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Asking The Impossible

Asking the highway commission and the state police, who enforce the law, to do that which they themselves protest they cannot do, loggers and log-haulers are asking the legislature in SB No. 118 to authorize "an alternate method" of determining the gross weight of loaded log trucks by log scale measurement.

It is the same plan in revised form that has been repeatedly proposed to and rejected by past legislatures, and which is not in use in any other state.

The bill provides that the highway commission shall, through a series of tests not exceeding 50 for any species of logs, determine the "average" number of board feet of any species it takes to make a load of legal weight when added to the light weight of the truck, and that axle and wheel weight limitations shall be determined on a percentage basis. In other words, 10,000 board feet of logs would be given a fixed weight in determining load limits no matter what their actual weight might be, and an equal percentage of the load would be presumed to be distributed on each axle and wheel no matter how the logs were loaded.

Such a system of guessing just doesn't fit into the exact science of modern road building, in which every piece of road and every bridge is designed to carry a certain maximum load measured in pounds. To overload a bridge invites disaster. The offending vehicle may not cause the structure to collapse at the time, but may so weaken it as to cause it to fall under a subsequent lighter vehicle.

Because of the wide variance in the weight of different logs of the same species, admitted by the authors of the bill in providing for tests to arrive at averages, log scale measurements cannot accurately reflect weight in pounds. This fact is recognized in the present system of measuring loads, in which a margin of tolerance of 7000 pounds over the legal limit of 54,000 pounds is permitted. If the log-scale plan is as accurate in determining weights as its sponsors claim it to be, why are they not willing to depend upon its accuracy in loading their trucks to comply with the weight law?

Public safety and the preservation of our road system demand the enforcement of load limits that are actual, not theoretical.

The Psychological Offensive

In his Lincoln day fireside chat on the Casablanca conference broadcast throughout the world, President Roosevelt promised to bomb Japan this year as well as to wage great offensives against the Axis in both Asia and Europe, and to eventually send Allied armies marching in triumph into Berlin, Rome and Tokyo.

It was a speech vibrant with confidence and pitched on the theme of absolute victory and unconditional surrender of the Axis. Among fighting phrases were the following:

"Important actions will be taken in the skies over China—and over Japan itself."

"Our prime purpose in this battle of Tunisia is to drive our enemies into the sea."

"The pressure on Germany and Italy will be constant and unrelenting."

"The enemy must be hit and hit hard from so many directions that he never knows which is his bow and which is his stern."

The address was a follow-up of the speech of Prime Minister Churchill to Commons earlier in the week and designed for psychological effect in the war of nerves being waged to dishearten and defeat dispirited Axis powers and to bolster the morale of the United Nations.

The Germans have taught the world that the psychological offensive is as effective and perhaps more so than the military offensive. It accounts principally for Germany's early successes in the war through inculcating defeatism in France and other countries that ended in military collapse. So it is good tactics to foster defeatism among the Axis conquerors held together only by vanishing victory.

Gandhi Fasting Again

Mohandas K. Gandhi, India's perennial trouble maker, has started another three weeks fast which he calls "an appeal to the highest tribunal for justice" but which the government terms "a form of political blackmail."

This is the eighth time in a quarter of a century the 73 year old Mahatma has abstained from food in passive demonstration against British authority. This time he began his fast in the fabulous palace of the Aga Khan at Poona where for six months he has been interned in luxury. This time the fast is not to the death, as he advertised the others, but he adds citrus fruit juices to his water.

Gandhi's present fast stemmed from his contention that he is not responsible for the violence and bloodshed throughout India last summer and that he is "a wronged and innocent man." The Viceroy of India, the Marquess of Linlithgow, took the view that Gandhi and the nationalist congress were solely responsible and encouraged violence. He had declined an offer of conditional freedom and demands unconditional freedom. He is permitted his own medical attendants and may receive friends.

It will be remembered that Gandhi refused the British offer of freedom for India after the war, and personally invited a Japanese invasion. The Japanese would never show the crackpot the consideration the British do but would gleefully assist the starvation to get rid of an international nuisance.

Cutting Income Taxes

In formulating their program for the reduction of personal income taxes of the state for the next two years, the tax committees of the legislature contemplate no tampering with existing rate schedules. They simply propose to amend the law to require returns to be made as prescribed by the present law under existing rates and then permit a deduction of a certain percentage of the tax due.

Sentiment among the lawmakers is about equally divided between making the deduction a fixed percentage applying to all income brackets, or graduating the percentage downward as tax brackets mount.

