

House Kills Vet Pension--By One-Vote Margin

SEEMS TO ME
By Charles A. Sprague

Disputes Shackle Session House, Senate Dispute 'Who's Slowing Who'

By Lester F. Cour Staff Writer, The Statesman
Sharp differences over old age pensions and racing metes slowed down the Oregon legislature Thursday, threatening to make the 1949 session the longest in history.

At the same time, a rift between the house and senate over "who's murdering our bills" promised to bog down progress still further as the lawmakers wound up their 74th day -- only 10 days short of the record 84-day session in 1947.

A joint ways and means subcommittee Thursday divided 5 to 3 over provisions of the proposed \$50-a-month old age pension written by the house welfare committee.

Five committee members believed the state should have prior claim on any real property left by deceased pensioners.

Three members favor the bill written by the welfare committee which bars state claims on property valued at less than \$5,000. Under the bill, the state could deduct what a recipient had received in pension payments from money received by a pensioner's survivors when property worth more than \$5,000 is sold.

The Oregon Statesman

99th YEAR 20 PAGES The Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Friday, March 25, 1949 PRICE 5c No. 8

Baldock Blasts Bill to Bar City Road Projects

Cost of Living Drop Wipes Out 1948's Boost

Food Prices Reduced 2 1/2% Last Month

WASHINGTON, March 24 --(AP) The cost of living has dropped for the fifth month in a row, and virtually all of the increase that occurred in 1948 has now been wiped out, government figures showed today.

The bureau of labor statistics reported that its consumers' price index declined 1.1 per cent between January 15 and February 15. This fifth consecutive drop brought the index down to a point where it was only 0.9 per cent higher than a year ago.

The index figure on February 15 was 169 per cent of the 1935-39 average. It was 27 per cent above June 1948, when OPA controls were abandoned, and 71 per cent higher than the pre-war level of August 1939.

The substantial cuts in food prices between January and February sent the index on that class of items down 2.5 per cent.

There were smaller declines for clothing and house furnishings. As a result of the three the index, which represents the retail prices of goods and services bought by moderate income families in large cities, took one of its deepest descents for one month since the war.

The food index on February 15 was 199.7 per cent of the 1935-39 average, 8 per cent below the July 1948 peak. It was 2 1/2 per cent lower than a year ago and 37 per cent above the June 1946 level.

Ton of Dynamite Blasts Rock at Croisan Quarry



This recent blasting operation at Croisan quarries produced some 15,000 yards of hard rock after more than a ton of dynamite was set off in one blast in the Croisan creek area south of Salem. Behind the log barrier is Robert B. Brennan of the West Coast Powder Co. (Story on page 2).

Bulganan Removed as Russian Military Chief

LONDON, March 24 --(AP) The Soviet Union announced tonight that Marshal Alexander M. Vasilevsky, 49, has succeeded Marshal Nikolai A. Bulganin as minister of the armed forces -- the highest military post in all of Russia.

This was the first big change in soviet military leadership since Prime Minister Stalin stepped down as minister of the armed forces in 1947 and appointed Bulganin to succeed him. Stalin ran the armed forces during the war.

The new shift followed top level changes in the soviet political hierarchy in the last few weeks. The most important was the release of V. M. Molotov as foreign minister to be succeeded by Andrei Y. Vishinskiy.

Bulganan is also a vice chairman of the council of ministers of the soviet union -- a deputy prime minister. A man known for his ability as a skilled negotiator and administrator, Bulganan will presumably keep his deputy premiership.

Into the post of minister of the armed forces comes a relatively young man who has carved out a distinguished career in soviet military annals. Vasilevsky was deputy minister under Bulganin and therefore is closely associated with the workings of the office.

Delegates From Salem Absent at Senate Hearing

State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock and Portland City Commissioner William A. Bowes protested tonight against a bill which would prohibit spending of any state highway funds inside cities until Oregon's primary highways are brought up to federal standards.

The only witnesses against the bill, they said it would make cities into bottlenecks all over the state's road system.

