

Solons Want Emergency Clause Vote

A majority of Oregon's 1955 Legislature wants the people to vote on whether the legislators should have authority to put an emergency clause on tax bills and therefore head off any referendum move against them.

The current proposal for changing the Oregon constitution to this effect comes from Sen. Lee Ohmart (R), Salem, who said Thursday he already has signatures on the measure of half the House and two-thirds the Senate. Signers include Democrats and Republicans.

Ohmart has exercised leadership in the taxation field at the Legislature. He is now the Senate's tax vice chairman.

Oregon voters have approved ballot proposals costing up to \$100 million a biennium, declares Ohmart, so they should also give the Legislature clear authority to devise appropriate taxation to cover such costs.

As it stands now, when a tax bill is referred to the voters, its effect is automatically postponed at least until after the next general election which comes a year and a half following the legislative session. And there is always the chance that the tax plan will be defeated by the electorate.

Even if the Legislature didn't directly refer a tax measure to the voters, it can't go into effect for 90 days unless there is an emergency clause attached to say the new law must go into effect immediately.

That 90-day period gives time enough for opponents to get up a referendum petition signed by some 20,000 voters in order to hold up the tax and get it on the ballot.

Conformity of Bureau Rules Sought in Bill

Conformity in rule-making and rule-enforcing practices of various state boards and commissions, plus specified rights of citizens' appeal, is the aim of proposed legislation now in a committee of the Oregon House of Representatives.

A public hearing on this measure of wide interest in state government circles will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. next Thursday in Capitol Room 421 by the House judiciary committee, it was announced yesterday by the chairman, Rep. George Leyman (R), Newberg.

Oregon's State Bar Association has requested the new law referred to as a uniform administrative procedures act and now pending as House Bill 49.

Under the bill each board or rule-making agency would be required to formulate definite rules on its various procedures, and give the public notice before any new rules are made.

Then the rules would be filed with the secretary of state, who would be instructed to publish and distribute a monthly bulletin setting out the new rules or changes made by the several boards.

Interested citizens could petition for rule changes which they wanted to recommend.

Licensing bodies would have to give formal notice of license withdrawals or expirations.

The bill calls for certain standards for any hearings the boards conduct, including notice to interested parties, provision for introducing evidence and other matters. Decisions would have to be made in writing, if requested by the affected party.

In all contested cases given hearings, the decision would be subject to citizens' appeal to circuit court and Supreme Court.

Rep. Geary Investigates Vote Machine

House Speaker Ed Geary decided Thursday to investigate whether to install an electronic voting system in the Oregon House of Representatives.

He asked Rep. Robert L. Elstrom (R), Salem, to look into the system now being used by the Washington state House of Representatives. Elstrom went to Olympia, Wash., with the House Fish and Game Committee.

The Washington House began trying out a system at the beginning of the present session.

The electronic voting would save the legislature much time that now is consumed by roll-calls.

Farmers Union Wants Change In Income Tax

The Oregon Farmers Union wants to balance the state's budget by increasing taxes on incomes of more than \$7,000 a year.

Its legislative committee announced Thursday that it is opposed to boosting the property tax, and opposes a sales tax.

The committee also said it would work against any proposals to build power dams by partnership between federal and local agencies.

Former Accident Board Men Hold 'Reunion'



Safety talk must have highlighted the meeting in California recently of these five men, all of whom are former employees of Oregon's State Industrial Accident Commission. From left to right, they are Robert M. Evenden, George Smith, Roy Miller, Russell B. Jones and George T. Hewitt, all of whom worked for the accident prevention division of the commission for a number of years.

Rep. Layman Likes to Chisel Off Rough Edges of State Laws

By BILL FORCE
United Press Staff Correspondent

Rep. George Layman is a lawmaker who is bothered by laws that don't function the way they were intended. He has several bills ready for introduction that he thinks will make the Oregon code of laws a little more efficient.

Layman, who is mayor of the Yamhill county town of Newberg, this year found himself the only Republican attorney in the House of Representatives. That meant, almost automatically, the chairmanship of the influential House Judiciary Committee. It also has turned out to mean an increased work load on the House floor where non-attorneys are frequently in need of quick legal opinions.

