

Ways and Means Bills Prepared For Legislature

Drafting of appropriation bills has begun following the meeting of the joint ways and means committee of the 1941 legislature, that approved state budgets aggregating some \$8,000,000.

Revenues for the 1941-43 biennium are estimated at \$28,000 above executive budget recommendations, but may be subject to a \$90,000 increase according to a special committee report.

Gov. Charles A. Sprague's and Budget Director David Eccles' recommendations were closely adhered to by the committee in most instances.

A proposal to authorize the state tax commission to substitute \$300,000 of its own funds for administration was the main point discussed at the committee meeting. Under this plan, the commission would not draw upon the general fund of the state, but would have the direct appropriation. The addition of four field operatives and one or two office employees would materially increase the revenues of the commission, budget officials told the committee. These employees could be retained under terms of the new budget of the state commission.

However, since a question arose as to the legality of using funds of the commission for administrative purposes, the committee deferred action pending an opinion from the attorney general.

Largest budget was that of the war veterans' state aid commission, but this calls for no direct appropriation. The budget calls for \$5,014,139.

The state police department budget calling for \$1,090,755 was the second largest and was approved. Other state departments contribute to this amount for enforcement of their activities and no direct appropriation is required. Approval was given to an emergency appropriation of \$14,000 for the crime detection division of the state police for the last six months of the current biennium. The appropriation was omitted by the last legislative session.

The state library budget was reduced from \$125,545 to \$119,085. An increase was granted the executive department budget from \$62,785 to \$67,785 in order that certain research work may be done. The budget department also received an increase from \$24,515 for the current biennium to \$32,675. The increase covers the addition of a field examiner to the budget division staff.

Budget of the state supreme court was raised from \$182,000 to \$185,170. The committee reduced the appropriation of the attorney general from \$82,380 to \$81,425.

Other budgets meeting with approval were:

- Board of pilot commissions, with no direct appropriation, \$3,018.
- Milk control board, \$81,941, no direct appropriation.
- Predatory animal eradication, \$8,000 for 1939-41 biennium and \$40,000 for the 1941-43 biennium. The federal government must match the funds of the state.
- Board of mining engineers, \$9,885. No direct appropriation.
- Veterinary medical examining, \$625. No direct appropriation.
- Mrs. T. T. Ozer, 1939 pension as recommended by the governor.
- Supreme court library, \$24,300 as recommended by the governor.
- Two \$500 pensions were included, one for Bertha Bergeron and one for Hattie C. Wilson upon recommendation of the governor.
- Champoos park, \$3,914 as recommended by the governor.
- Bodville mineral springs, \$500 recommended by the governor.
- State board of control, \$73,221.
- Collection department of board of control, \$12,957.
- Bond revolving account, \$325.
- District irrigation bonds interest, \$488,141.66 recommended by the government.
- State treasurer, \$73,447.50.
- Inheritance tax division of state treasurer's office, \$9,000.
- Gift tax division, state treasurer's office, \$325.

FDR Resolution Passed by Senate

Two days later, the senate passed a house resolution today congratulating President Roosevelt on his inauguration.

The resolution was to have been sent to the president when he was inaugurated last Monday, but amendments delayed it.

It now goes back to the house, since the senate amended it. It had to, changing the wording from the present to the past tense.

Would Restrict Steelhead Fishing

Commercial fishing for steelhead would be restricted in a bill which Sen. Lew Wallace (D., Multnomah), former game commissioner, said he would introduce.

It would remove set nets from coastal streams, but not from the bays.

Oregon Motor Stages Dated This Month

Important hearings, scheduled this month by Ormond R. Bean, state utilities commissioner, include those of the Oregon Motor Stages and the Pacific Truck Express. The former will be held January 27 at Hammond, Oregon. It is a supplementary application of common fixed terminal rights for persons, baggage, mail, express, and newspapers.

The commissioner this week completed a hearing against the reduction of train service on the S. P. and S. road to Seaside and Astoria. The Pacific Truck Express hearing will be February 4 in the Portland office.

