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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page the editors of the Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

OREGON'S 1945 LEGISLATURE

The state of Oregon is a business which will spend or manage close to \$200,000,000 in the next two years! When you say that the 1945 legislature meets this next week, it is necessary to fix that thought. All through the session, there will be "a battle of the budget." Every time some new law is proposed or a change made in existing law, the "solons" (as the newsmen often call them) must ask themselves these questions:

Does this measure involve expenditures? If so, where do we find the money? Does it increase or diminish materially the present revenue structure?

The budget for the 1945-47 biennium has just come to this desk: from George Aiken, Governor Snell's executive secretary. It is a closely printed, paper-bound volume of 237 pages, mostly tables of figures. In detail, the past, present and proposed expenditures of every department and institution are set forth. This brief summary may give some idea:

1943-45		Appropriated		Deficiencies	
General fund	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Inside 6 per cent	\$18,269,242.41				
General fund	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Outside 6 per cent	5,702,952.53				
Total general fund	\$23,972,194.94	343,145.01			
1945-47					
		Requested	Recommended		
General fund	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Inside 6%	\$26,482,035.66	\$23,220,995.16			
General fund	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Outside 6%	3,691,529.82	3,691,529.82			
Tot. gen. fund.	30,173,565.48	26,912,524.98			
Self sustaining funds	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-----	169,063,603.22	169,038,925.22			
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$199,237,167.70	\$195,951,450.20			

Many departments, such as the state highway commission, the industrial accident commission, liquor commission, game commission, receive, and administer vast sums of money. Others such as higher education are partially self-sustaining through fees. All must be budgeted carefully.

In some cases, such as liquor commission, net earnings are distributed to another department such as welfare where these revenues are combined with general fund appropriations, federal aid and county contributions for a total in excess of \$32,000,000.

The budget of the state of Oregon runs through more than 100 classifications and it is a very complex undertaking. From all sources, general and special, the state expects to get revenues in excess of \$250,000,000 in the next two years, and it has more than \$127,000,000 in "non-reverting balances" or reserves such as those for unemployment, compensation, and sinking funds.

The bonded debt of the state totals \$20,853,290 of which \$1,372,290 is district (irrigation) debt; \$6,506,000 highway debt, and \$12,675,000 veteran aid bonds hanging over from the last war. If no new borrowing is done the state could be debt free by 1960, but more borrowing is almost certain with the demands for post-war. Our state institutions are asking \$2,936,300 in building projects, and higher education asks \$2,237,000 of which Governor Snell has recommended \$1,220,000.

Here are just a few of the tougher problems which confront the men we send to Salem:

SCHOOL EQUALIZATION—shall state contribution out of income tax surplus for this purpose be increased and put on permanent basis?

CIVIL SERVICE—a strong organization of state employees wants it, plus some retirement plan for all state employees.

TRUCK FEES—farmers want charges based on mileage and actual use of trucks rather than present system and what will this do to highway and PUV revenues?

OLD AGE PENSIONS—strong pressures to lift allotments to \$60 a month, and question is with what money?

INCOME TAXES—for two years you have enjoyed substantial reduction, but there is heavy demand to collect full tax from here on and build up post-war reserves "before war workers get away from Oregon."

It is not possible in this space to give more than a glimpse of the complicated problems of state budgeting (and taxation). The budget as it comes down from the governor covers EXISTING PROGRAMS pretty well. It does not touch all the new proposals which will be dropped into the "hopper." The budget book is a sort of "bible" (for the wise legislator).

Oregon is in good shape financially but not nearly so "rich" as appears from the huge round figures. We need a great many things. We can't have everything.

LANE COUNTY AT LEGISLATURE

No county is sending a better delegation to Salem than Lane's veterans—Senators Wheeler and Gibson and Representatives Chase, Hill, and Snellstrom. These men have made an effort to familiarize themselves with this community's particular interests and needs. They must keep in mind that they serve all Oregon as well as Lane county.

ty, and if they fall short of what we expect, it probably will be because we lose touch or fail to give them proper support when needed.

These are some of the more important matters in which Lane county has special interest:

JUVENILES—an extra judge to direct this important work is badly needed in this rapidly "industrializing" community, and Rep. Hill's bill seems to be the best approach.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS—more adequate state support is needed for "equalization" and to relieve property tax demands; all counties share this problem but Lane has some of the worst inequities.

URBAN AREAS—new legislation badly needed so that planning can be integrated and effective to control platting abuses, if possible a plan whereby partially developed suburban areas can participate in city services and government without burdensome taxation.

