

State Building Needs Placed Under Study

Appointment of a sub-group to work out a state building program, covering new construction at both the higher educational centers and at the state institutions, and approval of important amendments to the current state retirement act, highlighted a meeting of the legislative joint ways and means committee Wednesday.

Members of the sub-committee to suggest a state building program are Sens. Carl Engdahl and Austin Flegel and Reps. Rudy Wilhelm, William Morse and W. W. Chadwick. Wilhelm will serve as chairman. The committee was directed to file a report so that some action may be taken before final adjournment of the present legislature.

The state board of higher education originally sought \$12,000,000 for new construction while the board of control, with supervision over state institutions, asked for \$8,000,000. Both of these requests

were omitted from the state budget to the legislature.

Virtually all members of the ways and means committee agreed that some sort of a building program would have to be devised.

The maximum salary basis upon which employees shall contribute under the state's retirement plan was increased from \$2400 to \$3,000 a year in amendments approved by the ways and means committee. The bill still provides that employees shall contribute only five per cent of their salaries in which case the employer would contribute on a like amount.

The increased participation from \$2400 to \$3000 would cost the state an estimated \$135,000 a year. The committee rejected a proposal to increase the length of coverage for prior service from 20 to 30 years, a benefit which would cost an additional \$50,000 a year.

The committee reported out with a "do pass" recommendation a bill eliminating tithing by the state's game commission.

An appropriation of \$10,000 and creation of a board, under which an undetermined number of blind elementary school students would be placed in the public schools, were approved.

Move to Delete Pension Lien Clause Fails

A battle to remove the so-called lien clause from the old-age assistance bill and insert a mandatory \$50 minimum failed by a vote of 39 to 18 in the house Wednesday. Final house action on the measure is expected today.

The vote was on a motion by Rep. Joseph Harvey of Portland to return to the ways and means committee house bill 436, as amended by the committee, with instructions to restore it to the form as approved by the social welfare committee several weeks ago.

Harvey contended the lien

clause should be voted on separately in house bill 449 and should not be in the public assistance bill proper. The amended bill recognizes \$50 as the minimum need but does not make it mandatory.

Harvey and other proponents of the assistance bill as approved by the social welfare committee (which did not have a lien clause) said they would be forced to vote against their own measure if it came to the floor in the form now obtaining.

Those who favored returning the bill to committee with instructions to delete the lien clause included (18) Reps. Allen, Anderson, Barry, Brady, Chindgren, Dickson, Dreyer, Fisher, Greenwood, Harvey, Logan, J. Moore, Morgan, Beck, Robinson, Thomas, Wells, Yeater. Reps. Bennett and Carter were excused, Rep. Gill absent.

Those who fought the ways and means bill charged it was denying the will of the people, who voted last November for a \$50 minimum pension without a prior claim clause.

Rep. William B. Morse, Prineville, declared "we can't increase pension payments without getting rid of the free riders. The ways and means committee wants to help the old people, and this bill will do it."

persons, including the blind.

Both measures follow recommendations handed down by a 1947 legislative interim committee which studied the blind education program in 1948.

Members of the committee were Sens. Allan Carson, Salem; Thomas Parkinson, Roseburg; Rep. Manley Wilson, Warren; the Rev. Dudley Strain, Salem; and Carlton Greider, Salem.

In the Senate

PASSED
 SB 150—(Education)—Creates a division of vocational rehabilitation for the physically handicapped, except the blind.

SB 324—(Engdahl & Others)—Boosts the pay of Umatilla county officials.

SB 302—(Judiciary)—Makes minor changes in laws governing service of citations in guardianship estates.

SB 334—(Carson & Parkinson)—Changes makeup of state commission for the blind; authorizes commission to hire an administrator.

SB 363—(County Affairs)—Prevents Marion, Lane and Clackamas county from inheriting the Multnomah circuit judge law by changing the population figure in the law from 100,000 to 300,000.

SB 419—(Assessment & Taxation)—Amends law regulating distribution of funds derived from sales of county property, requiring that at least 10 per cent of the funds must go to the county's general fund.

SB 306—(Game)—Limits fishing in the Alsea river and its tributaries to sports fishermen.

HB 123—(Short)—Boosts pay of Lake county officials.

HB 245—(London & Others)—Allows union high districts to operate junior high schools if approved by voters.

HB 356—(French & Others)—Boosts pay of Sherman county officials.

HB 394—(Dyer & Others)—Exempts certain city port properties from property taxes.

HB 476—(Education)—Changes law governing consolidation of city and county school districts.

HB 176—(Short & Geary)—Authorizes department of higher education to construct greenhouse at OSC for testing seed potatoes; appropriates \$22,500 to be payable when matched by donations.

HB 503—(Int. W. & M.)—Appropriates \$100,000 for administering uniform motor vehicle act.

DO NOT PASS REPORTS ADOPTED
 SB 318—(Game)—Would have closed the Yaquina river to commercial fishing.

DO PASS REPORTS ADOPTED
 SB 416, 119, 367, 278, SJR 28.
 SB 435, 464, 498, 508, 439.
 Senate resumes 10 a. m. today.

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