Sixteen of the 30 state senators are sponsors of the measure. Portland was the only city represented at the hearing before the senate highway committee.

Portland is most vitally affected because the bill would delay the proposed Sullivan gulch freeway until the primary road system is completed. It also would delay Salem's proposed \$7,000,000 highway and bridge construction program, but no one from Salem showed up.

Bowes said "One-third of all traffic in the state is in urban areas. The financial condition of the cities is so bad that they are strapped so that they can't do much of anything on their roads and streets."

Baldock said the bill would force the highway commission to do away with its system of allocating money equally to the state's five highway districts. This, he said, would cause spending of the Portland district's money in other sections of the state.

F. M. Hatway, Portland member, supported the bill because he owns a motel on Sandy boulevard, from where through traffic would be diverted to the gulch.

The Oregon Farm Bureau federation also supported the bill, saying that all money should be spent on farm-to-market roads.

National VFW Commander to Talk in Salem

Lyall T. Beggs, national commander in chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will speak at a district meeting of VFW posts in Salem, Saturday, April 9, it was announced Thursday night.

Subject of his talk will be announced later. Beggs will install new officers of the district's eight posts at the meeting which will be held in the VFW hall. It will be open to the public. The Marion and Meadowlark posts will be hosts.

Mr. Rush Fined - For Speeding

Salem police say a name doesn't mean a thing to them, but Kim Earl Rush, Portland, was fined \$15 in municipal court Thursday for that's right, speeding.

Arresting officers said Rush was rushing out North Capitol street at 45 miles per hour when arrested early Thursday morning.

Polk County Assessor Advises Overall Re-Appraisal Program

DALLAS, March 24 --(Special) A huge re-appraisal program involving all real estate in Polk county was recommended to the county court this week by Ed C. Dunn, county assessor. The plan would involve all city residences, business buildings and lots in West Salem, Independence, Monmouth, Williamina and Dallas, as well as all farm land, both tillable and non-tilable, in the county.

The project, which would require three years to complete, will be presented to the county budget committee for consideration of costs involved. Its purpose is to equalize tax burdens.

Lewis Orders Miners to Start Work Monday

PITTSBURGH, March 24 --(AP) John L. Lewis passed the word down to the UMW miners today -- go back to work Monday.

It was good news for industry. It was also welcomed by the 463,000 idle hard and soft coal miners east of the Mississippi. They said at the start of the two-week memorial -- protest shutdown March 14 their pocketbooks would be sagging by the scheduled end of the work stoppage Monday.

Lewis' word to return to the pits as scheduled came in the form of an "executive communication."

It came shortly after the Baltimore and Ohio, an important coal carrier, announced that 9,500 shop workers now on furlough would return to work April 4, one week after the miners resume operations. Idled train crews will be recalled as needed. Over the nation more than 70,000 railroaders were laid off during the mine shutdown.

Pen Population At Record High

Population was at an all-time high at the Oregon State penitentiary today.

Warden George Alexander said the prison, with accommodations supposedly for 1100, had a registration of 1354.

There were 120 at the penitentiary annex, 95 in the so-called garage dormitory and 82 at the hospital -- at least half of them there only because there wasn't room elsewhere.

The new cellblock designed to accommodate 400 -- and thereby bring the prison's "capacity" to 1500 -- will be finished within two or three months. Officials have estimated population will exceed the 1500 -- mark within a year or two.

Danes Support Pact COPENHAGEN, Denmark, March 24 --(AP) The lower house of the Danish parliament today approved the nation's entry into the North Atlantic alliance by a five to one margin. The action was referred to the upper house, where similar approval is regarded as certain.

Animal Crackers



THE WEATHER			
Station	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	51	34	0.00
Portland	52	31	0.00
San Francisco	55	42	0.00
Chicago	58	35	0.00
New York	57	30	0.00
Williamsport	59	35	0.00

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy with light rain today, becoming partly cloudy with scattered showers tonight. High today near 54. Low tonight near 38.

