

Financial Problems Plagued 1955 Session of Legislature

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Financial problems, brought about by the biggest shortage of revenue in Oregon's history, dominated the state legislature. Of the 1,302 bills it considered, it passed a record 774, including many that vitally affect the lives of every citizen.

The legislature appropriated \$217,816,729, or \$25,000,000 more than it did in 1953.

But estimated revenues for the biennium beginning next July 1 fell \$61,500,000 short of reaching that figure, meaning that the lawmakers had to hunt for some money. It did, largely by boosting the income tax and imposing a cigarette tax.

The joint ways and means committee estimates that the new revenue will fall short by \$2,000,000 of balancing the budget. That isn't serious, though, because revenue estimates can vary a few million either way, and the 1957 legislature will be back here six months before the biennium ends.

The revenue program will tide the state over for only the next two years. The 1957 legislature again will be faced with a serious money raising problem.

Of the big mass of legislation that was passed, a dozen accomplishments stand out. They are:

1. Increasing income taxes 60 per cent and imposing a 3-cent cigarette tax.
2. Creating the water resources board to determine state water policy and to settle quarrels over the use of water in the state's streams and lakes.
3. Boosting maximum weekly unemployment benefits from \$25 to \$35, increasing employer taxes 50 per cent, and extending coverage to firms with two or more workers.
4. Adoption of a \$15,000,000 building program, including a mental hospital near Portland, a reformatory near Salem, and a classroom building at Portland State college.
5. Endorsement of President Eisenhower's partnership power program.
6. Beginning of compulsory state meat inspection.
7. Transfer of the motor vehicle department from the secretary of state to the governor.
8. Converting Portland state extension center into Portland state college.
9. Regulating and licensing billboards visible from highways.
10. Increasing teacher minimum salaries.
11. Providing equal pay for men.
12. Banning wire tapping except by court order.

Here is a summary of what was done in each field:

Finance and Taxes

The 60 per cent income tax increase was done by reducing the \$600 personal exemptions to \$500 and by adding a 45 per cent surtax. It would produce \$41,200,000 in the biennium, and the cigarette tax will raise \$8,800,000.

The 1 per cent withholding tax was doubled to make it easier to pay the higher income levy. The 2 per cent tax on insurance premiums was raised to 2 1/2 per cent, liquor prices went up about 5 per cent, and the corporation excise tax was extended to utilities and large building rental companies.

A series of property tax assessment bills were passed, including one to have reappraisals made every six years by certified appraisers.

A proposed constitutional amendment, to let the Legislature put emergency clauses on tax bills, was referred to the 1956 general election.

Gov. Paul L. Patterson vetoed the bill to prevent cities from levying income taxes.

While the House wanted to give the people a choice between a 3 per cent sales tax and the income levy boost, the Senate didn't, beating the sales tax.

Labor

Besides increasing the unemployment compensation benefits and payroll taxes, the Legislature also boosted industrial accident benefits about 15 per cent.

It voted that women must receive men's pay when they do men's work, and abolished the Governor's Advisory Committee on Fair Employment Practices.

Measures which failed to pass include those which would have repealed the anti-picketing law, let workmen arbitrate industrial accident claims, and set up a conciliation service under the governor.

Government Organization

The transfer of the Motor Vehicle Department to the governor will be effective July 1, 1956.

A state judicial council, consisting of all judges, was created to facilitate work of the courts.

Multnomah County was subordinated for election of state representatives, and a bill to do the same for Marion County was referred to the people of the county. The Lane County subdistricting bill was defeated.

A commission was created to help plan a celebration of Oregon's 100th anniversary of statehood in 1959.

Measures defeated include Governor Patterson's request for a convention to write a new constitution, and to have one senator from each county.

The law requiring physical education courses was wiped off the books.

Portland State College won its independence, school teachers who

had been convicted of morals offenses were barred from teaching, and residents of any city were made eligible for appointment to the Board of Higher Education.

A \$5,000 appropriation to study educational television was made, in contrast to the defeated measure to erect two state-owned educational TV stations.

Bills defeated would have given building aid to distressed school districts, changed the basic school distribution formula to help needy districts, given state aid for junior colleges, and put driver training courses in the schools.

