

THE BEND BULLETIN
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Looking pretty silly

Oregon's Senate Committee on Natural Resources made itself look pretty silly Tuesday.

The committee refused to recommend confirmation of the appointment of L. C. Binford of Portland to the State Water Resources Board, to take the place of Judge Robert H. Foley of Bend.

Yet the same committee, not too long ago, voted to confirm the appointment of Byron Brinton of Baker to the board.

Binford was one of the original members of the board. He served a three-year term, and then was not re-appointed by former Gov. Holmes because he and Holmes didn't see eye-to-eye.

Yet fellow members of the board have said, publicly and privately, that Binford was the best-informed and hardest-working member of the board. Most of them have said at one time or another that Binford was one of the most valuable members of the group.

When Foley was appointed circuit judge a month or so ago it was necessary for him to resign as a member of the board. This created the first vacancy to arise since Gov. Mark Hatfield took office, Hatfield immediately appointed Binford to the unexpired term of Foley.

The appointment requires confirmation by the state Senate. It was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources—Andrew Naterlin of Newport, chairman—for consideration.

After a hearing Tuesday—the committee voted 4-3 not to recommend the confirmation.

As noted above, this makes the majority of the committee look pretty silly, for at least four reasons: First, all authorities in the field agree that Binford's appointment is the best one which could be made, in view of his past experience.

Second, the only witness to protest the appointment was speaking in behalf of commercial fishing interests of the Oregon coast. This makes it appear that the committee feels the interests of the commercial fishermen are more important than those of any other group of water users in the state.

Third, Sen. Key of Milton-Freewater said the committee should be careful not to approve the appointment of anyone who represented special interests.

Fourth, it is obvious from the nature of the vote that the majority of the committee turned Binford down on a purely partisan division.

This is perhaps the really unfortunate part of the whole thing.

The Water Resources Board in time will be known as probably our most important single state board. Initial appointments were made solely on the basis of ability, and no partisan matters were involved.

The first hint of politics came when former Gov. Holmes began to pack the group with those of his political viewpoints on the public-private power fight, a hassle which the board had been able to avoid until that time.

Now, if the committee is to reject the appointment of Binford on purely political grounds, as is the case, it is obvious that members of the committee are more interested in playing politics than they are in looking out for the interests of the state as a whole in the vital field of water resource management and development.

It is true that Binford has been accused of being prejudiced in favor of the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians whose main interest in the state's waters are in their recreation potential.

It is also true that members of the board who served with Binford discounted this accusation as being unfounded.

But if the committee is so darned worried about single-interest members of the board, where were the members of the committee earlier in the session, when they approved the nomination of Byron Brinton to the board?

Brinton, publisher of a weekly newspaper at Baker, has only one interest in water, and that very localized. He has been known as an advocate of the federal dam at Hells Canyon, which is his privilege. But he has shown little or no activity in the water resource field other than this interest, and certainly doesn't have the state-wide reputation or knowledge which is Binford's.

After voting to turn down the Binford appointment the committee decided to hold another hearing sometime later in the session.

Unless members of the committee change their minds on their original vote or are prepared to do so, they might as well call the matter to a halt at this point.

After all, if you're going to look silly you might as well only do so once, instead of repeating the performance at a later date for the benefit of those who didn't make the early show.

Quotable quotes

I'm glad it happened over land. Three more hours and I would have been out to sea.—Pilot William Mullen of Tourville, Tex., on giving up his attempt to fly a single-engine plane non-stop from California to Rome when ice formed in his fuel lines over the Appalachian Mountains.

I'm looking forward to the parade there. It certainly will be different than in Ireland. We have only a small parade.—Catherine Byrne, lady lord mayor of Dublin, on her intention of attending the St. Patrick's day parade in New York.

'You took the words right out of my mouth'



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Ike doesn't want to fall in spending trap

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON—Military briefing sessions at the White House sometimes can be boring. Military experts stand in front of charts with pointers in hand and rattle off long sets of figures. Senators who are invited by the President to attend, listen politely but not always attentively.

Last week, as Allen Dulles, brother of the ill secretary of state, and head of Central Intelligence, gave the figures on Russian military strength a round Berlin, there was no wool-gathering. Congressional leaders were alert and worried.

Against 175 total divisions in the Red army, the United States has a total of 17 divisions. Against about 330,000 crack Soviet troops in East Germany adjacent to Berlin, the United States has 222,000 men in West Germany, of which 75,000 are in fighting units. The others are behind desks, engaged in transport, supplies, training. Allen Dulles did not go into details regarding the strength of American forces in Berlin. He did not have to. Several of the congressional leaders who had come to the White House are experts on these figures.

