

# Summary of Session Shows Many Problems Solved

## Record-Long Session Unties Knots in Taxes

Oregon's record-long legislative session ground out a lot of work, somewhat slowly at times, albeit surely, and a recapitulation of its results indicates the importance of that work. It also shows in large degree why the session was so extended.

The tax problem was settled for the time being, so far as a balanced budget was concerned, by utilization of corporate excise surplus and receipts. It was estimated the \$102,796,000 budget would still be in balance by 1951 with the state still having around \$18,000,000 in the general fund, including a \$15,000,000 cushion, and \$3,500,000 for state property tax offset. There was no special election called.

By subjects, here is what was accomplished:

### HIGHWAYS

The addition of 1 cent to the state gasoline tax and the doubling of the 35 auto license gave impetus to a 15-year, \$467,000,000 highway modernization program. The new tax will net the state \$5,600,000 annually, counties and cities another \$2,400,000.

The permanent license plate system was adopted, with staggered renewals. School bus inspections and the stopping of traffic for loading and unloading school buses were made compulsory. Counties won permission to borrow from the state, interest-free, funds to repair winter road damage. Permission to use highway equipment to battle floods was granted the governor.

### SCHOOLS

Passed for referral to the people was another \$12,000,000 annual support fund for schools, increasing per pupil aid from \$50 to \$80. A proposed constitutional amendment for \$10,500,000 in higher education bonds was approved, as was state acquisition of Lincoln high school in Portland for extension courses. Six million dollars was voted for immediate buildings at state institutions of higher learning.

### PUBLIC WELFARE

A total of \$10,000,000 was added to the welfare budget; a \$50 monthly minimum for old-age assistance was approved in principle, effective with the availability of funds. The state was granted prior claims on recipients' estates, up to the amount of assistance rendered, and able children of the needy elderly were ordered to support their parents, on pain of penalty.

### LABOR

Industrial accident benefits were upped 25 per cent; unemployment compensation was increased from \$20 of 20 weeks to \$25 for 26 weeks, the maximum from \$400 to \$650, with rating changes affecting a \$4,000,000 annual saving to employers. Both employers and unions hereafter will be prohibited from discriminating because of race or religion.

### VETERANS

Educational aid increased; constitutional amendment approved, subject to popular vote, increasing from 3 to 4 per cent of the state's assessed valuation the total fund available for farm and home loans, and granting such loans to veterans who have lived in the state two years (instead of only those with pre-war residence).

### AGRICULTURE

Passed were bills calling for a state milk administrator, more stringent enforcement of livestock theft laws, a state potato commission.

### GAME

Hunting and fishing licenses were increased an average of 30 per cent; the game commission was reorganized; 15 policemen will be added to the now operative in game law enforcement. Tithing of the game commission (putting 10 per cent of its proceeds in the general fund) was eliminated. Persons wounding another while hunting will be prosecuted. Purveyors of fish and game licenses will get a fee.

### LIQUOR

Liquor revenues will go in the general fund instead of being earmarked for public assistance. Sale of bottled liquor will be allowed in nonprofit clubs and liquor licenses will cost 60 per cent more.

### TAXATION

Seasonal farm workers will be exempt from withholding tax; married couples may split their incomes for state tax purposes but

the community property law was repealed.

**BUILDING PROGRAM**  
In addition to the \$6,000,000 appropriated for educational campuses, another \$2,000,000 was appropriated for state institutions. A 12-year, \$42,000,000 building program for state institutions and buildings was tentatively approved subject to a cigarette tax if finally approved.

Other bills passed included those:

Allowing Japanese to own property; prohibiting communists on the state payroll; asking simplification of state laws; allowing a \$90,000,000 dam on the Rogue river; increasing salaries of most state and county officials and state employees; allowing banks to close Saturdays; licensing practical nurses; providing for one-year abatement of premises on which gambling is found; limiting the work week for firemen to 72 hours; banning daylight saving except on statewide basis; prohibiting candidates to file for office in party in which they have been registered less than six months; creating a civil defense agency; limiting sale of fireworks from June 20 to July 6; abolishing the state postwar commission; creating a state capital planning commission.