UNIVERSITY—the higher education budget and its building program is a matter of vital concern.

FARMS-FORESTS—every bill which affects these resources and industries is of prime concern here.

For many sessions, it has been the custom of the Lane delegation to return on weekends and go over situations which have developed. We hope this custom can be continued. However, it looks like one of the most strenuous sessions in Oregon history, and the delegation may not always have time to come home.

There are two rules basic for those who "want" from the legislature:

1. Get your proposals in early.
2. Follow them diligently.

Lane county is only one of thirty-six. Our men are all leaders at Salem, but legislation is a "bargaining process," a negotiation, in which the constant interest of the "home folks" is important.

WASHINGTON HAS WIM WAMS

Lane county's draft boards and manpower managers have shown calm good sense in the face of some of the confused directives which have come out of Washington since the setback of the winter campaign in Europe. Hysterical is the word for some of the talk of "calling up 4-F's" and the "work or fight" edicts which have seemed to threaten full production from farms and forests.

After conferring carefully with Col. Elmer V. Wooton, state director of selective service, the three draft boards in this county have said in effect:

"We are not going to rob farms or essential industries of men needed for production. In this community, we have seen very few cases of slacking in any form, and we are not going to make ruling so rigid as to bind any man to a particular job if it looks like he can be more useful at another job. In other words, Lane county and the rest of Oregon have been meeting their draft quotas with good men, without dramatics and we intend to go on using good judgment."

There may be conditions in some other parts of the country which are not encountered here. For instance, in some parts of the country, there are large blocks of aliens. Here they are almost unknown. In some sections, there may be a considerable amount of evasion, but here it has been almost unknown.

Particularly foolish has been the demand that 4-F men be called up. The Armed Forces are already overstocked with men who are classified for "limited service." It is of little use to send men who have obvious physical or mental defects because the induction centers promptly send them home. The Armed Forces want FIGHTING MEN, and that's what the draft boards intend to send.

Nobody outside of the highest official circles knows yet just how serious our losses have been in men and materials. We do not know because we have not been told. We do know very well that we are fighting a long war, costly in blood and treasure.

The American people have been sobered by the events in Europe. But if they were over-optimistic, it was mainly because the leaders encouraged over-optimism. The people do not need to be threatened like naughty children. A great many of us are sick and tired of the periodic "wim wams" in Washington.

There is a book called "Mathematics and Life," but Mr. Fuddle says the guy apparently never heard of tax returns and Christmas bills.

Mr. Roosevelt has reviewed the "the state of the nation" pretty thoroughly, confirming the impression of many of us that the nation is "in a state."

Eugene's new city manager will be ready to take over Feb. 1, and one of the first problems seems to be to find some "off street parking" for the manager's family.

Judge has called a mistrial in the Chaplin case. Sort of breaks up the Hollywood "winter offensive."

Ajax McGurk does not profess to know all about "the Poles of Lublin" and the "Poles of London," but now we understand, he says, what it means to say "as far apart as the poles," in any case.

In The Editor's Mailbag

THE NEW YEAR

Let us hope for happiness and peace

And do all in our power in every day and every hour And pray all war shall cease.

Each New Year we resolve to do Our very best this whole year through.

And to ourselves and God be true— Our hearts and wills re-dedicate anew.

Ring out the old year—ring in the new.

May all our endeavors be honest and true.

That over our Nation forever may wave

Our flag defended by the loyal and brave.

Nellie E. Kepner.
1580 Jefferson Street.

AS OF YORE

A King of yore in time of war shouted, "My kingdom for a horse."

Times change and now we realize that quantities of war supplies Will order this war's course.

And now, alas, it comes to pass that Morse to move his hobby horse

Loud shouts, "My kingdom for more gas."

The ration board that with accord refuse gas to move the masses, Have made themselves, Morse, Press, and horse, look like a bunch of asses.

Fred Knox.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

O, dearest Lord, I pray this day. Beginning of another year;

Keep Thou me clean and free from dress,

To love Thee more and have no fear;

I feel that in the passing years, My faith has somewhat miry been,

O keep me ever by Thy side, And wash me now without within.

I want to love Thee more and more, My heart is weak, my strength is small;

Come, Thou dear Lord and hold my hand, And never let me from Thee fall;

I need Thee every passing hour, For Thou canst foil the tempter's power;

I know I'm safe from fear and loss, While in the shadow of the Cross.