Europe should not expect another cold winter for about 11 years, says an Italian weather expert.

Session Sidelights of the 41st Legislature Edited by "C.K."

Members of the Battleship Oregon commission called upon Governor Charles A. Sprague Tuesday afternoon to make an official report and present a resolution which, they hope, the governor would send to the ways and means committee with his blessing. The resolution, according to Marshall Dana, Portland, chairman, seeks to restore the famous ship to good condition and points out that it has now been located in a new berth. Other members of the commission are Dr. G. F. A. Walker, L. M. Lepper, Harry V. Reed and Howard Waddell, Roseburg.

Crews are drilling day and night as the government is putting pressure on preparations for the new shipyard in Portland, according to A. M. Janssen, former member of the house from Washington county, who has the contract. But this did not bring him to the legislature Tuesday. He is a member of a non-union high school board in Washington county and wants the law pertaining to school bus drivers clarified. The situation regarding drivers of buses for union and non-union districts is giving his board a headache at present, he says. He served during the 1931 session but since then has found too many democrats.

New Bills

Bills introduced in the house:

- HB 68, by Adams—Broadens unemployment insurance law, increases benefits.
- HB 69, by Wilson—Gives attorney fees to unemployed who appear from commission decisions.
- HB 70, by Adams—Increases benefits under unemployment compensation law.
- HB 71, by Wilson—Denies employers right of appeal from decisions of unemployment compensation commission.
- HB 72, by Caulfield—Regulates taking and selling of clams from Tillamook bay.
- HB 73, by Bolvin, Semon and Cornett—Provides state shall replace 35 missing volumes of Oregon supreme court decisions missing from Klamath circuit court.
- HB 74, by Steelhammer, Meyers and Carson—Places additional tax on trucks.
- HB 75, by agriculture committee—Repeals law covering manner of taking milk and cream samples.
- HB 76, by agriculture committee—Requires railroads delivering hay or straw in cars to provide side tracks.
- HB 77, by Neuberger—Repeals Oregon state planning council.
- HB 78, by Heister and Senator Steelhammer—Exempts motor vehicles in industries assisting in national rearmament from length and weight limits.

Bills introduced in the senate:

- SB 39, by forestry committee—Amending law relating to mill and logging operations.
- SB 40, by forestry committee—Providing for protection of engines operating in forest.
- SB 41, by forestry committee—Making it unlawful to set fires in forests from April 1 to September 31.
- SB 42, by forestry committee—Providing additional protection from fire in mill and logging operations.
- SB 43, by forestry committee—Relating to fire extinguisher equipment.
- SB 44, by forestry committee—Relating to operation of steam engines in forests during closed seasons.
- SB 45, by forestry committee—To provide sprinkler system when refuse is burned.
- SB 46, by forestry committee—Relating to foreclosure of taxes on real property.
- SB 47, by forestry committee—Making it a felony to maliciously start fire in forest.
- SB 48, by forestry committee—Relating to permits for removal or cutting of forest crop.
- SB 49, by Strayer—To provide armory to Baker to cost \$60,000, to be appropriated from state general fund.
- SB 50, by insurance committee—Relating to operation of insurance companies.
- SB 51, by Booth—Relating to meetings of board of medical examiners.
- SB 52, by Ellis—Relating to irrigation district elections.
- SB 53, by same committee—Making it unlawful to catch or fish for salmon, shad, striped bass, or sturgeon in Alsea bay or its tributaries with hook and line.
- SB 54, by J. N. Jones—Relating to animals running at large.
- SB 55, by Burke—Directing secretary of state to print in book form lists of motor vehicle registrations, and to distribute copies to state and local police.

What Representative Jack Caulfield, of Tillamook, intends to do with the choice supply of cheese that he brought to Salem with him is no longer a secret. Representative Caulfield has invited members of the legislature—and the press—to partake of same at a feed to be held at the Salem Brewery this evening.

Like a recently renowned Marion county deputy sheriff, Joseph Singer, sergeant-at-arms in the house, may also be "working for love." Question of the legality of paying him for his services in the house while he is on the federal payroll as an assistant door keeper in the senate, Secretary of State Snell has made formal inquiry as to his status but so far has not received a reply.