Agriculture

The Legislature appropriated \$75,000 to begin a pilot meat inspection program in areas to be chosen by the department of agriculture.

A market development department in the agriculture department was created, creation of grasshopper control districts was approved, and the Board of Control was permitted to abolish the state flax industry at the penitentiary.

Grade B milk will have to conform with Grade A bacteria standards.

Bills were defeated that would have established minimum prices for milk producers, and increased the required butterfat content of milk to 3.8 per cent.

Power

Endorsement of the partnership policy came early in the session when the Legislature passed memorials urging use of that method to build John Day, Green Peter and Cougar Dams.

The proposed Columbia River compact, under which Northwest states would recommend how to develop the region, ran into heavy opposition, so no attempt was made to get it ratified. Instead, the Legislature authorized two more years of study of this question.

Bills to put the state in the

power business and to have a referendum on Hell's Canyon never got out of committee.

Highways and Motor Vehicles

Billboards along the highway will be licensed and regulated by the Labor Commissioner, who will see that signs are neat and that there aren't too many of them.

Radar to catch speeding motorists was legalized, voluntary blood tests for drunken drivers were approved.

Counties were required to pay damages caused by highway grade changes, and police were given permission to seize abandoned motor vehicles on the highways.

Among the defeated or buried measures were those to increase gasoline taxes, issue of \$11,000,000 worth of road construction bonds, and to have inspection of motor vehicles.

Elections

Voters were required to sign pollbooks, an easy method getting election recounts was approved, and flags were required at polling places.

Measures defeated would have changed the date of the May Primary, required bigger voter turnout at school bond elections, lowered the voting age to 18, and tighten up the law on reporting of campaign expenses.

Natural Resources

The companion bill to the water resources board measure will let the state regulate wells and ground water.

Bag limits were established for salmon caught in the ocean and landed in Oregon. A \$25 ceiling was placed on fishing derby prizes, and a \$10 non-resident hunting license was authorized to hunters from states which give that privilege to Oregon hunters.

The State Land Board got permission to regulate the taking of minerals from ocean beaches.

Veterans

The amortization period on veterans' farm and home loans was extended from 20 to 25 years, and educational aid for veterans was ended. Life insurance to protect veterans loans was authorized.

The House, reluctant to be counted, sent the Korean veterans bonus bill to its tax committee for burial.

PUBLIC WELFARE

Five assistant attorneys general will be hired to prosecute welfare frauds, especially those in which the parents refuse to support their children. A new relative responsibility law was passed. It replaces the one recently declared unconstitutional by the Multnomah Circuit Court.

CRIME

Life sentences for confirmed sex criminals were approved, as were five-year sentences for child beaters.

The Legislature provided automatic supreme court review of death sentences in cases where the man sentenced doesn't have money.

Wire tapping was outlawed except by court order. Women who live off earnings of prostitutes were made liable to 15-year terms.

A new law against worthless checks was passed, replacing the unconstitutional one.

Stiffer narcotic violation penalties were provided.

The lawmakers made it a crime for prisoners to take hostages, and permitted transfer of convicts from the prison to other jails or prisons.

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS

State officials got salary increases, and the emergency board was given \$1,300,000 to take care of adjustments for the state employees.

The Oregon Development Commission was given money for research to find out if there are any reasons why Oregon doesn't get more industry.

Second hand, junk dealers and auctioneers will be licensed.

Arrangements were provided so that drug users can be sent to state hospitals.

Two extra judges were given to Multnomah County, and one each to Lane and Douglas counties.

A state census board was created to make annual population estimates of all cities. The governor was given broad emergency powers in case of enemy attack.

The name of Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day.

And after struggling for 115 days, the Legislature decided to ask the people to double their \$600 annual salaries.

Lebanon Man Chosen by Plywood Firm

PORTLAND (U) — Stockholders of the Cascades Plywood Corp. named three new directors at the annual meeting Wednesday.

The firm also declared the regular dividend of 25 cents a share on common stock for the quarter ending June 30.