Guide me O, thou great Jehovah, I dare not trust myself alone;

I am weak but Thou art mighty, Guide me to Thy heavenly home;

When my pilgrimage is over, Thy pearly gates thrown open wide;

I will shout and sing Thy praises, Saved through Christ the crucified.

Percival I. Rust, Eugene, Ore.

EUGENE

It were as tho God had taken The hills and made them a cup. And then had gently shaken The acorns, to watch the trees spring up.

This fertile valley was like the hollow of His Hand. With the blue river feeding the rich land.

The sturdy pioneers came and stood At the hollow's edge—and found it good.

Then in the moonlight's silver sheen, Had christened it home—Eugene.

R. Glorane Hoyt.

MEANEST OF MEAN

JUNCTION CITY.—(To The Editor)—This is the story of an old man and radio. Yes, he is old in years but young at heart and with a will to do for others. He has not asked much of life. His share of the necessities of life and his radio. Radio which was very dear to him as he is alone now and with not much of a way to pass the time. It wasn't a large radio, just a little table model. It didn't reach out for

far away stations, but it did ring in the 10 o'clock news and Glen Hardy's cheerful "good morning friends." Not so long ago two sat at the little table and listened but his companion in life passed on, so there was just he and the little radio left, but now there is just the old man left, for in his absence from home some one entered his door and took the little radio. I didn't suppose a person existed in the town that could deprive him of the one amusement left him. Can they look him in the face again? I hope they see this. Please put this in a conspicuous place. I have a hunch the person will see it.

(Mrs.) L. L. Fisher
Rt. 1, Junction City, Ore.

LOWELL BRIDGE

LOWELL.—(To the Editor)—Since you kindly published the letter of Mrs. Walsh of Lowell protesting the hardships suffered by all residents on the north side of the Willamette since the Lowell bridge was wrecked by a logging truck recently, some of your readers, and the county court, may be interested in the history of the Reserve bridge which for a short time spanned the Willamette eight miles above Lowell.

Ever since the highway between Eugene and Oakridge was built, the many residents of the north side of the river had looked across the river at the highway and worked for a bridge across.

Finally, in 1941, through the use of county funds, forest service money and our special tax road district money, a very nice bridge was completed and opened with impressive ceremonies in the late summer of that year.

However, we were not to enjoy our bridge long as the first high water of 1942, owing to faulty engineering design, washed our bridge out and while we felt our loss keenly we were given assurances that our bridge would be replaced the following summer. There was no work started till the late fall of 1943, when the excavating for piers started, but owing to the possibility of high water was abandoned for the year.

In the spring of 1944 a petition, with a couple hundred signatures of those interested, was presented and again we were assured of early completion and again work was started late. This time the concrete piers were installed and again we were assured the bridge would be completed, but owing to the manpower shortage if we could find some good men to send them down to the bridge site and they would be put to work. Wanting the bridge so badly we located several good men, among them two bridge carpenters, but found the bridge crew gone and did not see them again till they moved the equipment out for the year.

And now the Lowell bridge is gone. The only way we can cross is by the Jasper bridge, many miles below. We have residents who worked on the other side of the river but with no bridges will have to quit. Our mail carrier has to backtrack from the Lowell bridge to Jasper. Other hardships were named by Mrs. Walsh.

The traffic, much of which would have been diverted to the Reserve bridge, makes the road

very dangerous. Logging operations keep it muddy and slick. Granted that logging is very necessary, it is a commercial enterprise. Other people have rights also. A great part of the small-time logging is by non-resident gypso outfits, who care nothing for other people or the condition of the roads. Many of us have been land owners and car owners for 25 years or more and have donated many days of free labor on the road and dislike being crowded off the grade by a logging or piling truck owing to the lack of a bridge.

J. N. Smithson.
Lowell.

"THAT MAN!"

SPRINGFIELD, Ore.—(To the Editor)—Just a word about people who love to abuse the President of the United States. The President was elected by the people of the country and represents the people. Are not people who speak disrespectfully of the President of the United States, also speaking disrespectfully of the United States? It is too bad, that in this great country of ours, where free speech is one of the many freedoms we enjoy, that so many people should abuse the

privilege. It shows poor taste any time to use abusive and insulting language, but one could understand it better in the excitement of an election. Why not phrase their criticism in a constructive and sane way. Regardless of party, I think our President any time should be respected, and especially in war time. It surely would give our enemies

encouragement to have vilified by his own countrymen.

H. Priddy.
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