All is quiet in the northwest corner of the house. Neither R. C. Frisbee, representative from Baker county, nor Representative E. Riddell Lage, Hood River, have a bill and so far have no ideas regarding such. But Representative Frisbee admits that they "may break loose any day."

When Representative John Steelhammer, Salem, returned to his desk after lunch Tuesday he found it highly decorated with election campaign cards. Representative Harry Bolvin, Klamath Falls, finding the sessions short and quiet, held responsible.

Occupying a seat with Representative Earl Newbury, of Medford, during the short Tuesday afternoon session was Mrs. B. A. Johnston, of Corvallis, mother of Mrs. Newbury, who is serving as secretary to her husband.

A group of 30 grade pupils from the Oreno school, located 15 miles west of Portland, were visitors at the capitol Tuesday. They were in charge of the school principal, E. H. Lehman.

Hunting as well as fishing without a state license is being sought by a group of Columbia river Indians from Celilo falls who were around the capitol Tuesday. The group was headed by Chief Tommy Thompson with John Whiz as his interpreter, with McKinley Wesley and Henry Thompson. While not in tribal costume the visitors were conspicuous with their braided hair.

The legislature really isn't doing so badly, as far as introducing bills is concerned. In 1939, the lawmakers introduced the largest number of bills in history. So far this session, 67 bills have been introduced in the house, compared with 37 during the same period in 1939. The senate has 38 bills, compared with 65 at the same time last session.

Interest in Reapportionment Lacks Spirit

A poll of legislators showed today there is little interest in reapportioning the legislature, although two bills to do so have been introduced in the house and another is in the offing.

Many legislators said they don't want any bitter fights this session, and almost any reapportionment proposal would be sure to bring one on.

"Multnomah county is satisfied with its present representation, and most other counties are, too," Speaker Robert S. Farrell Jr., said. "There are indications that the house won't be changed, and it is likely that only two senate changes will even be considered."

Several senators said they favor splitting the district embracing Klamath, Deschutes, Lake, Jefferson and Crook counties, giving Klamath county a senator of its own and giving a senator to the other four counties.

To do this, two other districts would have to be consolidated. Some senators said they favor consolidating Jackson and Josephine counties, which now have a senator each.

Rep. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Multnomah), who said his bill hasn't a chance of passage, sponsored a measure to give Multnomah county increases in both houses at the expense of upstate counties. He said it would give every county its proper representation according to population.

A bill to give each county at least one representative, but leaving Multnomah county's delegation unchanged, was introduced by Rep. E. W. Kimberling (R-Grant). It would not affect the senate, and would have to be approved by the voters in the form of a constitutional amendment.

A proposal by Sen. Lew Wallace (D-Multnomah), also requiring approval of the voters if the legislature should pass it, would make few changes. It would base representation two-thirds on population and one third on area.

Called Meeting Goes Haywire

Everything went haywire today when Rep. J. D. Perry (D., Columbia) called a meeting of a select group of legislators to confer with the interim committee on unemployment compensation, the industrial accident and the unemployment compensation commissions.

These things went wrong:

1. Through error, all legislators were invited, and almost all of them were there.
2. Somebody assigned the wrong room and the whole group broke in on the governor while he was holding a board of control meeting. Governor Sprague welcomed them, but he didn't know what it was all about.
3. The governor was willing to give up the board of control room to the legislators, but the legislators moved to a legislative hearing room.
4. The commissioners did not show up, so everybody went to lunch.

Cathedral church of St. Anne in Belfast, Northern Ireland, has converted its crypt under the edifice into an air raid shelter for worshippers should there be a raid during the hours of service.

Inspection of Autos Again Has Attention

Automobile inspection on a state-wide basis again came to the attention of the legislature when the senate roads and highways committee reconsidered a bill that was vetoed by the governor following the last session of the legislature.

