

Session Sidelights of the 42nd Legislature Edited by C. K. Logan



Legislation pertaining to the war effort and hopes of a short session are not mirrored in the types of some bills being asked of this session, with neither house immune to the outside influence, as is apparent from two bills proposed this week. One pertains to a curfew for cats and the other to smoking in bed in hotels. Possibly air raid wardens will be called upon to enforce provisions of a bill asked of Representative Stanhope S. Pier, of Multnomah county, who has not yet found time to prepare the requested legislation from a constituent, Russell Sheppard, of Portland.

"During these war-torn times," writes Sheppard to his representative, "people are on edge more or less and a good night's sleep would help as much as war bonds." He proposes that owners of cats be required to keep them indoors after 9 o'clock at night.

Smoking in bed in "hotel beds or lodgings operated for

M'Kenna Offers Taxation Plan

Sen. Coe A. McKenna, Portland, vice chairman of the senate assessment and taxation committee, outlined his tax program to his fellow committee members today.

McKenna wants: A sales tax to produce between \$20,000,000 and \$25,000,000 a year, a 40-mill property tax limit, a flat personal income tax rate of 3 per cent instead of the existing 2 to 8 per cent rate, a flat 5 per cent corporation income tax rate instead of the present 8 per cent tax, elimination of the tax on unearned income, and reduction of the gift and inheritance taxes.

Eagles Sponsor Seven Pension Bills

Seven old age pension bills, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles were introduced today by Rep. J. D. Perry, St. Helens democrat. The bills would provide \$40 monthly pensions, reduce the number of case workers, eliminate most case investigations, give the legislature access to case records, and eliminate the governor's appointments to county public welfare commissions, turning the commissions' functions over to county courts.

Judge and Sheriff Would Benefit

Sen. W. H. Steiwer and Rep. Henry E. Peterson, both of Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties, proposed a bill in the house of representatives yesterday asking that the salary of Wheeler county judge be raised from \$600 a year to \$900, and that of the sheriff be raised from \$1600 to \$1800 annually.

Solons Doubt Wisdom of Tri-State Plan

By Janet Gould

Sen. Merle Chessman and Rep. Fred A. Hellberg, both of Clatsop county, chairmen of the fisheries committees of both houses, said today they approved the spirit but doubted the workability of a Washington legislature proposal for an interstate fish commission along the Columbia river.

The report of an interim legislative committee which studied control of commercial fishing in the river and its tributaries with the aid of Oregon and Idaho authorities was to go before the legislature at Olympia yesterday.

"The Washington proposal for a five-member commission is an ideal solution—too ideal," Chessman, former member of the Oregon fish commission, said. "If three legislatures could give up their states' sovereign rights to a commission acting impartially I would be all for it," the senator continued. "As it is I don't see how such a plan could be practicable. I've never heard of its being done in similar situations over the country."

He said, however, that he would suggest an approach to the Washington measure by reports.

commending the appointment of an advisory committee to represent the states involved. "Fishing on the Columbia is not just an industry located at the mouth of the river," Chessman said. "The Snake and Clearwater rivers are spawning grounds for the fish, and the fall catch of salmon is taken equally above and below Bonneville."

"An advisory group representing the three states and the federal government would be a fine help to the industry. But the Oregon interim committee, I am certain, holds that turning state rights over to an all-powerful commission would not be a practical solution to the problem."

Rep. Hellberg concurred with Chessman's opinion. "It's a fine idea but I don't consider it practical," he said. Chessman said the report of the interim committee for Oregon would be presented to the legislature within a week.

Snell Signs Guard Bill

The Oregon state guard, which would have gone out of existence today, got a new lease on life at 3 p.m. yesterday when Governor Earl Snell signed a bill to keep the guard in service until he proclaims it is no longer needed.

Ecuador is improving its airports.

All Money Measures to Clear Ways and Means

By Harry Crain

To enable the joint ways and means committee to keep its appropriations in accurate balance with anticipated revenues, all house and senate measures involving expenditures of money will have to clear that committee before going to final passage on the floor of either house during this session of the legislature.

Such is the program embodied in declarations of their policies made today by President W. H. Steiwer of the senate and Speaker William McAllister of the house.

"It will be my general policy to refer all measures involving appropriations directly to the ways and means committee," said Steiwer. "But some bills which also involve questions of legislative policy may first be submitted to other appropriate committees for consideration of their general features."

"All, however, will eventually be cleared through the ways and means committee."

Books to be Straight McAllister announced that he would pursue the same general policy as regards house appropriation bills, adding that "that is the only sensible way to keep the books straight."

The policy has not always been followed in the past, notably during the 1941 session when the house detoured several bills involving the appropriations through other committees, with the result that what the ways and means committee chalked up as a \$500,000 deficit at the

close of the session actually left the state more than \$700,000 in the red when the final reckoning was made.

Accurate bookkeeping by the joint financial committee is going to be more essential than ever this session, when the principal business of the group will be that of adding to rather than subtracting from the budget estimates. This by admission of the committee members.

"The budget department has the budget in such excellent shape this year that there is little left for the committee to do except consider increases in the estimates and additional items," said Angus Gibson, chairman of the senate half of the joint committee. "It is imperative, therefore, that all appropriation measures pass through the committee."

Friendly Toward Salaries Because of the war and its effect upon living costs and the difficulty of securing and retaining competent help in competition with war industries, especially in the state institutions, the general attitude of the ways and means committee is friendly toward reasonable salary increases, Gibson stated, predicting that most of the requests so far presented would

probably be allowed. For the first time in years, due probably to the overflowing condition of the state treasury, the usually hard-boiled committee

is turning a receptive ear to the urgent pleas of state institutions—notably the state hospitals and penitentiary—for much-needed additions to their woefully

inadequate staffs. Strict adherence of the president and speaker to the policy announced today will go a long way toward eliminating the

practice of "railroading" pet bills through final passage by routing them via friendly committees around the ways and means group.

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