

Political Potpourri

Lane Legislators Active Friday

By DAN SELLARD Of the Register-Guard

SALEM (Special)—Friday could have been called Lane County Day at the State Legislature.

Reps. Richard Eymann, D-Marcola, and F. F. Montgomery, R-Eugene, carried the big tax bills—Eymann the income tax and Montgomery the cigarette tax—two bills of special interest to the area were approved; and two other Lane legislators tried to stop a bill from passage.

Eymann is chairman of the House Tax Committee and Montgomery is the vice-chairman. Hardly anyone in the Legislature has worked as hard as these two.

The two bills of interest to the area were: • A measure to allow a city to assess a non-profit cemetery for sidewalk, curb and street improvements. This was sponsored by Rep. Richard Kennedy, D-Eugene, at the request of the city of Eugene. It was approved.

• A measure to require a professional architect or professional engineer to design any building of public assembly which is more than 4,000 square feet in area and 20 feet high inside. The motivation for this measure came from the Eugene Register-Guard's series after the Columbus Day Storm; the stories were used as exhibits in the committee's investigation. The bill was approved.

In addition to this, Rep. Ed Elder, R-Eugene, spoke against the cigarette tax; and Elder and Rep. Gene Hulett, D-Eugene, tried vainly to stop a bill which would liberalize deposition taking in criminal prosecutions.

Both the cigarette tax and income tax measures, by the way, passed the House by larger margins than had been anticipated.

As late as Friday morning, Eymann was sure of only about 35 votes for the income tax bill—there were 42 yes votes registered. On the cigarette tax, for a long while the advocates could count only 31 votes, a bare majority, but the final vote was 39.

Many of these were "reluctant" votes, made by legislators who didn't like the taxes but were convinced of the need for the money.

Legislators, hired help and reporters can't help but feel presence is unwelcome in the capital city of Salem.

Some downtown merchants act as if they couldn't care less, many clerks don't seem to know the lawmakers are in town and Willamette University students resent that they're crowded out of the capital coffee shop.

State employees, including the cafeteria waitress who mumbled "I'll be glad when they're gone," take a negative view of the whole show, forgetting that it takes a legislature to budget their pay envelopes.

This is hard to understand. Most cities, such as Eugene, work hard to get conventions of 100 or so to come to town for a day or so. And when the convention comes, townspeople smile while counting the money left behind.

But Salem has a "convention" of about 400 that comes to town every other year and stays for five—count 'em—five months.

The legislators and retinue don't spend money as fast and loose as some conventioners, but a couple of million dollars changes hands.

Yet even those masters of human relations—the bartenders—look down their noses when one identifies himself as being in town with the Legislature.

Jake Bennett, the old warhorse from Multnomah County, did it again Friday. He made the Speaker angry.

When Speaker Clarence Barton asked Bennett if he wanted to "close" the argument he made against the cigarette tax, Bennett walked to the mike and said:

"No, I don't want to close. I'll make my speech to the public when these boys want to run for re-election."

Wham went the gavel in the Barton hand and red went the Speaker's face. (There's a rule that a legislator doesn't speak about another, it must be impersonal.)

But Barton was laughed out of his temper this time. Those in the galleries, who don't know the rules about such things, started to giggle and this mood swept the floor.

Barton finally smiled.

House Tax Bills Face 'Variations'

By ANN H. PEARSON Of the United Press International

SALEM — The major money-raising program of the House Tax Committee appeared headed for "variations" in the Senate after sweeping surprisingly through the House Friday.

Senate Tax Committee Chairman Boyd Overhulse, D-Madras, said he expected the Senate would put "quite a few variations" in the \$35 million modified net receipts income tax bill, which passed the House 42-18 in an unexpectedly strong victory for the House Tax Committee.

And he said the Senate cast a reluctant eye on the 4-cent a package, \$15 million cigarette tax bill which, after an earlier defeat, cleared the House Friday 39-21.

The House also passed Friday a companion bill to save the state \$9 million in contested bank taxes.

It was a stunning climax to the House committee's session long toil to create a program to raise some \$66 million in needed new revenue: The session's biggest problem.

Already passed by the House and in the Senate is the third part of the triangle income-cigarete "one-hot" revenue program. The one-shot bill would speed up employers' turnover of monthly withholding payments to the state to bring in an extra \$12 million before the end of the 1963-65 biennium.

Overhulse noted if the Senate rejects either the cigarette tax or the one-shot bill, it could necessitate drastic changes in the income tax bill. The House passed the big tax bills on mixed party votes. The action also was a victory for Gov. Mark Hatfield, who proposed a more severe net receipts income tax and a cigarette tax to balance his \$405 million proposed budget.

The income tax bill would tax for the first time some low bracket earners. It also would increase taxes for those now paying, but by eliminating the federal income tax deduction from Oregon taxes, it would make possible a forgiveness at the federal tax level that would offset a good part of the state increase.