The governor's veto message was read to the committee by Chairman Douglas McKay (R., Marion). In his message the governor stated that he believed the enforcement of auto inspection should be placed in the hands of the state police, instead of under the jurisdiction of the state highway commission. He said the highway commission should concentrate on building and maintaining highways and bridges, and should not enter the enforcement field.

Senator Dorothy McCullough Lee, (R., Multnomah), said that in Portland, where auto checking is compulsory, records showed that accidents due to faulty cars were decreasing under the inspection plan.

Senator Burke (R., Yamhill), who told the committee that the farmers in his area would be bitterly opposed to such an inspection. He also thought that the cost would probably be prohibitive. On this score, it was brought out that

portable inspection equipment could be purchased for approximately \$15,000.

No action was taken on the bill, but it is believed that a new bill will be drafted, following an open hearing at which evidence will be presented on both sides of the controversy.

Secretary of State Earl Snell appeared before the committee to urge passage of SB 4, repealing the law requiring registration of out-of-state vehicles. Senator McKay is sponsoring the repeal measure.

Snell pointed out that the state spends about \$100,000 per biennium on advertising of the recreational resources of this state, in order to secure tourist trade, and then causes them inconvenience by asking that they stop to register their cars.

"The law was originally drawn up at a time when Oregon based license fees on vehicle weight, while California and Washington had flat fees. The purpose was to prevent motorists from going to adjoining states to secure their license plates. However, since we now have a fee that is equal, or nearly so, with adjoining states, there is no longer a necessity for the law," Snell told the group.

Many Protests Made Against Court Bill

Rep. Allan G. Carson (R-Marion) is being deluged with protests from lawyers and others interested in HB 27, providing for the transfer of all judicial powers from the county court to the circuit court.

"The uniformity of the protests indicates a lack of knowledge of the full context of the bill, due to the fact that it has never been published in its entirety," said Carson.

"Objectors to the measure appear to assume that the county judges would have no power under the bill to act for the circuit judge during his absence from the county; whereas, in fact, the proposed act makes ample provision for the signing of ex parte orders, (which most orders in probate are) by the county judge even when there is a circuit judge in the county. Some districts are without the services of a resident circuit judge for long periods of time, and persons residing in these areas are fearful that they would not be able to have their probate matters attended to promptly."

"Under the terms of the measure there is no cause to worry on that score: In drawing the bill, Representatives Bolvin, Marsh and I kept this contingency in mind. Our purpose was to speed up and at the same time lessen the cost of the administration of probate business, and take the determination of contested legal matters off crowded county dockets and thereby relieve the already overworked and underpaid county judges."

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Bill To Class Steelheads As Game Fish

A measure to make steelhead a game fish by restricting net fishing during the winter steelhead runs was introduced in the senate today by the committee on game.

The measure would close coastal streams to all commercial fishing from Nov. 30 to June 1. Its sponsors, the Oregon Wildlife Federation, claim that such a season would not interfere with the commercial take of salmon and shad, but would permit the full benefit of sport fishing for steelhead.

The bill would also remove set nets from coastal streams, although it would allow them to remain in the various bays as prescribed by the fish commission.

Cooze bay and Yaquina bay would be open for set nets in certain areas, but Netarts and Nestucca bays would be closed to commercial fishing, open only to the taking of salmon and steelhead on hook and line.

Sen. Lew Wallace, D., Portland, who will support the measure, said that Washington and Idaho have made steelhead a game fish by legislative act, and added that Oregon should follow the lead.

"The commercial fishing interests have long since admitted that the steelhead is of little or no value from a canning standpoint. On the other hand, they have sought zealously, and so far have succeeded, in preventing the steelhead being made a game fish in this state as in other states," Wallace said, adding: "The sportsmen have repeatedly attempted to have the steelhead made a game fish, but unfortunately have failed because of their inability to have such legislation passed by our various legislatures."

Quarterly tax payments would be changed to November 5, February 5, May 5 and August 5, so that they would not come at the same time as other taxes are due.

Rep. W. B. Morse (R-Crook) told the committee that the bill was opposed by Eastern Oregon assessors, who would have to make their assessment rounds in the rainy and muddy period of the year.

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