

Sweetland Contends Legislature Postponed Vital Tasks Until 1957

(Editor's note: Since the record of the 1953 legislature will be a key issue in next year's elections, the Associated Press has asked two state senators to tell why they think the session was good or bad.

Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukee newspaper publisher and Democratic National Committeeman, explains why he thinks the Legislature's record will win votes for the Democrats.

Next week, Sen. E. Eugene Allen, Portland Republican, will write on why the Legislature's record will help the Republicans win votes).

By SEN. MONROE SWEETLAND

Oregon's legislative mountain has labored within one day of the longest session in Oregon's history. Our state needed the production of a span of strong, effective draft horses to carry the heavy new loads.

Instead, the mountain produced a small mouse, born to gnaw and

nibble, not to do the state's work. By its inaction, this session postponed to 1957 the big jobs which Oregon has to do.

With Oregon's vast population increase have come needs for many changes. Laws written in the 19th century are obstacles now.

More Jobs Needed

Our growth in people has not been matched by new industry to provide jobs. Oregon's schools have been among the nation's best, but new action is needed to halt our slipping standards.

In one respect, the 1953 Legislature made progress. Oregon had its first two-party Legislature since 1937, but the Republican majority didn't know how to cope with this new feature.

On major legislation, the parties

took opposite positions in line with the general philosophy of their parties on issues of taxation, education, power, labor, state development, welfare, and laws on registration and voting.

Call to Battle

At the outset, Gov. Paul Patterson sounded what for him was a militant call to battle. Many of his critics saw in that message a new Patterson, aware that the GOP needed a positive program and ready to lead his legislative majority into new paths.

Democrats were surprised at his forcefulness, and were ready to back many of his plans.

But the speech ended there. The Republican majorities ignored or rejected their governor's suggestions for the most part. The governor gave no leadership to enact them.

Hope Goes Glimmering

The hope for constitutional reorganization, new highway financing, liquor law revisions, educational advances and favorable labor legislation went glimmering.

From the first, it was apparent that, in spite of the governor's bold stand against the sales tax, a heavy majority of his party was driving toward enactment of it.

Democrats, rejecting any sales tax or property tax, stuck with "ability to pay" as the basis of their tax program, and proposed a 45 per cent increase in income taxes. This plan was adopted.

The Legislature did pass a cigarette tax, which is opposed by many Democrats under their opposition to sales taxes generally.

School Trouble

Nothing was done to help the schools in their serious troubles. Bill to aid distressed school districts, provide fair dismissal protection to teachers, improved districting laws and equalize education, all died. A minimum salary law was passed, but at a level that will have little effect on teachers.

These reverses for the schools come at a time when the war babies are growing up fast, and the schools face shortages of teachers and buildings. The 1957 session will face a major school crisis.

One of the few places the GOP took the initiative was to pass laws to make registration and voting more difficult. Their purpose was to change the laws to handicap the resurgent Democrats.

Ever mindful that U. S. Sen. Richard L. Neuberger was elected by the margin of only one vote per precinct, Republicans adopted various devices by which they hope to whittle down the thin Democratic margin of victory.

To Sign Poll Book

These new laws require voters to sign poll books when they vote, impose stiff penalties for returning to a former precinct to vote.

The Republicans imposed sub-districting on Democratic Multnomah County in the hope of picking up a few more seats in the state House of Representatives. But they rejected this principle in Republican Lane County. And in Republican Marion County, sub-districting was partly won after a bitter fight, but a special referendum of Marion County voters would withhold its effective date until 1958.

Public welfare was the target of much abuse in the session, with the Republicans making a studied effort to discredit public welfare and its beneficiaries. Stiffer relative responsibility laws were passed over Democratic attack.

Labor Disappointed

Labor was bitterly disappointed that the unemployment compensation law fell far short of the recommendations of President Eisenhower, and in some respects, the new law is worse than the present one.

The early promises of repeal of the 1953 anti-picketing law was not kept, because GOP-controlled committees bottled up repeal bills.

Senate President Elmo Smith and House Speaker Ed Geary drew little Democratic criticism. Their rulings and attitudes were fair and objective.

Two overdue projects, both originally pushed by the Democrats, were finally approved. They are the bills creating Portland State College and to construct the new mental hospital in the Portland area.

The anti-wiretapping bills should keep Oregon clean of the private ear scandals which are shaking several parts of the country.

Given Zoning

The fringe area problems were given new law to work with when Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties joined hands to obtain new zoning, sanitary and other statutes.

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MRS. BALES CONVALESCING

FOUR CORNERS—Mrs. Clyde Bales, who underwent surgery at a Salem hospital, is convalescing at her home, 4081 Glenwood Dr.

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New Army Uniform Displayed



M/Sgt. James Pyeatt, Salem Route No. 1, (left) is shown above wearing the new Army field uniform which will be issued to troops in 1956. The dark green uniforms feature a heavy jacket, shirt, Cpl. Fred Butler, 940 Katcliff Dr., is shown in the old uniform. Both men are members of Co. D, 162nd Inf., Oregon National Guard. (Statesman Photo).

Man Faces Check Count

Henry Hames Herrera, who for a while managed a Salem dancing studio, Thursday was charged with forgery and returned here from Portland where he was being held by U. S. immigration authorities, Salem police reported.

Herrera, who says his true name is Henry Hames, is accused of passing a forged check for \$28.50 on April 30 in Salem. He is to appear in court today. Bail is set at \$2,000.

Police said Herrera signed a statement admitting passing the check for which he is being held, plus two other local checks—one for \$25 and the other for \$26—which haven't as yet been returned.

Herrera, who gives his address as Mexico City, was released to Salem police with the understanding that the immigration bureau hold order still applies.

Salem Firm To Open in New Location

Salem offices of Commonwealth, Inc., will move Friday to re-built quarters at the northeast corner of South Liberty and Ferry streets.

The new site was formerly occupied by Sundin Tailors. Commonwealth will move from 109 S. High St. and be ready for business Monday morning. It specializes in commercial and residential property financing.

The firm has operated in Salem since 1945. Main offices are in Portland and the Salem branch move will be the fifth made, each time for expansion purposes.

At the new site, Commonwealth will use the basement and first floor. The building itself is owned by the LF Corporation.

William H. Hammond, property manager of Union Securities Co., and Charles Evans, farm loan correspondent, also will be in the new location. Both have offices with Commonwealth.

Floyd Bressler is an assistant vice president of Commonwealth and manager of the Salem office. Robert Ball is also with the Salem office and is an assistant secretary of the firm.

Thornton Issues Ruling on Liquor Board Authority

The State Liquor Control Commission cannot legally impose personal restrictions relating to closing hours on particular licensees, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton held here Thursday.

The commission has authority, however, to adopt a regulations in general terms applying uniformly throughout the state, providing for different closing hours and depending upon a reasonable classification as to the location with respect to residential, business, church or school properties.

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