

Bottle Clubs Under Attack at Hearings

Bottle clubs and the master locker system came under scathing attack Wednesday as the House alcoholic control committee resumed hearings on liquor by the drink legislation.

Glen McCarthy, secretary of the Oregon Food and Service Industry Council, and George Amato, Portland night club operator, paced the assault on the bottle and locker systems, declaring that neither promotes temperance.

Under the bottle club system, a customer is served out of his own bottle. The master locker system is where the customer buys a bottle from the club and then is served from that bottle.

McCarthy urged the committee to approve the restaurant industry's proposal to give liquor-by-the-drink dispensers a 15 per cent discount on the liquor they buy from the liquor commission. He said the discount is necessary to permit profitable operation by the restaurants that will serve liquor.

No Discount
The liquor commission's bill makes no provision for any discount. George Woodworth, commission attorney, said the discount would cause the state to lose \$500,000 a year in revenue.

McCarthy argued this loss would be made up by increased tourist trade and by property taxes on places where liquor is served.

Amato questioned the commission's intent of promoting temperance or boosting revenue under its bill.

"If money is what the commission wants, it is on the right track," Amato declared. He assailed the master locker system as a device that permits non-stop consumption by allowing patrons to replenish his bottle at will.

On the other hand, he contended, a club patron who drinks from a bottle bought from the liquor store usually imbibes temperately.

Opposes System
Amato warned that an unsavory condition would be created if both the bottle system and liquor-by-drink were permitted, the dual operation promoting competition opposed by both sides.

Amato said adoption of a uniform system of operation would eliminate need for local option, as provided in the liquor commission's bill.

The commission wants to change the existing law to require 15 per cent instead of 10 per cent of the voters in a community to petition for an election to ban sale of intoxicating liquor.

Librarian to Visit Chicago
Miss Eleanor Stephens, Oregon State Librarian, will leave Friday for Chicago to attend the mid-Winter meeting of the American Library Association in motion Feb. 2-7 at the Edgewater Beach Hotel.

Miss Stephens is a member of the American Library Association committee to study state library agencies. The committee endeavors to find more economical and efficient patterns of library service.

Rehabilitation Aid Offered By Red Cross
Elton Thompson, chairman of the Marion County Red Cross chapter, announced Wednesday that rehabilitation service is available for flood- and wind-storm disaster-sufferers who cannot re-establish themselves from their own resources of cash, savings and credit.

Thompson emphasized that Red Cross is not an insurance agency and does not replace losses, but Red Cross can and will assist families to meet those basic needs which the families cannot provide for themselves.

"Anything we do for families in disaster relief is an outright gift. No loans are made and Red Cross never expects repayment." The Red Cross rehabilitation program is principally for the home and the family. There are occasions in which it rehabilitates a business establishment, but it is always the smaller type of business that might be termed the me-man business.

Any family who feels that they cannot re-establish themselves is urged to contact the Marion County Red Cross chapter, 434 N. High St. and make application for assistance as soon as possible. The closing date for accepting such applications will be Feb. 10.

Warehouse Permit Given
Permission to build a one-story sales office and warehouse at 455 S. Church St. at an approximate cost of \$23,000 has been given Carl Armbrist by the city building inspector.

Other permits issued went to the Willamette Valley Bank to alter a one-story bank building at 1990 Fairground St., at a cost estimated at \$6,000; Tom Dalk to erect a one-story house and garage at 2035 Kansas St. for about \$12,000; and to Carl E. Hansen to put up a one-story house and garage at 2535 North Gate at a cost estimated at \$10,800.

TAVERN OWNER CITED
The owner of the Owl Club on South Commercial Street, Averill Reaney, was cited to municipal court Wednesday on a charge of permitting a minor to consume alcoholic liquor on the premises. Bail was set at \$150.

House Bills \$82,000,000

Estimate of Liquor Sales

Gross revenues of the State Liquor Control Commission for the 1953-55 biennium were estimated at \$82,000,000, based on its current system of operations, commission officials told a joint Ways and Means subcommittee here Wednesday.

Gross revenue of the commission for the current biennium were estimated at \$85,000,000. Decrease in revenues for the next biennium was based on a probable reduction of the federal tax on liquors.

Estimated revenues for the next biennium include \$78,716,000 from the stores division, \$998,000 from the license division and \$2,590,000 from the privilege tax division.

Expenditures were estimated at \$80,510,150. These include salaries and wages \$5,079,710, general operating and maintenance \$1,454,298, capital outlays \$121,151, special projects \$35,000, and liquor purchases \$53,820,000.

Eight additional officers were requested in the law enforcement division. Officials told the committee the current state of the law enforcement division is inadequate to meet the increasing demands.

Proposals for the appropriation of \$65,500 for remodeling the commission offices and warehouse was dropped from the budget by the state budget division before it was certified to the legislature.

Commission members said they had in mind erection of a new headquarters plant in the Portland fringe area where parking facilities would be more adequate.

The commission made it plain the budget for the 1953-55 biennium has no connection with operation of the liquor by the drink constitutional amendment approved by the voters at the last general election.

Racing Fund Hearings End
The House State and Federal Affairs Committee held its second hearing Wednesday on the bill to take away racing funds from the fairs, and then decided it wouldn't hold any more hearings.

The bill, by Rep. Joseph E. Harvey, Portland, would put all the racing receipts into the state general fund, and then let the fairs ask the legislature for money to replace their loss.

At Wednesday's hearing, representatives of church groups supported the bill, and racing and fair interests opposed it.

Agriculture Board Opposes Major Milk Act Changes
The State Board of Agriculture wants only slight changes in the milk control law, and Rep. V. T. Jackson, Roseburg, chairman of the House Food and Dairy Committee, is disappointed.

After the board made its wishes known at Tuesday's meeting of the board and the Legislative Agriculture and Food and Dairy Committees, Jackson said:

"I had hoped awfully that something would come from the dairy industry to change the law. I'm pretty much disappointed."

Jackson opposes milk control. The people voted last November to retain it.

Firemen, Police Applications Close Today
Today is the final day applications for Civil Service examinations for firemen's entrance, firemen's promotional battalion chief and police promotional captain will be accepted, City Recorder Alfred Mundt announced.

As of Wednesday, 10 had made application for firemen's entrance and three each for battalion chief and police captain.

Fire Chief Ellsworth Smith said those passing the exams will be placed on the eligible list as there are no vacancies at present in the fire department, either for firemen or battalion chiefs.

The same holds true for police captains, said Police Chief Clyde Warren. At present there are two patrolman vacancies on the police department, but no eligible list.

Firemen's entrance exams and battalion chief exams are scheduled for Feb. 5 and police captain exams Feb. 6.

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Central Oregon C of C Takes No Pelton Dam Stand
Max Ricker, Madras, said Central Oregon needs more money and the dam would provide it. William Niskanen, Bend, said he thought it would be better to use water from the Deschutes River for irrigation rather than for power. He said any approval of the dam would be selling Central Oregon's birthright to the city of Portland.

Portland to Press Suit for Acreage
PORTLAND (AP) — The Port of Portland intends to go ahead with its suit to take over the 168 acres on which Alderwood Country Club is located. The port, which wants the land for expansion of the Portland airport, offered the club \$345,000 last year, but the club rejected it. Manager John J. Winn of the port said the suit to condemn the land will be filed in the next few days.

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