

Tax Deduction Law Target of House Bill

By John H. White
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The often-discussed proposal to eliminate federal income tax deductions from state tax returns was introduced in the house Thursday but its chances of passage appear slim.

The plan, asked by Gov. Douglas McKay in his inaugural message, is sponsored by Rep. Carl Francis, Dayton, who estimated it would raise \$26,000,000 a biennium.

Power Utilities Protest Rules For Workers

Power utility representatives appeared before the senate commerce and utilities committee here Thursday and protested Senator Russell Gardner's bill authorizing the state labor commission to adopt rules and regulations involving construction and maintenance of power-line systems.

Proponents of the measure contended that something further should be done for the protection of power-line workers.

Cost of inspection services would be borne by annual inspection fees carrying the rate of 2 1/2 mills per dollar of power sales.

A representative of the Portland General Electric company said that while there had been some fatal accidents involving its workers in recent years none was due to faulty equipment and in each case was due to human error. Co-operative power companies said they already are conducting safety job training programs which had proved satisfactory and probably had reduced accidents of a serious nature.

The Portland General Electric company, according to its spokesman, employs safety engineers in several districts where it operates.

State Employee Pay Bill Given Joint Group

A new pay schedule for state employees—incorporating the so-called \$10 a month cost-of-living increase—was presented to a joint ways and means subcommittee here Thursday by the state civil service commission.

Committee members said because of omission of the \$10 a month cost-of-living increase from the governor's state budget the proposed new basic salary plan would require an additional \$1,000,000 to the \$2,500,000 provided for continuation of the civil service pay schedule adopted last fall. The \$10 a month cost-of-living increase was approved by the state emergency board last November.

Under the revised plan worked out by the civil service commission there would be no reduction of salaries for current state workers. Starting salaries for new employees in five categories, including clerical aides, clerk 1, domestic worker 1, seamstress 1 and student workers would be slightly reduced. Increases ranging from \$35 to \$40 a month would be received by some technical workers, including engineers and accountants.

In the past only employees receiving \$400 a month or less were granted the \$10 a month cost-of-living increase. Under the new plan all state workers, regardless of the amount of pay they receive, will have the \$10 a month cost-of-living increase included in their paychecks.

Representative Rudie Wilhelm, Multnomah county, said the state highway department, public utilities commissioner and auditing division of the secretary of state's office probably would seek further upward adjustments. It was contended that the state highway department is encountering a lot of difficulty in obtaining experi-

House tax committee members, however, indicated Wednesday they were unanimously opposed to any such legislation.

Francis' bill also would eliminate current deductions of \$750 for single persons, \$1,500 for married couples and \$300 for each additional dependent.

Instead, the Dayton representative seeks to compute tax on entire net income, then deduct from the tax \$25 for each member of a family. This plan would result in higher taxes in the upper income brackets.

The tax bill topped a list of 30 new measures introduced in the house. The influx brought the session's total to 564, already two over the entire output of the 1949 house of representatives.

Most of the bills deal with technical revision of current Oregon laws.

One, however, would eliminate refunds on gas taxes to rural delivery mail carriers. It was introduced by the highway committee. Chairman E. A. Geary, Klamath Falls, estimated the state would save \$20,000 annually.

The house Thursday approved construction in the Portland of a \$3,000,000 state hospital for aged mental patients. Reps. Mark Hatfield and Lee V. Ohmart, both of Salem, and Alva C. Goodrich, Bend, were the only dissenters.

No funds for construction have been provided, however, since the people would have to approve the measure at the next election. The constitution provides that state institutions can be located outside Marion county only if voted by the people.

The measure, introduced by Rep. F. H. Dammasch, Portland, now goes to the senate.

In other action, representatives, by a voice vote, killed three bills to take control of the state crime laboratory and records and identification bureaus away from the state police.

Rep. John Logan, sponsor of the bill which was asked by the Oregon Sheriffs association, said the crime lab favors the state police at the expense of sheriffs.

The state and federal affairs committee thought otherwise after conferences with sheriffs, Superintendent of Police H. G. Maison and members of the Oregon medical school faculty.

Rep. Sprague H. Carter, Pendleton, told the house a full-time director of the lab would be hired, at an increased salary, to replace Dr. Howard Richardson, part-time director who resigned two weeks ago after a long dispute with Maison.

The house passed and sent to the senate a bill to make motorists who injure a domestic animal stop, give aid and find the owner or notify a police officer.

The house tax committee recommended defeat of a bill which would exempt from state income taxes retirement pay of supreme or circuit court judges.

enched engineers because of the current Oregon wage scale for this class of workers. Both Washington state and California pay higher wages for highway engineers than does Oregon, records before the committee disclosed.

State Budget Director Harry Dorman said there was an annual increase in employ new engineering graduates from Oregon State college and other technical institutions in this area. State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock advised the committee that his department is contacting six western universities and colleges in an effort to recruit graduate engineers. During the last year the highway department lost approximately 30 percent of its engineering staff, Baldock reported.

Wintry Scenes Many in Snowy Salem



This wintry scene presented itself at the intersection of South Church and Mission streets Thursday. Trees and shrubs on the grounds of the old Bush home were mantled Thursday morning by the driving snow storm, giving a mid-winter appearance. (Statesman photo.)

State Welfare Budget Boost Target of Ellis

There is no justification for an increase of \$12,000,000 in the state public welfare budget for the 1931-33 biennium, when compared with estimated expenditures for the current two year period, senator Rex Ellis, Umattilla county, declared at a meeting of county judges and county commissioners here Thursday.

Ellis said he based his statement on the tightened labor market and investigation into the various categories of the state welfare budget requests. He said that in 1940 there were 19,000 persons receiving old age assistance which has now increased to 23,730. This is approximately 80 less than on the old age assistant rolls in June of this year. Ellis also said that 15 years ago the public welfare budget was only \$5,000,000 but had increased to \$60,000,000 for the 1949-51 biennium.