Bills defeated or never acted on would have:

Repealed the so-called labor curbs against secondary boycotts and hot cargo; provided for a veterans' bonus; barred state tax on property; required price tags on initiatives; prohibited cities from levying income taxes and taxing slot machines; barred expenditure of state highway funds within cities; increased drivers' license cost; prevented advertising signs on highways; provided for a new junior college in Portland; abolished the office of chancellor of higher education; given a moratorium on the bar to commercial fishing on the Columbia; barred a \$12,000,000 dam on the Deschutes; given the governor authority to ration power; asked congress for a Columbia Valley authority; allowed sale of colored margarine; repealed milk control; allowed serving of mixed drinks on trains; prevented sale of beer on Sundays; barred minors from places selling beer or wine.

Also killed were such proposals as:

State rent control; reduction of the voting age to 18; yearly, instead of biennial, legislative sessions; legislative reapportionment; abolition of the death penalty; abolition of pari-mutuel betting; repeal of state civil service.

A record number of interim committees were approved to report at the next legislative session, including those to study: Taxes; highways; Multnomah-Portland consolidation; feasibility of a department of natural resources; state institutional care; higher education; cruelty to animals and whether to create a state botanical garden.

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## In the Senate

**PASSED**  
SB 322 (Ways & Means) — Appropriates \$25,720,000 for the state's share of the 1949-51 public welfare program. (Ways & Means) — Requires financially able persons to support their parents. (Ways & Means) — Appropriates money for expenses of state police.

SB 357 (Ways & Means) — Appropriates money for expenses of state emergency board.

SB 358 (Ways & Means) — Provides money for biennial expenses of state prison, blind school and school for deaf.

SB 359 (Ways & Means) — Appropriates money for expenses of department of veterans affairs, national guard.

SB 360 (Ways & Means) — Appropriates money for expenses of secretary of state.

SB 361 (Ways & Means) — Increases salaries of non-civil service state officials.

SB 362 (Dreyer & Morgan) — To increase veterans farm and loan fund from \$42,000,000 to \$56,000,000. To be referred to voters in November, 1950.

SB 363 (VanDyke & Others) — Creates legislative interim committee to study possible improvements in state departments.

SB 364 (Carson) — Allows non-concurrent school districts to consolidate.

SB 365 (Dreyer & Morgan) — Allows Portland and Eugene to accept federal funds for slum clearance.

SB 366 (Resolutions) — Authorizes secretary of state to enlarge the senate lounge.

SB 367 (Ways & Means) — Appropriates \$10,000 for weed control in coastal area lakes.

**REPEATED**  
SB 368 (Dreyer & Morgan) — DO NOT PASS REPORT ADOPTED

SB 369 (Ways & Means) — Would have boosted taxes on free-play pin-ball machines from \$50 to \$100 a year.

(Saturday Night)

**PASSED**  
SB 370 (Mult. Del.) — Gives governor full emergency powers in cases of flood or earthquake.

SB 371 (Judiciary) — Boosting salaries of district attorneys and their deputies.

SB 372 (Ways & Means) — Appropriates \$1,115,520 for legal departments of Oregon.

SB 373 (Resolutions) — Adjourning the 66th legislative session sine die Saturday, April 16, 1949, at 9 p.m.

**DEFEATED**  
SB 374 (Ways & Means) — Appropriates \$430,000 for construction of state printing plant in Salem. Motion to reconsider earlier vote which defeated the proposal killed 18 to 12.

SENATE ADJOURNED SINE DIE AT 9:05 P.M. APRIL 16.

**CONVALESCING AT KEIZER**  
KEIZER — Mrs. Fred Rose is convalescing at her home in Keizer, after being hospitalized in Portland for four weeks with a spinal operation.

