

More Four-Lane Highways Urged With Possibility of Compromise

Construction of more four-lane highways in Oregon was urged Thursday night by opponents of the "throughway" highways proposed in Senate Bill 121, at a public hearing before the joint roads and highways committee.

Office Building Bill Approved

The house state and federal affairs committee recommended passage Thursday of a bill to permit the state board of control to spend \$2,000,000 for the new state office building to be erected across the street from the front of the capitol.

The building originally was to have cost \$1,000,000, but higher labor and materials costs forced the estimate to be doubled.

Roy Mills, secretary of the board of control, said construction of the five-story structure would be started soon.

Mills said the highway commission would be allotted two floors, the public utilities commissioner one floor, the state police a half floor, and that the board of control might also have space. The rest of the space has not been allocated.

The money would be borrowed from the school fund, and would be repaid by rentals charged departments using the building. The maximum interest would be 3 1/2 per cent, and would be repaid in 30 years.

The committee also recommended passage of a senate bill to permit state employees to have group life insurance, and to permit deductions from their salaries to pay for it.

The committee tabled a bill to provide that prevailing wages be paid on all contracts let by the state, but the committee indicated it would consider it again in a few days.

Would Enlarge State Highway Board

Taking care of eastern Oregon objections, the house state and federal affairs committee today recommended passage of a bill to increase the size of the state highway commission from three to five members.

The bill was amended so that two commissioners would be from eastern Oregon, and three from western Oregon.

The bill originally provided for one member from each of the four congressional districts, and one from the state at large.

Since eastern Oregon is a single congressional district, members from that section protested it might have been possible for eastern Oregon to have only one of the five commissioners, and thus be forgotten in road construction.

Bangs Control Law To Be Made Sounder
The house food and livestock committee decided Thursday to introduce a bill to tighten and clarify the 1945 Bangs disease control law.

The bill would permit county courts to order testing programs for beef cattle or calf vaccination programs in beef herds. It also would prohibit keeping untested beef cattle on land adjoining a dairy herd pasture.

Use of liquefied petroleum gas for long-haul truck fuel is increasing.

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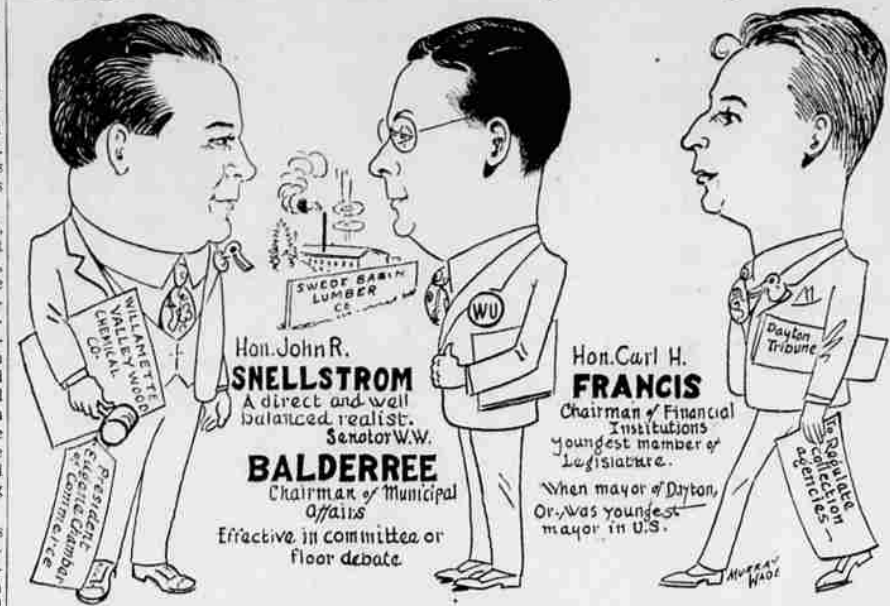
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Oregon's Lawmakers by Murray Wade



Controversial Labor Bills to Get Airing Tuesday Afternoon

Sponsors of two controversial labor measures—the closed shop bill and one requiring labor unions to incorporate—will be given an opportunity to explain their bills before the house labor and industries committee next Tuesday afternoon, according to Rep. Ralph Moore, chairman. Both measures are in the form of joint resolutions amending the state constitution and providing for reference to the voters if passed.