SALEM PRECIPITATION (Sept. 1 to March 25)

This Year	Last Year	Average
30.56	27.76	30.34

Smelt Run Hits Sandy River

PORTLAND, Ore., March 24 --(AP) The long-awaited smelt run reached the Sandy river tonight, signaling a sure-to-follow stampede of Portlanders to the river banks 15 miles east of here.

Licenses entitling the holder to 25 pounds of fish per day are sold at the scene for 50 cents. Last year 32,170 were sold in the few days of the run.

Hungarian Government Ousts Two Americans



VIENNA, Mar. 24--In hotel room in Vienna today, Lt. Col. John P. Merrill (right) points to photostatic copy of receipt for garage bill which Hungarian government says he refused to pay and for which reason he was expelled from country, yesterday. With him is Lt. Col. Peter Kopcsak (left), former West Point football star, who also was expelled from Hungary. Both were assistant military attaches of the U. S. legation at Budapest. Hungary also accused the two U. S. army men of spying and "brutal abuse of diplomatic privileges." (AP Wirephoto via radio from Vienna to The Statesman.)

Rankin Concedes Fight Lost

Recount of Votes Sends Measure Into Oblivion

By Morgan Reynolds
WASHINGTON, March 24 --(AP) In a final jittery flip-flop ballot, the house today killed the Rankin veterans' pension bill -- by a one vote margin.

Ironically, the death stroke was administered on the initiative of a World War II veteran.

The sudden end to Rep. John E. Rankin's efforts to put across his multi-billion dollar measure climaxed three days of quarrelsome debate during which the house members changed their votes five times before shelving the bill.

On the showdown the tally was 208 to 207 to send the riddled legislation back to the veterans' committee for "further study." (Reps. Norblad, Ellsworth and Stockman voted to shelve the bill, Rep. Angell favored the pension plan.)

"That kills this legislation for this congress," Rankin said.

When Rankin confidently brought his pension bill before the house Tuesday it was drafted to provide \$90 a month for veterans of both world wars when they reached the age of 65, regardless of their financial needs.

But by the time the final rejection vote was tallied, the measure was so weighted with amendments that even its author could scarcely recognize it.

It was a combat veteran, Rep. Olin E. Teague, of Colesburg, Tex., who set off the legislative machinery to halt the Rankin bill.

Teague moved to strike out the measure's enacting clause -- that vital part of bill which would put it into effect if enacted.

The motion lost on a standing vote, 169 to 152.

But Teague demanded a teller vote, and when the members had marched down the aisles, the count was 171 to 168 in favor.

The Texan then asked the house to send the bill back to the committee.

Tense, Confused Moment This brought the most tense and confused moment of all at the lawmakers' made public the decision in a roll-call vote. Under similar circumstances two days earlier they had voted off the record to shelve the bill, then changed their minds on the roll-call vote.

As the count was in progress, two Pennsylvania Democrats, Reps. Barrett and Grantham, changed their votes to the side with the Rankin bill votes.

On the Associated Press score sheet these switches changed the unofficial total from 209 to 208 against the motion to shelve the bill. But the clerks erroneously reported the result as 209 to 208 against the motion.

Recent Order Acting Speaker John McCormack (D-Mass.) on his own initiative immediately ordered a recount.

When the last name had been called and the votes counted -- with no changes -- they added up to 208 to 207 -- in favor of Teague's motion to shelve the bill.

Jane Wyman, Olivier Capture Movie Oscars

HOLLYWOOD, March 24 --(AP) "Hamlet," which William Shakespeare wrote and Laurence Olivier brought to film life, almost swept the boards tonight for 1948's Academy awards.

It took the coveted Oscars as the best picture, for Olivier as the best actor, for art direction, set decoration and costume design.

Lovely Jane Wyman won the feminine award for her plain but appealing deaf mute in "Johnny Belinda," for Warner Bros.

"Hamlet" is the first British picture to win this country's top award.

A miniature statuette, a special award, went to Ivan Jandl, for the best juvenile performance of the year. The 12-year-old was the sensation of the Swiss-made "The Search."

John Huston was named the best director for "The Treasure of Sierra Madre."