The new directors named are A. E. Anderson, Lebanon, production manager who also was re-elected vice president; Alger Chaney, Portland, and Paul L. Boley, Portland, who also was re-elected secretary.

The directors also re-elected other officers: Charles W. Fox, Portland, president; Robert P. Conklin, assistant to the president; K. E. Ross, treasurer.

Re-elected directors were: George R. Birkeland, Chicago; Prewitt Semmes, Detroit; Hugh R. Kirkpatrick, Lebanon; Charles E. McCulloch, B. V. Hancock and Fox, all of Portland.

Officials said the \$500,000 program of modernizing the Lebanon plant is in progress. They also said the new hardboard plant, operating on an exclusive dry process, is in steady production.

Oldest Man in Air Force To Take Bride

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (U) — The oldest man in the Air Force and his bride-to-be kept their wedding plans secret Wednesday — but they had their license.

Master Sgt. Horst W. (pop) Tittel, 70, and Mrs. Ethel D. Andrews, 60, of Orleans, Mass., picked up the license Tuesday after having filed their application last week.

Title was in the spotlight several weeks ago in Washington when he was sworn in personally by Air Secretary Tibbitts for six more years, to add to the 46 he already has served.

Tittel and Mrs. Andrews met several months ago when she came north on a visit.

Tittel serves in the information office of the Alaskan Air Command. He has one other distinction, besides his length of service and age, which few enlisted men can match: he often rides to work in the morning with his theater commander, Maj. Gen. George Acheson.

Firemen Seek To Inspect Salem Homes

Householders whom Salem firemen missed in their inspection rounds were Wednesday invited by Fire Marshal Glenn Shedeck to notify the department when they'd be home so his men could return some other day.

The city's firemen began their annual hunt for household hazards Monday. There is no compulsion to admitting the fireman nor is there enforcement to his recommendations. If any inspections are made daily from 9:30 to 11:30 a. m. to 1:15 to 4 p. m.

Shedeck said firemen are meeting with better response this year than last when the program first was launched. He said the fire truck they arrive on attracts people who bring out their children to see it.

Tuesday firemen found 124 hazards in the 206 houses inspected. Three hundred eight-five houses were contacted. Of these, 124 householders weren't home and 32 refused admittance.

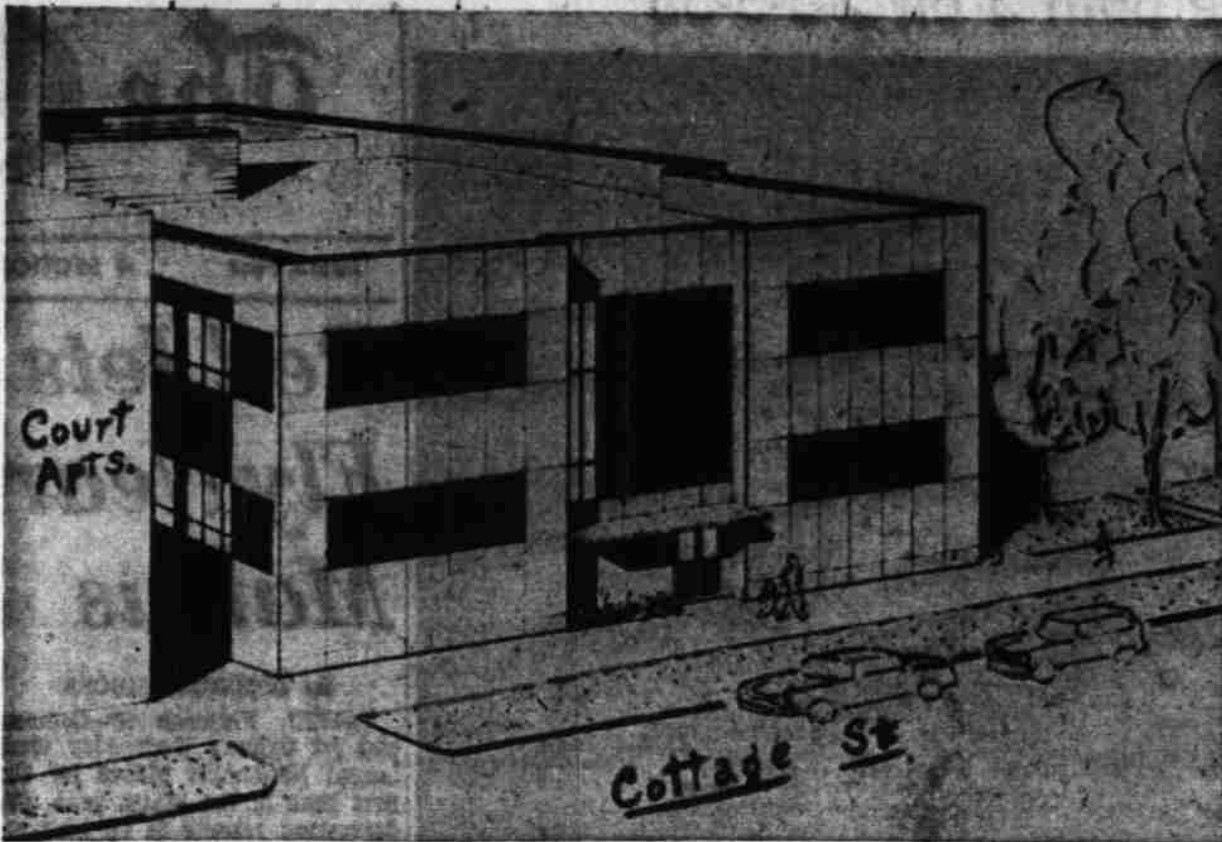
Torrent of Bomb Threats Made on Manhattan Island