If the fixed percentage plan is adopted, the rate schedule should be amended to eliminate the split bracket on the first \$1000 of taxable income, under which the first \$500 is taxed at the rate of 2 per cent and the second \$500 at 3 per cent. Such a revision will still catch the highly paid war workers, but would provide needed relief for the fixed salary worker whose income has not advanced proportionately with rapidly mounting living costs.

That Guilty Feeling

By Beck



The Fireside Pulpit

By REV. E. S. HAMMOND

No man can serve two masters. Mt. 6:24.

We have a good deal in these days of dual citizenship. The fact is that at least two nations claim that their nationals can become citizens of another country while still retaining their citizenship in their native land. In this way they propose to retain a control over these expatriated sons, and to have a strong infiltration of possible enemy aliens in the lands to which their sons have gone.

So Germany and Japan have had many of these "dual" citizens here in this and in other countries. Why our naturalization boards have tolerated this is a mystery, but it seems to have been allowed. This is not a new thing. The Canadians complained of this in the first World War in regard to Germans residing there. Hitler did not originate this system, although it fits in beautifully with his plans, and he has sought to use it for his purposes. It is perfectly manifest that these governments referred to take it for granted that these "dual" citizens will regard their citizenship in their native land as the real thing, and that their first allegiance will be to that country. The citizenship in their adopted country will be then only a matter of convenience—a help in business, and for social purposes. When real service is to be given, the sacrifices are to be made, the native land is to come first. I am not saying that all "dual" citizens have so acted, but I do say that this is the purpose of these foreign governments in thus holding on to their former citizens.

I have read of a kind who was visiting a school, and questioning the scholars. He wished to bring out the difference between the great natural kingdoms, vegetable, animal and mineral. So he asked a little girl to what kingdom various objects belonged, and finally said, "To what kingdom do I belong?" The little girl hesitated to say he belonged to the animal kingdom, so she replied, "To God's kingdom, sir." To which his majesty replied, "God make me worthy of that kingdom!" The Christian belongs to and owes first allegiance to God's kingdom. He is in this world and his life activities belong in this sphere, but his citizenship is elsewhere. In our text our Lord is talking about the absorption in money-making. He says, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Now the Devil is just as shrewd as the Germans and Japanese. He is very fond of the "dual" citizenship. He cares not that his subjects belong to the church, if only they put him and his service first. So long as the making of money, the securing of official position, the social leadership, popularity with the crowd—or any other of those enemy devices hold the chief place in a supposed Christian's life the Devil is perfectly satisfied. He likes these "dual" citizens. But we can get an idea what God thinks of them by learning what our officials think of the "dual" Germans and Japanese.

Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Fred Zimmerman, our sporting editor, who is discriminating in the use of words, want to know "how come?" He calls attention to the fact that the term "pansy" is used to define a male weakling who can't take it. Yet, in the city hall pansy bed, said pansies have gone through some terrible weather experiences, right out in the open, without benefit of wool underwear or fuel, and are standing up as pert and bright as though they'd been coddled from babyhood. "Pansy," huh," opines Fred. "Looks to me as though a pansy can take it plenty."

Lew Davenport of Silverton (Lewallen to his parents, but Lew to the hot polio!), whose biography we recently briefed in this here column as the champion old time dance caller from Table Rock to Eola Hills, and the guy who is 75 years old without a gray hair in his thatch, now claims we were just ghost writing his story for Judd Foster or Wayne Waters. "Either one or the other of those scoundrels, or both, was behind it," opines Lew. But, Lewallen, we never divulge the sources of our information and surely you wouldn't think that such nice boys as Judd or Wayne would be responsible for having a little fun at the expense of somebody else? At any rate, Lew says he's ready to challenge both of the boys to a "walk-a-thon" from Silverton to Salem and return and call the dances both ways. We'd like to see that— from the seat of a car. But we advise both Judd and Wayne not to try to get the best of any cousin of the late Homer Davenport, as Homer was pretty good at handling practical jokes and jokers himself.

Also, the secret operatives have swarmed down on us to inform that "Buck" Main, the town's handsomest night cop has his new clackers and is handsomer than ever. We hope they don't get to chattering when Buck goes to prowling around the alleys these dark nights. Orchids to Bob Farrell, secretary of state, for his suggestion that the examination for drivers' licenses be postponed until 1945 along with the renewals. It's a pretty big relief to see some public official who desires to alleviate the public burden a bit from all such nuisances during war time. One of the big helps to the war effort would be a lot of such alleviations rather than a bunch of bureaucratic fretting around to see where the public can get more annoyances. The public wants to win the war just as much as the bureaucrats. And want to have it over just as quickly as they do.

