

Court Hearing Multnomah Assessment Case

Both Sides Present Briefs in Argument Over Preparing Tax Rolls

Salem, Oct. 21 (AP)—Common sense and law dictate that if the assessment practices in Multnomah and 18 other counties in Oregon are in error, their solution should be through legislative deliverance and not through administrative fiat.

So argued attorneys for Multnomah County Assessor Tom C. Watson in a hearing before the state supreme court today in connection with the tax controversy of that county.

The defendant's position, as outlined in a brief filed with the court by James R. Bain, Multnomah county district attorney, is that the state tax commission is without authority to issue its order of October 1, directed to Watson, or any other order of similar nature.

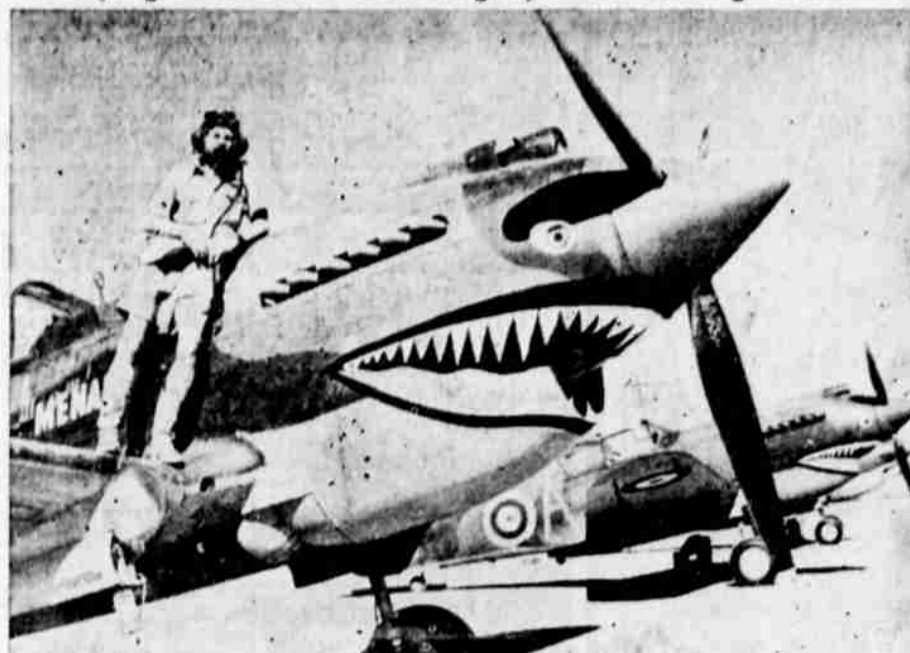
"We believe the court may take judicial knowledge of the fact that disregard for the letter of the law on the subject of assessments under all taxation statutes has been a long-continued practice," the brief said.

"Time has given the practical and equitable interpretations. Enforcing them in the absence of well-considered legislative guidance would lead to taxation chaos," the brief held.

In a petition filed by the commission late last week, it was argued that any long-continued practice of applying a system of discriminatory classifications and varied ratios in assessments, which may have been in effect in Multnomah county prior to 1941, cannot alter the clear mandate of the commission's statute.

The commission's brief maintained that its October 1 order did nothing more than order and direct that 1941 assessment roll for Multnomah county be so prepared that assessed valuations therein are in equal and ratable proportion, and as such, its order is lawful and reasonable.

Terrifying Tomahawks Now Mighty Man-Eating Monsters



Spawn of the desert? No, just the work of an artist member of a British squadron manning American Tomahawk fighters "somewhere in Africa." With a few paints and a vivid imagination he's changed the sleek lines of the now famous Tomahawks to resemble man-eating sharks of the air.

District Governor Of Lions Visits

Bend Lions at their luncheon today noon in the Pine Tavern were visited by their district governor, Angus Gibson, of Junction City, who was accompanied here by the club's guest speaker, the Rev. Norman K. Tully, pastor of the Central Presbyterian church, Eugene.

The Rev. Tully spoke on the present world crisis and declared that the United States, through its flight from reality for the past two decades, is largely responsible for the crisis.

However, the speaker placed entire blame for the European struggle on Nazi Germany and its theory of a superior race. Five times in the past century, the Rev. Tully reminded his audience, Germany has plagued the world with wars.

Gibson spoke briefly and said he would make his official visit to the club later. John Jones was in general charge of the program, arranged by George J. Childs. Phil Gould spoke in behalf of the Skyliners, and a group of high school students entertained with songs. They were Margaret Runge, Velma Sherrill, Patsy Skinner and Claude Bishop.