NEW YORK (U) — Madmen, cranks or both loosed a torrent of bomb threats over Manhattan Island Wednesday.

Threatened were a big department store, three movies, a meeting hall and a bank.

The six scares between mid-afternoon and midnight sent police into such crowded places as Macy's Department Store, on Herald Square; the Roxy Theater, just north of Times Square, and the Radio City Music Hall, at Rockefeller Center.

Salem YMCA's Proposed Youth Wing



The proposed youth wing for the Salem YMCA is pictured here in a sketch by Architect James L. Payne. The wing, on North Cottage Street, would adjoin the present YMCA, on Court Street, at the rear. Cost is estimated at \$490,000, of which \$405,000 is paid or subscribed. Start of construction is set tentatively for next fall, if the building fund is completed.

At The Theaters Today

EL SINORE
"A MAN CALLED PETER," with Richard Todd and Jean Peters.
"THE ROYAL TOUR," with Queen Elizabeth and Philip.
CAPITOL
"REVENGE OF THE CREATURE" in 3-D with John Agar and Lori Nelson.
"CULT OF THE COBRA" with Faith Domergue and Richard Long.
GRAND
"CAPTAIN LIGHTFOOT" with Rick Hudson and Barbara Rush.
"ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE" in full color.
NORTH SALEM DRIVE-IN
"DRUM BEAT" with Alan Ladd and Audrey Dalton.
"WEST OF ZANZIBAR" with Anthony Steel and Sheila Sim.
HOLLYWOOD
"MANY RIVERS TO CROSS" with Robert Taylor and Eleanor Parker.
"THE BIG SLEEP" with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall.

State Policeman Quick to Recover Stolen Salem Car

A possible Salem-area record in recovering a stolen auto was set late Wednesday when the state police detachment was informed of an apprehension just as Salem police were informing them the car was stolen.

In custody is a 14-year-old boy whom State Policeman Floyd West said he chased down north of Salem at 10:30 p. m. His radio message was timed with the city police department's phone call.

The car belongs to Mrs. Lottie Harding, 1125 Gess St., S.E.

Officer West, who was chasing the car for other reasons, apprehended the boy after he abandoned the car and fled on foot. It was the boy who told him the car was stolen, the officer said.

Man 'Buys Way' Back Into Prison With Bad Check

PITTSBURGH (U) — Edward Gunton, 59, said in U.S. District Court Wednesday he passed a bad check for \$3,500 to make sure he'd get back in prison.

His plan worked. Judge Nelson McVicar sentenced Gunton to four years in a federal prison.

"I can't make a living outside of jail," Gunton told the judge.

There are about 60 species of lily.

