record; and new life insurance issued during the year was \$2,904,157,071. The amount held for dividends payable to Metropolitan policyholders in 1949 totals \$152,067,254.

Metropolitan investments continued in 1948 to serve various sections of the nation and its economy. The Company is interested in making loans, irrespective of size, to either individuals or corporations, which meet the legal requirements with which it must comply.

A more complete review of the Company's affairs will be found in its Annual Report to Policyholders, which will be sent to anyone on request.

STATEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS AND ASSETS . . . DECEMBER 31, 1948

(In accordance with the Annual Statement filed with the Insurance Department of the State of New York)

OBLIGATIONS TO POLICYHOLDERS, BENEFICIARIES, AND OTHERS		ASSETS WHICH ASSURE FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS	
Statutory Policy Reserves	\$7,800,699,727.00	National Government Securities	\$3,340,342,313.58
This amount, determined in accordance with legal requirements, together with future premiums and reserve interest, is necessary to assure payment of all future policy benefits.		U. S. Government	\$9,133,829,569.00
Policy Proceeds and Dividends Left with Company	485,882,414.00	Canadian Government	255,452,766.31
Policy proceeds from death claims, matured endowments, and other payments, and dividends—left with Company by beneficiaries and policyholders to be reinvested in future years.		Other Bonds	1,540,305,170.57
Set aside for payment in 1949 to those policyholders eligible to receive them.	182,067,254.00	Provincial and Municipal	89,735,510.23
Policy Claims Currently Outstanding	36,428,842.47	Railroad	201,930,398.33
Claims in process of settlement, and estimated claims that have occurred but have not yet been reported.		Public Utility	1,132,792,737.79
Other Policy Obligations	88,327,132.80	Industrial and Miscellaneous	1,732,176,660.28
Premiums received in advance, reserves for mortality and morbidity fluctuations, reserve for continuing the program of equalization dividends on weekly premium policies, etc.		Bonds of the Company's Housing Development Corporations	113,552,843.73
Taxes Accrued	18,235,395.00	Stocks	112,392,313.58
Including estimated amount of taxes payable in 1949 on the business of 1948.		All but \$4,095,050.58 are Preferred or Guaranteed.	
Contingency Reserve for Mortgage Loans	21,000,000.00	Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	1,138,935,808.40
All Other Obligations	21,949,435.99	Mortgage Loans on City Properties	\$1,845,048,370.06
TOTAL OBLIGATIONS	\$8,591,210,201.26	Mortgage Loans on Farms	95,888,538.54
		Loans on Policies	264,695,187.50
		Made to policyholders on the security of their policies.	
		Real Estate (after decrease by adjustment of \$28,000,000 in the aggregate)	309,417,578.58
		Housing projects and other real estate acquired for investment	\$ 153,465,236.63
		Properties for Company use	24,716,517.77
		Acquired in satisfaction of mortgage indebtedness (of which \$11,709,387.73 is under contract of sale)	46,235,804.19
		Cash and Bank Deposits	121,894,001.55
		Special Surplus Funds	\$ 80,013,000.00
		Unassigned Funds (Surplus)	453,921,805.89
		TOTAL SURPLUS FUNDS	\$33,934,806.89
		TOTAL OBLIGATIONS AND SURPLUS FUNDS	\$9,125,145,007.15

NOTE—Amount amounting to \$438,451,141.96 are deposited with various public officials under requirements of law or regulatory authority.

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