Kelly Says

Bone Effective in Power Bill Fight

Orchardists Ask for Labor from Mexico

Draft Boards Meet Inductee Deficiencies

By John W. Kelly

Washington, Feb. 13.—The Washington congressional delegation does not want electors to that state to vote on the Bone power bill; members have written the legislature to enact the bill with an emergency clause, and when a legislature uses the emergency clause it prevents the public from taking action. The Bone-Smith bill, introduced in the late session of congress, died without anything being done, but Senator Homer T. Bone wrote a bill for his state to avoid waiting for congressional support.

Senator Bone is a fast worker, and he took all six of the congressmen from his state into camp; sold them on the idea that unless his state proposal was enacted the long reach of bureaucracy would take over. Roughly, the new Bone bill permits PUDs to group together and acquire power property, and a talking point (which impressed the six Washington congressmen) is that they will be free from domination by the Bonville-Grand Coulee administrator. Of course, the only energy they are likely to obtain will be generated at Grand Coulee or Bonneville, and Paul J. Raver will be "dominating."

Two executives of private power companies in Washington happened to be in the national capital when they heard the news. One is doing a highly important task for the government in Latin America; the other was here on another matter. They called on Fred Norman of Raymond, Hal Holmes of Ellensburg, and Walter F. Horan of Wenatchee, the three new republican members, and the talk was lively. Here were three republicans who were elected over three advocates of public ownership, and the general opinion expressed in the press of Washington and Oregon was that they were elected, in no small part, because their opponents were dyed-in-the-wool government ownership champions.

This trio had not been in congress 30 days when they assured the legislature that from their knowledge and experience in congress some tough legislation would be enacted unless the legislature adopted the Bone bill. One of the private power executives, in conversation, said he should know something about congress, having been back here for about eight years—at least as much as men who had not been here a month—and he declared that the temper of congress is not inclined toward stirring up the power issue for the duration.

Precedent Set
It is not considered ethical for a member of congress to write to his home legislature and tell the local boys what they should do with regard to state legislation. So far as can be learned, the Washington delegation is the first to direct local lawmakers to do anything.

Northwest orchardists have appealed to Paul McNutt to import Mexican labor and ship several hundred harvest hands into Oregon and Washington. Last year the state department arranged with Mexican officials for 5000 of these laborers and the arrangement appears to have been satisfactory. Every orchardist and farmer realizes that there will be a terrific shortage of workers to gather the crops, and this has prompted the suggestion to McNutt that he bring in a large number and help the northwest. Heretofore there has been no Mexican labor in that region; it has remained to McNutt is that the United States ship inland Empire wheat to Mexico, which that country needs, and this is used as a credit for part of the pay of these workers. The rule last year required the farmer to pay the Mexicans in cash, with a provision that part of the wages be deposited in a savings account, payable to the worker upon his return to Mexico if he desired.

Deferment Disregarded
Deferment for occupational reasons (it is about 10 per cent in Oregon and 9.1 per cent in Washington) is being disregarded by some local boards in the northwest. The board is given a quota and fills that quota regardless. So many young chaps have volunteered for the marines and navy that the boards reach out for anyone to make up the deficiency; the state quotas ignore the volunteers. Shipyard workers were supposed to be deferred, but many have been

yanked out and put in uniform.

A man 44 years old, an expert marine engineer and authority on refrigeration, has been holding a key position in a Kaiser yard in the Vancouver-Portland district. The draft board needed men, cancelled his deferment and put him in uniform. Instead of being assigned to marine engines he is now at a camp on the Atlantic coast learning the business of a longshoreman. Navy heard about his case, offered to get him out of the army and use him on a ship, but the engineer refused; says for the first time in his life he has no responsibility. Deferment because of occupation is exceptionally high on the Pacific coast because of the army of men engaged in building ships for army, navy and merchant marine, aircraft factories and the lumber and dairy industries.

Tax Group Makes Decision

The house taxation and revenue committee made up its mind on amendments to the initiative measure which was passed last November to give surplus income taxes to school districts to reduce property taxes.

The committee voted to introduce three bills containing the amendments.

One would set a tentative figure of \$5,000,000 as the maximum amount that could be given in any one year to school districts having special school levies. The others would create a special state fund for the surplus revenues, and would set up machinery for distributing the money.

The committee still is deadlocked, however, on how to reduce income taxes. Half of the members want to make the same percentage reduction in all brackets, while the other half want to give bigger reductions to taxpayers with small incomes and smaller reductions to those who pay on large incomes.

Barely a Quorum In Lower House

With one fourth of the membership excused, the house of representatives worked at the rate of one minute per member present and cleared a routine calendar in less than 45 minutes Saturday morning. Final adjournment, with important legislation yet to be acted upon, is due two weeks from today. Deliberations and debate will resume at 10 o'clock Monday morning.

