

Gas Tax Measure Introduced in House

Jobless Proposal Being Prepared

SALEM (AP)—A bill to make the city of Portland quit taxing bulk gasoline dealers was introduced in the House of Representatives Thursday by its Highway Committee.

The bill makes it illegal for cities, counties or other local governments to tax gasoline, reserving this field for the state.

Speaker Ed Geary, who was

chairman of the Legislative Interim Highway Committee that recommended the bill, said:

"The city of Portland's business tax affects, among other things, bulk gasoline which is shipped to all parts of the state. In effect, the city is taxing gasoline used by the rest of the state."

"The Constitution says that all gas tax revenues shall go to the state. The city got around this provision, and this new bill is intended to correct that situation."

"Cities now get 19 per cent of all state highway revenues, and the counties get 19 per cent. I don't think they are entitled to take more than that through local taxes."

He asked Rep. Robert L. Elstrom, Salem, to look into the system now being used by the Washington state House of Representatives. Elstrom is in Olympia, Wash., conferring on fish and game matters.

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

Electronic voting would save the Legislature much time that now is consumed by roll calls.

SALEM (AP)—The 31 Democrats in the Legislature have organized

for informal meetings to discuss all kinds of proposed legislation.

The group elected Rep. Robert P. Klemsen, St. Helen, as chairman. It will hold discussions separately from the new Democratic State Legislative Committee, which consists of three county chairmen and five legislators.

Republican legislators have no similar group, but Senate President Elmo Smith, John Day Republican, said they might hold a caucus later.

Democrats won chairmanships of only two of the 42 legislative committees, and both were in the House.

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SALEM (AP)—The state will get a bigger take of pari-mutuel betting at race meets, if a bill introduced in the House this week is approved.

A proposal by Reps. Richard E. Groener, Milwaukie, and Robert T. Klemsen, St. Helens, would increase the state's percentage of wagering. It would give the state and county fairs, as well as some special shows, more money.

The bill would start the graduated scale of the state's share of betting receipts at 5 per cent, with a top levy of 7 per cent. It now runs from 3 to 6 per cent.

SALEM (AP)—Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukie Democrat, says he will introduce a bill to have the public utilities commissioner elected by the people. He now is appointed by the governor.

Sweetland circulated initiative petitions last year to accomplish the same result, but didn't get enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

SALEM (AP)—House Speaker Ed Geary has decided to investigate whether to install an electronic

Highway Group Slates Hearings

SALEM (AP)—The House Roads and Highways Committee will hold two hearings on four bills.

It will hear arguments Feb. 2 on a bill to make school districts eligible for gasoline tax refunds, if they own and operate their own buses.

Next Monday, bills proposing revision of truck trailer fees, abolishing certificates for shipping vehicles by water, and uniform renewal of passenger car licenses will be aired.

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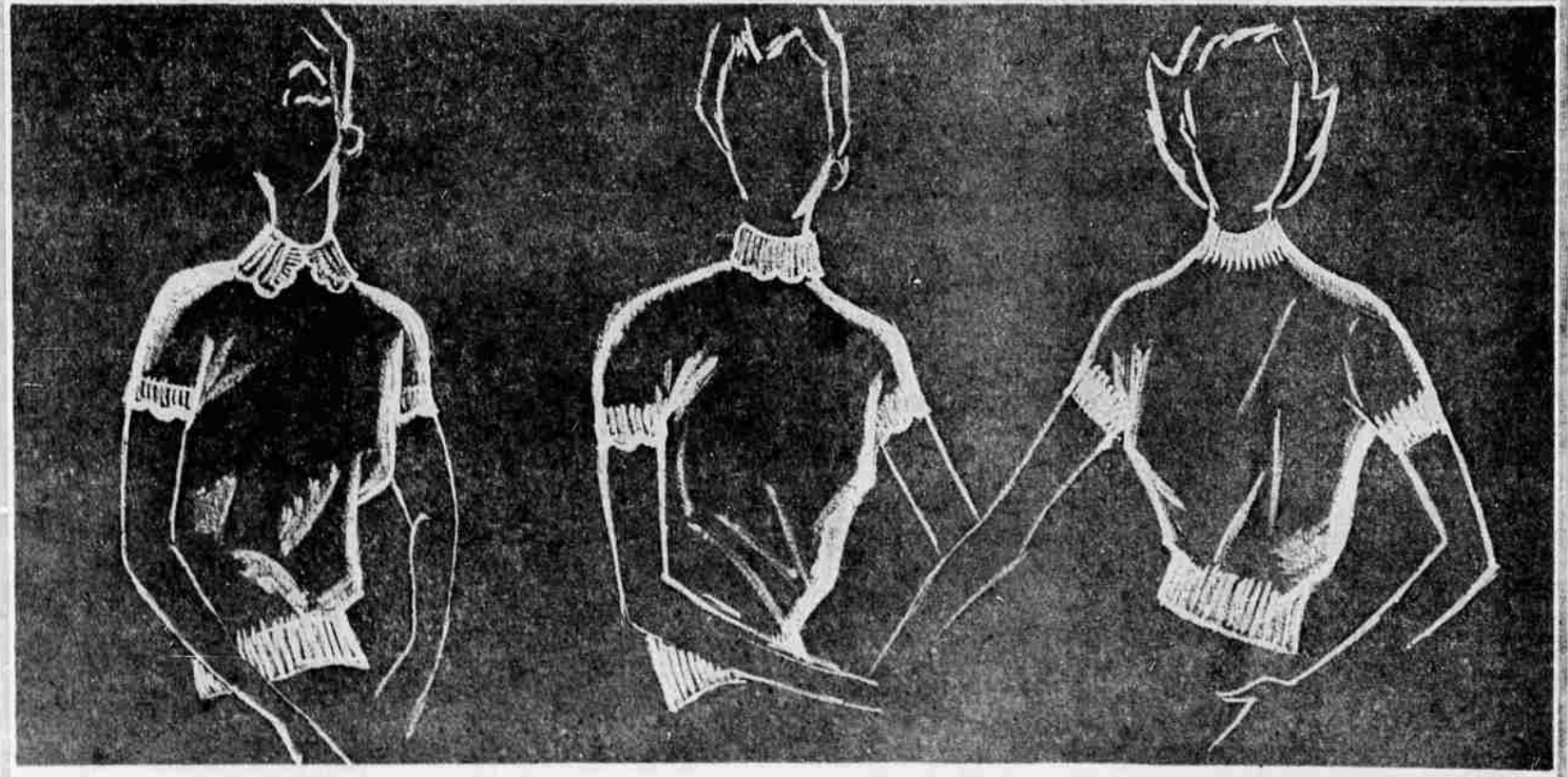
as seen in Seventeen (Jan. page 47)

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