Layman is an "oil-on-the-water" type of legislator — one who can quiet a budding controversy by cutting away extraneous issues and by keeping the discussion on the point at hand. He isn't the type to avoid a fight if it's necessary, but few have ever seen him lose his temper.

Corrective Bills
This year he may be the center of some disputes when he introduces his series of corrective bills. One of them would remove ambiguities from the classification of emergency vehicles. Layman feels that too many innocent bystanders have been killed or injured by ambulances screaming through intersections against the traffic lights. If he has his way, ambulances will observe the same traffic laws as all other vehicles, even though they carry injured persons. He says doctors have assured him that the few minutes saved by speeding ambulances are insignificant in relation to the accidents that are caused by that kind of driving.

At the request of the publishers of the state, Layman also will introduce a bill clarifying Oregon law on libel. If it is passed, persons awarded libel judgments could collect only special, not general, damages in cases where there was no malicious intent. In other words, if a publisher or radio station made an honest but damaging error and carried a retraction, the damaged party could collect only to the extent of the actual loss he suffered as a result of the error.

License Suspension
Another law that Layman doesn't like, and one that he will try to change, is the one allowing the secretary of state to suspend a driver's license without a hearing simply because that official feels the driver may be an unsafe operator. Under the present law, the driver may get a hearing on the suspension only after the license is taken away. Layman plans to introduce a bill requiring a hearing before the suspension.

Another bloopster bill — in Layman's opinion — is the one requiring motorists to stop when they see an approaching school bus stopping ahead of them. The law requires you to come to a dead halt behind or in front of a school bus loading or unloading children. Layman has no argument with that principle, but he feels approaching motorists are not given enough warning that a bus in the other lane is about to stop. If you're following a bus, the stop

lights give you adequate warning. If you're approaching a stopping bus, the signal arm with its stop sign may swing out just in time for you to make a screeching stop and keep within the law. Layman would require bus drivers to raise their stop signal arm well in advance of their stop to give approaching drivers more time to apply their brakes.

Final report of Barrington Associates, dealing with a survey of the state's salary and classification structure, is nearing completion and will be in the lap of the legislative compensation and retirement interim committee early next week.

Several preliminary reports have been presented to the committee. The compensation and retirement interim committee is scheduled to meet here next week, probably Friday, when it will go over the final report and file its recommendations with the legislature.

The last preliminary report showed that a substantial number of state workers were improperly classified but added that none of their salaries would be reduced. Barrington Associates has been in operation here for several months. Members of the compensation and retirement interim committee said approval of a substantial part of the report probably would eliminate a lot of work on the part of legislatures in future years.

The State Civil Service Commission has cooperated with Barrington Associates in conducting the survey.

A lot of information dealing with the salary structures of other states was obtained in order to make comparisons. The survey was ordered by the compensation and retirement interim committee for which an appropriation was authorized at the 1953 Legislature. This appropriation was increased by the State Emergency Board.

Legislature Honors Four

Death of four Salem persons who had been on the House of Representatives staff for several legislative sessions was marked by resolutions of condolences to their families, as voted Thursday by the House.

The resolutions named the late Claribel Buff, chief clerk of the House last session and a veteran of 16 sessions; Helen Ficke, A. A. Gueffroy and Ben Ramseyer.

Plane's Zippers Prevent Leakage

NEW YORK (UP)—The versatile zipper has been put to a new use—giving an added measure of protection against high-altitude leakage of liquids in the baggage of passengers on Lockheed's Super Constellation planes.

Thirty-three panels in two lower-fuselage baggage compartments of each new Super Constellation are closed by pressure-sealing zippers. Thus, the compartments are afforded virtually the same pressurization as the cabins. Cabin pressure at 23,000 feet altitude is roughly the equivalent of the pressure at an altitude of 8,000 feet in a non-pressurized plane.

The baggage compartment liners are made of fiberglass combined with a special rubber compound.

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Ex-Employees Of SIAC Meet In California

Five former employees of the State Industrial Accident Commission, who met recently in northern California, together represent almost 50 years in accident prevention work in Oregon.