The so-called closed shop bill was introduced on January 29 by Representatives Morse, Kimbrell and Peterson.

Rep. Duniway introduced the resolution calling for changing the state constitution to require labor unions to incorporate and providing other regulations on the unions on February 7. Both bills were referred to the labor committee where they have remained without action.

Pressure Felt
Persistent reports that pressure is being applied upon legislators to prevent any controversial labor bills reaching the floor of either the house or senate have been heard but are denied by legislative leaders.

Informed persons in legislative circles declare that a group of members of the Portland Chamber of Commerce are doing all possible to prevent any open labor controversies during this session of the assembly.

Labor leaders have told sponsors of the two controversial bills that "this is no time to arouse enmity among members of the legislature over labor bills when all is peaceful on the labor front."

Marshall E. Cornett, president of the senate, said today that while he had not heard such reports, he saw no reason why controversial labor bills should not be debated by the senate in the same manner as bills dealing with other subjects.

"I certainly would do nothing to prevent such bills coming on the senate floor," he said. John H. Hall, speaker of the house, said he would do nothing to prevent such bills coming on the senate floor. Lyman Ross of Washington county; Harry H. O'Leary of Parkrose; Erick Enquist, mayor of Troutdale; and Louise Palmer Weber of Portland.

the controversial bills out for house debate. I will interpose no objections."

Three Other Bills
Three bills restricting labor unions were introduced in the senate last Tuesday by Senators Marsh and Balderree and referred to the labor and industries committee of which Senator Newbry is chairman and Senator Marsh is vice-chairman.

These three bills provide for holding elections by secret ballot for deciding any labor dispute; defining "hot cargo" and "secondary boycott" and declaring them unlawful and the third would repeal the "little LaGuardia act" and permit the use of injunctions by courts in labor disputes.

Chairman Moore said today that the hearing on the two labor bills next Tuesday would not be in the nature of a public hearing but was designed to give the sponsors an opportunity to discuss the measure before the committee. He also said that if the union labor representatives composing the labor lobby in the legislature desired to be heard they would be given an opportunity to do so.

"Whether a public hearing will be called at a later date is a matter that must be decided by members of the committee," said Chairman Moore.

Change Offered In School Bill

The bill to include first class school districts under the rural school district law, which was passed at the November general election, will be the second big job of the house education committee, which has finished its work on the basic school fund apportionment.

Rep. Giles L. French, Moore, author of the original rural school bill, also is sponsoring the amendment.

The education committee, which held a preliminary discussion of the complicated measure yesterday, will meet again on it early next week, and then hold a public hearing.

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roduce a bill for more rigid inspection of school buses.

Sponsors of the bill to make Oregon a community property state said their measure would save Oregonians \$15,000,000 a year in federal taxes, and \$950,000 in state taxes. To make up for the loss in state revenue, they recommended an increase in the state income tax rate.

A bill to make possible the merger of Salem and West Salem which are located in two different counties and divided by the Willamette river, was introduced in the house today by the Marion and Polk county legislators.

The senate defeated 18 to 12 a bill by Sen. Allan Carson, Salem, to limit the number of justice of the peace districts to six in any one county, and putting the J. P.s on fixed salaries. They now get paid by fees.

The senate assessment and taxation committee introduced a bill to have assessors appointed by county courts. They now are elected.

Lieuallen's Bill Didn't Need Passing

Rep. C. L. Lieuallen, Pendleton, is convinced that a bill in the legislature can accomplish its purpose before it is even passed.

He said he has requested the game commission to care for the bands of elk which raid cattle food each winter. Having no luck, he introduced a bill to make the game commission pay for the damages to the cattle food and resulting from the elk raids.

But today, Lieuallen got the house to send the bill back to committee, asserting it wasn't needed any more.

"I brought this bill out just to put a fire under the game commission," Lieuallen said. "Somebody stuck a fork in them this morning and found out they were done."

He said the commission is doing something about the elk.

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