Five Firms Authorized to Free Vaccine

WASHINGTON (U) — The Public Health Service announced Wednesday it has authorized five manufacturers of Salk polio vaccine to release a total of 10 1/2 million cubic centimeters since April 12. It has withheld action on 3,900,000 cc awaiting additional data.

This means that production made available a total of 10 1/2 million cc. There were estimates by six manufacturers on April 22 that they would turn out 17,200,000 cc by May 1.

The service said its Laboratory of Biologics Control had received protocols up to Wednesday afternoon covering a total of 14,780,000 cc, exclusive of the product of the Cutter Laboratories, Berkeley, Calif. The protocols are technical reports on the manufacture and testing of batches of vaccine.

The Cutter product has been temporarily withdrawn pending an investigation by the Health Service because some children inoculated with it developed paralytic polio.

Britain, France Sign Atomic Pact

LONDON (U) — A British-French agreement to promote peaceful uses of atomic energy was announced Wednesday by Britain's Atomic Energy Authority.

The pact provides for exchange of unspecified information between the British authority and the French Atomic Energy Commission.

Britain will also advise the French on certain atomic matters and supply "experimental quantities of various materials" the announcement said.

The announcement made no mention of atomic weapons.

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Soviet Quits Insisting on Treaty Point

VIENNA, Austria (U) — The Soviet Union Wednesday abandoned its previous insistence on including a refugee repatriation article in the Austrian state treaty. This move raised still higher the Western hopes that the treaty will be ready for signing in mid-May.

The surprise Soviet move was reported by diplomatic officials of two delegations attending the five-nation conference of ambassadors.

Ambassadors representing the Soviet Union, Britain, France and the United States, with Austria's foreign minister sitting in, are shaping the treaty's final terms.

Informed sources said good progress was made during the day. They made it clear, however, that Russia and the West still have to agree on thorny reparations and foreign oil investments issues before the treaty can be signed by the big four foreign ministers later this month.

Diplomats reported Soviet Ambassador Ivan I. Ilyichev accepted an Austrian proposal — supported by the West — to drop completely the long-disputed Article 18.

The article would have allowed unlimited numbers of Soviet repatriation teams to enter Austria, once it had won its independence, to quiz and screen an estimated 48,000 refugees from Communism.

Western diplomats opposed the article, fearing it would have enabled Soviet teams to spread Red propaganda inside Austria while the country was supposed to be neutral in the East-West struggle.

Texas Solon Gains Point With Drawl

WASHINGTON (U) — Rep. W. R. Poage, a fiery Texas Democrat, was on the House floor Wednesday belaboring opponents of price supports and crop controls of peanuts.

Repeatedly he unloosed scathing attacks, pointing a finger at the Republican side of the aisle and using the personal pronoun "you."

Four times Rep. Hoffman (R-Mich) made a point of order that House rules forbid such use of the word "you." Rep. Sikes (D-Fla.), who was presiding, four times admonished Poage to proceed under a proper order.

"All right," Poage shouted, still waving a finger at the GOP side, "But I want 'you-all' to know 'you-all' are trying to destroy the peanut farmer."

Strikes Harass Great Britain

LONDON (U) — Wildcat strikes against two nationalized industries — coal and transport — harassed Britain Wednesday with a general election only three weeks away. Both sets of strikers demanded more money.

Seventy five thousand miners were made idle as an official strike spread through 50 pits in the big Yorkshire coal fields. The strike was called by 5,600 fillers — the men who feed the conveyor belts carrying coal out of the pits.

A Communist-fomented strike halted half of London's 5,744 buses during the morning rush hour, but the walkout fizzled quickly. By afternoon half the 15,000 strikers were back on the job, and by late Wednesday night all had returned. Spokesmen said bus service would be normal Thursday.

Spokane Man Shot in Holdup

SPOKANE (U) — Fred A. Elliott, 63, was shot and seriously wounded in an attempted holdup of his Spokane Valley service station Wednesday night.

Elliott was shot through the right shoulder with a .22 caliber bullet, sheriff's officers said, and had lost a considerable amount of blood. He was reported in fair condition at a Spokane hospital.

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