Gene Gillis, it was announced, was selected as the outstanding defensive player on the Bend team last Friday night when the Bears won from Molalla. Gene, selected for the second time this season, was a guest of the club and was introduced by W. L. Van Allen.

The Rev. John B. Coan reported on plans for a joint meeting here on Armistice day with Klamath Falls Lions.

SALEM NEAR QUOTA
Salem, Oct. 21 (AP)—Still shy of the \$5,000, officials in charge of Salem's community chest drive met today to discuss ways and means of raising the fund to the \$50,000 objective. Nine agencies participated in the drive under the chairmanship of Irl S. McSherry.

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Cast Selected For Class Play

Miss Grace Mary Linn, Bend high dramatics play coach, has announced the cast of the senior high play, "The Night of January 16th," which will be presented November 28. The leading role, Karen Andre, a woman on trial for murder, will be played by Isabelle Preston.

The rest of the cast will be as follows: Nancy Lee Faulkner, wife of the murdered Bjorn Faulkner; Eileen Shepherd; defense attorney Stevens, Phil Peoples; prosecuting attorney Flint, Bob Brentano; John Graham Whitfield, father of Nancy Lee Faulkner; Jim Rissen; Judge Heath, Jim DeLocher; and court clerk, Harold Entenrich.

Witnesses for the case will be Dr. Kirkland, Don Reish; Mrs. John Hutchins, Eleanor Fountain; Homer Van Fleet, Rex Edmondson; Elmer Sweeney, Paul Hosmer; Magda Swenson, Mary Chambers; Jane Chandler, Kathryn Iler; Sigurd Jungquist, Don Burleigh; Larry Regan, Claude Bishop; and Roberta Van Rensselaer, Velma Sherrill.

There are two conclusions to this drama, one to be used if the prosecution wins, the other if the defense wins. The answer to the case is determined by a jury selected from the audience.

PLAN DINNER
The congregation of the Westminster Presbyterian church will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the founding of the local church with a dinner at 6:30 o'clock Wednesday night in the basement of the church. A program will follow the dinner and moving pictures of local interest will be shown.

As motor fuel sources, if gasoline supplies need to be stretched, American scientists are experimenting with potatoes, wheat, corn, and other sources of alcohol.

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Inflation Feared By Secretary

Washington, Oct. 21 (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard told the house banking committee today that this country "may be starting on the same ruinous inflation we set out upon about the same time in the last war."

Urging the committee to approve the administration's price control bill, Wickard declared that while recent increases in farm prices have been "unusually rapid," they are not yet "out of line."

This is so, he explained, because the levels from which these prices have risen were abnormally low. He said that in 1939 farm prices were so low that farmers' purchasing power was only three-fourths of what it had been in 1910-1914—the parity base period.

Wickard told the committee that "Thus far, the parallel between world war I and world war II as far as farm prices and costs are concerned is too close for comfort."

"Farmers have been accused of greediness, of not being content with parity," Wickard testified. "Let me say here and now that accusations of that sort are unjustified and unfair."

"I can testify from my own experience of the past 30 years that whenever farmers get a price rise, it is usually swift but brief; whereas when a farmer's costs rise, they may not go up as swiftly, but once they get up, they stay there."

Wickard said that while heavier taxation, increased savings, and checks on installment credit are necessary to control inflation, most important of all is the necessity for increased production.

"That is the surest preventive of inflation," he said.

Wickard pointed out that this is the first time in two decades that the farmer's purchasing power has reached the parity level.

He said that 1941 farm production probably will be at 113 per cent of the 1924-1929 level as compared with 103 in 1936-1940. He said the agriculture department is "expecting and working for a total agricultural production in 1942 that will be the greatest in our history."

GRAND JURY REPORTS
The Deschutes county grand jury this morning returned a true bill against Sam T. Humphrey, charged with entering an automobile on September 24 with intent to steal. A not true bill was returned against Otis Derr, charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Bulletin Want Ads Bring Results

MORE ABOUT PUD Budget

(Continued From Page One)

"The record of this board proves we have carried out that policy," Donovan stated. "But we do not want to put ourselves in a position where we cannot use money which has been levied by the district when we need it."

The board proceeded to an item by item discussion of a proposed budget, passing an item of \$250 for directors' salary and \$500 for directors' mileage and expense.