"If this ratio of increase continues our state welfare budget 10 years hence will have reached \$100,000,000," Ellis said. "Every man and woman in this room knows the state cannot carry such a burden."

Representative David Baum, LaGrande, said the ways and means committee has been studying a number of bills which, if approved, probably would save the state between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000 biennially. He referred particularly to a proposal to take a large number of persons off general assistance and place them in the permanently and totally disabled account. Baum said the passage of this bill might save the taxpayers as much as \$3,000,000.

Several speakers agreed there may be a substantial number of persons receiving public welfare assistance who should not be on the rolls.

Any saving in transferring persons receiving assistance to the proposed permanently and disabled account would be reflected in the counties, Ellis averred, being that many are being received from the federal government.

Neither Baum nor Ellis said any great reduction could be made in the blind medical account.

Reducing the standards of aid to dependent children also was considered.

Ellis emphasized that the counties should re-examine their budgets. The counties contribution to the state welfare fund, as set up in the state budget, is approximately \$27,000,000. Considerable

Veto Saturday Session Plan

In an informal poll, Oregon's representatives Thursday voted, 21 to 17, against holding a Saturday session this week. The other 22 members were either absent or attending committee meetings.

The house has met every Saturday since the third week of the session, now in its ninth week.

Speaker John F. Steelhammer asked for the poll. He said most committee chairmen appeared to favor past Saturday meetings, but many representatives have been opposed to them. "Why should some work while others rest," one said.

Steelhammer said 10 members had been excused for this Saturday. The senate has not indicated whether it would meet.

Steelhammers Recipients of Silver Tea Set

Rep. and Mrs. John F. Steelhammer were recipients this week of a silver tea set, presented by legislators in recognition of Steelhammer's service as speaker of the house.

Mrs. Steelhammer, escorted to the speaker's rostrum in a brief ceremony conducted by Rep. David Baum, La Grande, said, in acceptance, she would take pleasure in using the set while entertaining members of the house and their wives in her home.

Steelhammer expressed thanks to the house "for cooperation throughout the session." "We have a good house," he said.

Prior to the presentation, Baum commended Steelhammer for his "fairness to all legislators" and his "humorous contributions" which have livened dull sessions. Steelhammer, Salem attorney, is serving his sixth term as a Marion county representative.

Printing Bill Passes Senate, Goes to House

A bill to give the state printer charge of all state printing operations was passed in the senate Thursday and sent to the house.

Sen. Stewart Hardie, Condon, told the senate the state is wasting money by letting individual departments do printing which could be done more economically by the state printing department.

Hardie said individual state departments are running off large numbers of printed material one at a time on small presses purchased during the past two years. He said the printing department could run the same sheets off eight or

Bill for Tightening Meat Inspection Introduced

A bill providing for strict inspection of Oregon slaughter houses and meat packing firms was introduced in the senate Thursday by Sen. Ben Day, Medford.

The measure is sponsored by the state department of agriculture, and would require all Oregon slaughter houses to operate under stringent rules.

It is aimed at "gyppo" slaughter houses who Day declared have been marketing unfit meat and under-age calves, commonly known as "shank" veal. Day, however, stressed that most Oregon meat packers have not been handling illegal meat, and that some have been paying for their own inspection.

Day said the law is a "must" because present state meat inspection laws are "quite inadequate to protect the public." The state now makes only casual inspections of plants to determine whether they are sanitary.

The proposed bill would provide a full-time staff of state inspectors, and would require all meat sold in the state to be passed by the department of agriculture.

It would require all packing plants to be sanitary, have proper equipment to handle meat and maintain sanitary trucks to transport meat and meat products.

The department of agriculture would have the power to close through circuit court order any plant which failed to comply with regulations.

All animals would be subject to state inspection before and after meat is killed. Unfit meat could be condemned and seized, and it would be unlawful to dispose of it for any other purpose than making fertilizer.

It would be illegal to keep meat in a slaughter house for more than 24 hours without placing it in refrigeration, and animals ready to be slaughtered would have to be pastured more than 150 feet away from plants.

Meat condemned by the department at a time at a sizeable saving. The Condon publisher pointed out that state departments had purchased \$40,000 worth of equipment for themselves during the past biennium. The bill passed Thursday would require that the state printer approve all printing jobs, including those requested by departments.

ment of agriculture would be dy-

Odd Colored Foods Spoil Test Dinner

The part that color plays in a person's appetite was illustrated today by K. C. Eldridge, Portland food wholesaler, who was testifying before a legislative committee in an effort to persuade the lawmakers to allow oleomargarine to be colored the same shades as butter.

Eldridge told about a dinner party given recently by a lighting engineer.

On the banquet table, there were dishes filled with the finest and most appetizing foods. Then the engineer switched from white to color lights.

"The steaks took on a bluish gray color, the celery turned extremely pink, salads were converted into a muddy violet, the green peas looked like oversized black caviar, the milk turned blood-red, the eggs blue, and the coffee a sickly yellow."

"Most of the guests immediately lost their appetites. Those who forced themselves to eat the food became ill."

"The dinner was a failure, but the experiment was a success," Eldridge said.

Vote Registry Bill Approved

The senate Thursday approved and sent to the governor a bill which will help county clerks remove delinquent voters from registration lists.

The measure would allow clerks to remove names from registration lists after the parties have been notified by mail and then fail to acknowledge the notices within 90 days.

The present law requires clerks to wait a year before removing the names from their lists.

The wedding cake originated with the Romans. In those days, the bride couple ate cake made of salt, water and flour and the bride held three ears of wheat, symbol of plenty.

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