Rep. Sidney Bazett, R-Grants Pass, called it "a devious way to win a court decision" and said it also would hit other institutions.

Contributions Bill Tabled By Solons

SALEM (Special) — A legislative measure which would allow college and other teachers to contribute money to political campaigns has run into a snag.

Senate Bill 83 was introduced by Sen. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene, and is identical to a measure he introduced in the House of Representatives two years ago.

It was not approved then and has been "tabled" this time.

The Senate Elections Committee tabled the bill but there is yet a chance it may pass favorably on the measure.

The snag is that the bill singles out teachers.

The AFL-CIO has raised an objection to this, saying that other public employes should be included.

Fadeley has said he has no strong feelings on this but he doesn't like the idea of his bill being amended away from the basic concept.

The labor lobby has introduced its own bill which would repeal all the sections of law called the "corrupt practices act."

Fadeley's bill rests in the Senate Elections Committee and the labor bill, Senate Bill 169, is in the State and Federal Affairs Committee.

It is the Lane County senator's belief that if state and federal affairs will release SB 169 and send it to the elections committee, his bill might get sent to the Senate.

There is considerable support for his bill, Fadeley says, including that of Arthur Fleming, University of Oregon president.

In 1958, the Oregon Constitution was amended so that teachers could run for elective offices, he points out.

"Now we need to give them permission to contribute to others' campaigns and not be second-class citizens."

Last Week in Salem

Bills Passed by Legislature

- Monday Senate
- SB334—Requires license to act as escrow agent.
- SB406—Allows farm workers only by employees who have picketed 15 days.
- SB407—Allows taxpayer to appeal property tax cases directly to tax court.
- SB411—Defines term "War Veteran" in the laws.
- HB137—Provides for printing session laws.
- HB1061—Allows Department of Motor Vehicles to charge fees for collecting on uncollectible checks.
- HB1206—Changes maximum age limit for day nurseries from 4 to 6 years old.
- House
- HB2020—\$50,054 for civil defense.
- HB2096—\$12,154 for Veterinary Examining Board.
- HB194—Makes it a misdemeanor to unlawfully enter a house.
- HB1377—Modifies unemployment compensation experience ratings.
- HB1506—Permits Eagle Point Irrigation District to use additional point of diversion.
- HB1644—Provides minimum safety standards for freight elevators.

- Tuesday Senate
- SB155—Lets state Department of Agriculture make agreements with other states.
- SB287—Clarifies law on school district boundary changes.
- HB2097—Gives Department of Finance more authority in restricting spending by state agencies.
- HB2062—\$2,331,278 for military department.
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- HB1443—Prohibits lenders from designating insurance company.
- HB1536—Allows public agencies to sell filled lands.
- HB1592—Requires real estate brokers and salesmen to be high school graduates.
- HB1861—Lets members of armed forces buy hunting and fishing licenses at resident rates.
- SB132—Clarifies law on merger of cooperatives.
- SB327—Provides four clerks on election boards.
- SB380—Repeals law requiring cities to issue voters pamphlets.
- SB58—Gives public utility commissioner authority to regulate working hours of truck and bus drivers.
- SB166—Lets convicts work in state parks.

- Defeated By Senate
- SB436—Regulates sale of vacation-type trailers and campers.
- Wednesday Senate
- SB215—Allows taxicabs to handle shipments of less than 10 pounds.
- SB263—Permits investment of ward's property in common trust funds.
- SB255—Requires permanent teachers to give 30 days notice of intention to continue employment.
- HB1378—Removes requirement for detailed report at meetings of directors of state banks.
- HB1379—Increases from 40 to 90 days the time for examination of application for small loan license.
- HB1326—Requires public bodies to maintain fishways over dams.
- House
- HB2065—\$172,297 for legislative fiscal committee.
- HB1043—Increases marriage waiting period from 3 to 7 days.
- HB1303—Allows sheriffs to dispose of unclaimed property.
- HB1728—Permits county and city jails to be located outside boundaries.
- HB1792—Clarifies duties of property tax collectors.
- SB61—Requires Game Commission to hold hearing between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 on fishing regulations.
- Tabled By House
- HB1601—To enact 2 per cent sales tax.
- THURSDAY SENATE
- SB286—Allows more adequate accident and disease insurance for persons over 65 years old.

Still Lots of Work to Be Done

May 10 Target for Adjournment

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR. Of the Associated Press

SALEM — Legislative leaders have set May 10 as the target date for adjournment of the Oregon legislature.

But so much remains to be done that it might run later.

Here is the status of major legislation:

• Appropriations—The Joint Ways and Means Committee hasn't yet decided what to do about its big budget problems, like higher education, basic school support and public welfare. It still hopes to wind up around May 1. It is making some cuts in the governor's \$405 million budget.