\$2,400 for Attorney's Fees
An item of \$2,400 for attorney's fees and legal expense drew fire from Niskanen, who pointed out actual expenditures for this purpose in the first six months of 1941 of only \$92.50. Directors explained that while they hoped no such legal expense would be necessary, they could not tell when they might become involved in litigation. The experience of the Wasco county PUD, against which the Pacific Power and Light company has brought suit challenging the legality of its formation, was mentioned as proof of this point.

"We have to have funds available to protect ourselves if need be," Donovan said. The item carried without dissenting vote.

The board approved an item of \$50 for treasurer's bond, \$300 for secretary's salary, and \$200 for secretary's mileage and expense. An item of \$400 for office expense and equipment, comparing with actual expense of \$49.68 for this purpose during the first half of 1941, was passed with the explanation that during the past year the PUD district has been able to use free of rent the office of Thomas Boeke, attorney and secretary of the district, but that a different arrangement might become necessary. \$150 for telephone, telephone and stamps were approved.

An item of \$2,800 for engineering and special services, largest in the budget, called forth a lively discussion of the engineering survey now being undertaken by Beck and Metcalf, consulting engineers, for the PUD.

"Are you concerned with reduction of rates in this district or only with acquisition?" Niskanen asked.

"If we could get rates down under the private utility as low as where public ownership could put them, I think we would feel we had justified ourselves with the people," Donovan replied.

To a question of Niskanen's as to what the PUD was actually doing to reduce rates, Donovan replied that the present investigation was intended to put the entire picture of why the rates are what they are in this district and what can be done to lower them before the people.

"It will be up to the private utility then to show what they can do," Donovan said, "or up to the people to decide whether they will vote bonds to put this PUD into the power distribution business."

In response to questions, directors affirmed that they had every confidence in the Beck and Metcalf firm as to their impartiality, standing in their profession, and experience; that when they had completed their survey, they would have actual facts, presented without bias.

"I think this PUD has been very fortunate in the complexion of the board of directors," Short stated. "This board has consistently acted as an investigating body, has been moderate in expenditures, has not veered radically to public ownership. I feel that the board deserves a gesture of confidence from this budget committee."

The board approved the \$2800 item for engineering service. At the suggestion of Niskanen, a separate item to cover auditing expense was set up, in the amount of \$150. An item of \$2,350 was set up for emergency expense, bringing the budget to the total of \$9,550.

Niskanen suggested subtracting \$350 for the emergency fund and leaving this amount unbudgeted to cover delinquent tax receipts, but he was voted down.

Serving on the board were Short, Niskanen, L. M. Reif of Powell Butte, W. L. Monner of Madras, and George Kanoff of Redmond, who acted as secretary. Members of the PUD board of directors present were Donovan, Fred Shepard, Paul Spillman, and Ben Evick. Joe C. Brown was absent.

Floods Cover Much of Kansas
Topeka, Kans., Oct. 21 (AP)—Across the plains of central Kansas six rivers flooded today, joining their rampaging torrents to form gigantic lakes under which lay cities, towns, transcontinental highways, railroads and communication lines.

No lives had been reported lost but thousands were homeless, business districts in three major cities and at least 11 towns were inundated, thousands of acres of farm lands were under water and hundreds of head of livestock were destroyed.

State guardsmen, highway patrolmen, highway maintenance workers and federal troops from nearby Fort Riley manned motorboats, high-wheeled army trucks, and road-building tractors to navigate throughout the flood area and rescue stranded motorists and farmers.

The Red Cross moved into the area to establish relief stations and provide food and shelter for homeless.

Junior Rifle Club To Hold Practice

Members of the American Legion Junior Rifle club will hold their weekly practice tonight at 6:30 o'clock. The Rightfield Oil team and the Newman team, sponsored by Legionnaire Milton Newman, will practice on Tuesday nights. The Gateway Lunch team and the Shelvin-Hixon machine shop team will practice on Thursday nights.

The National Rifle association bi-weekly targets will be fired by the ten high scorers in the listed teams. The commander's trophy, won last year by Robert Fagg, will be in competition again this year, legionnaires in charge announced.

UNIT LEADERS TO MEET
Extension unit project leaders will hold a training meeting for poultry cookery at 10 a. m. Friday, Oct. 24, in the cooking laboratory at Bend high school, Miss Mary Ellen Heckathorn, county home demonstration agent, announced today. The class will be conducted by Miss Lucy Case, of Corvallis, extension nutritionist.

To save tires automobile companies say transfer front tires to diagonally opposite rear wheels and vice versa, every 3,000 or 4,000 miles.

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