The five men, all of whom were with the commission's accident prevention division, are Robert M. Evenden, former director; George Smith, Russell B. Jones and George T. Hewitt, all former safety inspector supervisors, and Roy Miller, one-time supervisor of education.

Evenden and Jones are now with the Guy F. Atkinson Company, Smith is employed by the Argonaut Insurance Exchange, and Hewitt is with the Zenith National Insurance Company. All four work in San Francisco. Miller is in business in La Grande.

Smith and Hewitt left the commission most recently, both within the last year, while Evenden left in 1951 and Miller and Jones left in 1953.

Marriage, Divorce Bills Set in Motion

The biennial legislation to legitimize certain marriages and divorces appeared in the Oregon Senate Thursday in two bills sponsored by Sen. Warren Gill (R), Lebanon.

One measure would make official those marriages which took place before the end of the state's official waiting period of six months after a divorce. The other would back up divorces that were granted but were found to contain technical legal faults in the proceedings.

These were among 17 bills received by the House and Senate Thursday. They will be referred to committees today.

One of the new House bills, sponsored by Rep. H. H. Chindgren (R), Molalla, would correct minor discrepancies in the state law governing soil conservation districts. A Senate bill would tighten standards for barber schooling and instructors, and reduce required apprenticeship period from 18 months to a year.

The first bill to come out of the joint ways and means committee also appeared Thursday—a proposal, with committee approval, to put legislative employees under state industrial accident insurance coverage.

The Senate highway committee introduced a bill to permit state agencies to take out liability insurance to protect their employees. Rep. Maurice Neuberger (D), Portland, introduced a memorial asking Congress to deepen the Columbia River channel from 42 to 48 feet.

Other new House measures would deprive ambulances of their status as emergency vehicles unless authorized by the Secretary of State, and create a five-member state historical board to supervise and coordinate agencies in preserving historical sites and material.

Horse Takes Snooze Atop Automobile

JAMESTOWN, N. Y. (UP)—Two men were slightly hurt and plenty puzzled when their auto collided with a horse near here.

Louis Rivetti and Donald Putnam of Portland, N. Y., said the horse was standing in the middle of the road. The horse was bounced onto the roof of the automobile where it lay stunned for several minutes. Then the animal scrambled off the car and ambled back to pasture. The car suffered the most damage.

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| MARGARINE Nucoa or Durkees 1-POUND PKGS. 25¢ | | SHREDDED WHEAT Nabisco's Famous Breakfast Food 2 PKGS. 29¢ | |
| Bumble Bee Chunk TUNA No. ½ Flat 25c | Niblets MEXICORN Squat Can 17c | Del Monte CATSUP Per Bottle 17c | Oregon Beauty PUMPKIN No. 2½ Can 5c |
| BORDEN'S FRESH MAYONNAISE QUART JAR 45¢ | | LADY ELBERTA FREESTONE PEACHES NO. 2½ CANS 33¢ Case of 24 — \$7.69 | |
| Dannison's CATSUP 2 For 29c | Campbell's TOMATO SOUP 3 cans 25c | Capitol Broken Slice PINEAPPLE No. 2½ Cans 29c | Tasty Pak Salad GRAPEFRUIT 1 Pound Can 17c |
| ZEE BRAND PAPER WRAP PAPER NAPKINS 80 COUNT PKGS. 3 for 25¢ | | BETTY CROCKER and PILLSBURY CAKE MIXES PER PKG. 25¢ | |
| Hein's Oregon HONEY 5-lb. Tin 99c | Charbonneau APPLE JUICE 46-oz. Cans 35c | Del Monte SUGAR PEAS 303 Can 19c | Del Monte Cream Style CORN 303 Cans 2 for 25c |
| Kaiser Wrap Aluminum Foil Per Roll 27c | Giant Size Trend DETERGENT 49c | Franco-American SPAGHETTI 2 For 29c | Sun-Maid RAISINS 15-oz. Pkg. 20c |
| Niblets CORN 12-oz. Can 15c | Mrs. Stewart's BLUING Reg. Size Bottle 19c | Plumbrose Brisling SARDINES In Olive Oil 19c | Riviera RAVIOLI 15-oz. Can 19c |

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