• Taxation—The House finished work on its big tax package Friday. This consists of an income tax increase, 4-cent cigarette tax, and making employers pay their withholding taxes monthly. The whole package is designed to bring in \$60 million

in new revenue for the next biennium. But the Senate indicates it will make some drastic changes in these bills. The bill to tax religious, charitable and other non-profit organizations has been killed. The House Taxation Committee has completed hearings on the Senate bill to relieve persons over 65 of part of their property taxes.

• Education — The Senate Education Committee has voted to withhold state aid from any new community colleges that would be created in the two years beginning July 1. A Senate fight is brewing over the committee's proposal to rent textbooks to parochial schools. Higher education is fighting hard against its budget cuts.

• Constitution Revision — With the session 97 days old, the House and Senate Constitution Revision committees are still thrashing out details of the proposed new constitution. It is touch and go whether they will

finish their work in time.

• Consumers—The bill to fix minimum milk prices is in trouble in the House Food and Dairying Committee, and another attempt will be made Tuesday to bring it out. The bill to wipe out trading stamps appears dead. There has been no action on bills to ban balloon bread and require the true rate of interest to be listed for installment purchases.

• Reorganization—The only reorganization bill that is given a chance is the one to create a natural resources department under the governor, and that one is being attacked by the timber industry. The bill is in the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

• Highways—The Senate passed bill to reduce taxes on big trucks and increase them on other trucks and buses in the House Highways Committee. There has been no action on the numerous proposals to is-

sure highway construction bonds.

• Increase the gas tax one cent, or boost the auto license fee \$5 a year.

• Traffic Safety—The bill to require chemical tests for suspected drunken drivers has died in the Senate. The Senate Highways Committee has voted for a fixed speed limit of 65 miles an hour. The House has voted to require seat belts in front seats of new cars, let officers arrest drivers when they don't actually see the offense, and provide stiff penalties for failing to stop when ordered by a policeman.

• Sex Deviates—The House Judiciary Committee has approved the key bill in this package. It provides for commitment of persons known to be sexually dangerous, and is now in the Ways and Means Committee.

• Industrial Accident—The Senate will vote next week on a compromise bill to boost industrial accident benefits 20 per cent, and to allow the in-

crease to be carried by the employer or through insurance companies. The House hasn't acted on it yet.

• Unemployment Compensation—Legislation in this field has died because employers and labor unions couldn't get together.

• Labor-Management—Nothing will be done about trying to prevent strikes because nobody can find the answer.

• Capital Punishment—The proposed constitutional amendment to abolish the death penalty now is in the House Constitution Revision Committee.

• Fish and Game — The House hasn't acted yet on the measure for a two-year legislative interim investigation of the Game Commission.

• Civil Defense—The House has slashed Gov. Hatfield's civil defense budget from \$410,000 to \$50,000, but Senate leaders are trying to get it increased above the House figure.

To Parochial Schools

Bill Would Allow Textbook Rental

By AL DEN BESTE Of the Associated Press

SALEM — The controversial subject of providing textbooks to parochial schools has been entered by the Senate Education Committee.

The committee has amended a bill that would allow school districts to provide free textbooks to public high school students.

The amendment allows the districts also to rent textbooks to students in religious high schools.

A hearing on the bill as amended will be held next Tuesday.

The original bill was passed by the House. It will have al-

lowed school districts to buy textbooks out of district funds and rent them to its public secondary school students. Such books now are bought out of student fees.

No Book Fund

School officials said this presented a problem when new high schools were built, because there was no book fund built up.

But the amendment once more opens up his subject thought closed when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review an Oregon Supreme Court decision that providing textbooks to parochial schools was against the Oregon constitution.

That decision was on a 1957 law providing textbooks to elementary parochial schools. Elementary public schools have been provided with books by the state for some time.

The 1957 law extending free books to parochial schools was challenged in a Clackamas County case, where the judge ruled that the law was unconstitutional, because of recent U. S. Supreme Court decisions on the subject.

But the state's high court ruled only on the state constitutional question, steering clear of federal decisions. The federal court refused to review the decision.

Roman Catholic groups have argued that providing textbooks is constitutional, because it is a service to the student, and not to the religious institution.

A Religious View

But opponents say it is a violation of the separation of church and state.

Sen. Al Fiegel, D-Roseburg, the committee chairman, offered the amendment. It was adopted 6-1, with Sen. Walter Leth, R-Salem, voting against it.

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Hearing Scheduled

SALEM (UP) — A public hearing for five sex offender bills will be held by the Senate Judiciary Committee next Tuesday, Sen. Thomas R. Mahoney, chairman of the committee, said the hearing will be held in room 6 of the Capital Building at 7:30 p.m.

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