## Fishermen Quit at Astoria

ASTORIA, April 16.—(P)—Bottom fishermen along the Oregon coast quit work today in protest against lowered prices.

Officials of the Fishermen's union said the tie-up would continue indefinitely until packers raise prices.

Ben Ferguson, union secretary, said all boats at sea were heading for port to attend a mass meeting called for Monday to discuss the prices, some of which were cut as much as 50 per cent.

Union members said they did not expect to receive last year's scale, but did expect higher offers than the level set by packers. Packers said heavy foreign imports and lower meat prices have seriously curtailed the bottom fish market.

## Walker, Wilhelm, Chadwick Are on Emergency Board

The appointment of Reps. W. W. Chadwick of Salem and Rudie Wilhelm, jr. of Portland to the state emergency board was approved unanimously by the house Saturday, and in one of its final actions of the legislature the senate Saturday night gave unanimous approval to the appointment of Sen. Dean Walker to the same board.

## Labor Commissioner Gets Extra Increase; Other Hikes Passed

The salary bill affecting 66 unclassified state employees was passed by both houses Saturday with one change — pay of the commissioner of labor was raised from \$520 to \$700. The original bill called for \$600.

A "Permanent Inter-American Committee for the Campaign Against the Locust" was formed by eight Latin-American nations in Buenos Aires last July.

## In the House

**PASSED**  
HB 320 (Judiciary com.) — Raising district attorneys' salaries.  
HB 365 (Tax. com.) — Fair-trades practices act barring sale of cigarettes below cost.  
HCR 12 (Rules com.) — Giving \$3200 overtime pay to six employees of attorney general.

HB 349 (Mult. delegation) — Giving governor emergency powers in event of flood or earthquake.

HB 362 (Ways, Means) — Appropriates \$1,115,520 for state legal department.

HB 364 (Game com.) — Providing for control of algae.

HB 370 (Highway com.) — Validates past expenditure by highway interim committee.

HB 371 (Highway com.) — Approves \$25,000 expense for new highway in Portland.

HB 374 (Ways, Means com.) — Puts liquor revenues in general fund.

SB 375 (Carson, Parkinson) — Lets board of control dispose of unused Oregon portion of Blind Trades school in Portland.

SB 376 (Neuberger) — Provides for interim committee to study legislative procedures.

SB 377 (Mult. dele.) — Provides for coroner to dispose of deceased's effects.

SB 378 — Provides for renovating senate and house lounges.

**RE-PASSED**  
HB 385, 390, 461, 594, 645, 671, 661.

HB 391, 320, 129.

HB 392, 1, 32.

HB 181, 230, 129.

die Saturday, April 16, 1949, at 9:07 coroner to dispose of deceased's effects.

**RE-REFERRED**  
HB 264 (Tax. com.) — Cigarette tax.

## Umatilla County First to Obtain State Road Loan

Umatilla county Saturday received a \$150,000 loan from the highway commission to help repair its winter-damaged roads—becoming the first to take advantage of an emergency measure passed in the 1948 legislature.

The bill, signed by Gov. Douglas McKay last Monday, sets up a special fund in the state highway department to aid counties whose roads were damaged by last winter's cold weather. The counties will repay the state with their share of state gasoline tax receipts.

## Legislative Lounges Will Be Renovated

The senate and house Saturday approved the renovating of the senate and house lounges prior to the next legislature.

**LAI D ON TABLE**  
SB 109 (Rev. of Laws) — Provides for payment of fees in condemnation proceedings.

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**Falls City Champ Ball Team Feted**

FALLS CITY—The victorious Falls City town team wound up the basketball season with a banquet at Nohlgren's restaurant Saturday. The evening was highlighted when Frank Brown, chief of the team—sponsoring Falls City firemen, presented the team with the co-championship trophy for the Dallas City league. Twenty-six persons attended.

Mrs. Clifford Reeves and Mrs. Harry Marr went to Portland Tuesday. Mrs. Reeves brought home her small daughter Pamela, who had been a patient at Doernbecher hospital.

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