Among them sat Carl Vinson who owns a 1,000-acre farm outside Milledgeville, Ga., where the state insane asylum is located. When Congressman Vinson is at home he is out working in his peanut and cotton fields. But in Washington he concentrates on the House Armed Services Committee of which he is chairman.

Vinson came to Congress in 1914, the year the Kaiser declared war on the Allies, and he has sat in Congress while the United States got embroiled in two World Wars plus another in Korea. He doesn't want to see war come again. Vinson listened carefully as President Eisenhower solemnly declared that the possibility of war over Berlin was very real, that it couldn't be taken lightly, there must be no mismanagement by the Western powers. However, the President believed war could be avoided if we were wise and steadfast.

"Do you think, in view of this danger," asked the venerable congressman from Georgia, "that you are wise in proceeding with the presently planned cuts in our

military forces?" The President replied that he had taken this into careful consideration, and that the presently proposed military budget should stand.

Senator Fulbright of Arkansas, who when in the House of Representatives almost 20 years ago first introduced the resolution which led to the United Nations, picked up the ball.

"Do you think it is wise from a psychological point of view," he asked the President, "to cut our forces just as we have told the Russians we will not budge one inch in Berlin?"

Fulbright called attention especially to the fact that on June 30 the U.S. Army will be automatically reduced under the new budget from its present size of 900,000 men.

Again the President said he had considered this carefully, that he did not want to alarm the American people, that he was not going to rush into partial mobilization or the evacuation of Americans from Berlin. Especially, he was not going to fall into the Russian trap and send the United States into bankruptcy. That, he said, is just what the Kremlin wants us to do.

Several of the congressional leaders had just read a Saturday Evening Post article by the former secretary of State, Dean Acheson, in which he warned of the seriousness of the Berlin crisis, and expressed the belief that the Russians would think twice about precipitating a military showdown — if the United States was well prepared.

Having this in mind, they argued at some length with the President, urging more advance preparedness. But the President stood his ground.

Note — Shortly before the White House meeting with congressional leaders, the Joint Chiefs of Staff had urged Ike to order a partial mobilization of the Army and the Air Force. They expressed the view that the Soviet challenge to Berlin is the gravest threat to American security since the Korean war and that war is a definite possibility.

Ma'ibag F. W., San Diego — Gen. Joe Swing, head of the immigration service, did not use a government



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Letters —
to the Editor

To the Editor: There has been a steady flow of new legislation on the House floor for final voting this week. In committee we tabled HB 446 which would have made it illegal to carry a loaded gun in a car during hunting season. Many letters and comments opposing this bill were received from Deschutes County.

During a busy schedule of committees and hearings we are able to work in a few visitations to our state institutions. I was a guest of the State prison parole board this week and made a tour of the prison with Fritz Kramer, formerly of Bend. This institution is certainly an asset to the state and not a liability in any sense. The parole board, of three men, working on a voluntary basis, is an example of public service at its finest level. Their work load is staggering. L. W. "Bud" Mallett, James Richardson and Charles Huggins make up the board and have between them a total of 21 years experience at this important work.

The eight representatives from Redmond, who paid a visit to Governor Hatfield this week to pub-

were, for instance, partners of record in owning a Howard Johnson restaurant in downtown Washington.

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Higher utilities tax is sought

SALEM (UPI) — The House Taxation Committee Wednesday night approved a bill which would increase the tax on utility companies.

The measure would lower the utility company corporation excise tax rate from 7 to 6 per cent. But it would deny use of the federal formula for computing net income which would have the effect of a tax increase. It is estimated the bill would increase taxes on utility companies in Oregon by about one million dollars a year.

Centennially yours,
J. Pat Metke
Rep. 27th Dist.
Salem, Oregon,
March 11, 1959

New members added by club

The Bend Golden Age Club signed up nine new members at the meeting Wednesday afternoon, bringing the roll to 272. Meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon at the National Guard Armory. All senior citizens, 60 years of age and older, are invited. Yesterday plans were made for a rummage sale to be held April 24 and 25.

Three women from the Eagles Auxiliary provided musical entertainment. Mrs. William Edwards was at the piano, and Mrs. W. E. Conley played the electric guitar. They sang in a trio with Mrs. Wilbur T. Sumpter.

At the club meeting next week, refreshments will be provided by members whose last names begin with the letters K, L and M. Each member in the group is to provide two dozen doughnuts.

PATSY AWARD COMPETITION

HOLLYWOOD DUPD — Award-winning performer L. A. S. S. I. will compete with five other animal actors Saturday for the annual Patsy Award. The long-haired star was top dog last year in the TV category.

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