At the peak of the session this morning 42 members voted on bills up for final passage, just two above the necessary quorum making the action legal.

Of the 60 members in the house, 15 were excused and three were recorded absent. One bill was passed with 28 members voting "aye" and 14 being recorded "no."

Ways and Means Approves \$22,683,237

The joint legislative ways and means committee today had given tentative approval to appropriations totaling \$22,683,237, or \$13,107 more than the revenue available. The committee now will have to revise its approved appropriations to eliminate the possible deficit.

Dog Salmon May Become Game Fish

The senate game committee today recommended passage of bills to make the dog salmon a game fish, and to refund antelope hunting license fees collected in 1942, when the antelope season was cancelled because of the forest fire hazard.

Truck Bill Up Soon

The bill to increase length and weight limits for trucks operating on state highways probably will be considered by the house early next week. Chairman Burt K. Snyder, Lakeview, of the house highway committee said today.

Payroll Hearing Called

The house judiciary committee will hold a hearing Monday afternoon on the employers' bill to freeze unemployment compensation payroll taxes at the existing rates of 1 to 2.7 per cent.

Session Sidelights of the 42nd Legislature

Edited by C. K. Logan

Apology on the floor of the house for his "honest mistake in broad daylight," which, he said, "had brought smiles among some of the members" as its only result, was made yesterday by Representative (some call him senator) John Dickson, of Portland, who told the house "the true facts of the case." Following his explanation Representative Dickson's "apology" was unanimously accepted and he was given an unanimous vote of confidence though he refused to yield to a question amid gales of laughter.

Except in a few minor details, his explanation of the circumstances coincided with the account published yesterday in this column. The only difference was that it was he who came to the desk and found Senator H. C. Wheeler, of Goshen, sitting there. Representative Dickson then sat in the chair usually occupied by the stenographer while he started to look over what he believed to be his own correspondence, when he discovered that he was in the wrong house and at Senator Wheeler's desk instead of his own in the other wing of the capitol.

He had been at a committee meeting on a message bill and inadvertently turned in the wrong direction after leaving the meeting. He denied the rumor spread by Representative Harvey Wells that he "had been following a blonde." Flowers on his desk yesterday were the gift of Mrs. Eugene Marsh, wife of the representative from Yamhill county and Representative H. R. (Farmer) Jones, of Marion county.

For the first time in 18 years roll call in the house is answered first by a member whose name does not begin with the letter "A" and the lead-off man on the spot this year is Representative R. A. Bennett, Portland, who was congratulated by resolution upon his birthday which occurred yesterday. Representative Bennett was born in Ohio county, Kentucky, between 35 and 40 miles from the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1889, spending his boyhood at Hartford, Ky., and coming to Oregon in 1909 in employ of the Union Pacific. Between 1919 and 1926 he operated an ice-fuel business in Chrisman, Ill., coming back to Oregon and graduating from the Northwestern College of Law, being admitted to the bar in 1929. He is married, has one daughter and is past chancellor of the Oregon Knights of Pythias and belongs to the Masonic lodge and Methodist church. Representative Wells, on behalf of house members, presented him with a remembrance of the occasion and then led the female contingent in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

According to Representative Phil Brady, Portland, head of the Portland Labor Council, the 48-hour ruling will have little effect upon members of the various unions in that city. A majority of these are already working the 48-hour week with the exception of a few who are on a 44-hour basis and all receive overtime in excess of eight hours a day, he said.

Senator Rex Ellis, Pendleton, introduced a bill today to suspend future workmen's compensation payments to residents of countries at war with the United States. Payments already approved would be made in currency of the countries in which the aliens live.

Will Elect Board
The senate next Wednesday afternoon will elect a committee of six senators to pass on the governor's appointments to the state board of higher education.

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Senator Rex Ellis, of Pendleton, was in doubt as to the meaning of a word which bobbed up at a meeting of the ways and means committee and asked for the definition of "maternity hospital." In debate Senator Thomas Mahoney declared that Senator Ellis believed that to give a socialist a bank account makes him turn into a capitalist. Anyhow, Senator Ellis has changed his viewpoint from previous sessions, but whether the recent sale of his interests in promising cinematic claims in Idaho has anything to do with it is not known.

Though not on duty, Herman Brown, of Salem, regularly elected sergeant at arms of the house of representatives, was visiting friends there Friday. He was taken seriously ill shortly after the session opened and probably will not see further duty this year.

Ex-congressman, ex-governor, ex-senator and ex other political offices, Walter M. Pierce, private citizen of Eola, visited the legislature yesterday, occupying the desk of Representative Ver-

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