

MEET THE BOARD OF CONTROL

Who Runs State Affairs? Three Men and Staff

By WILLIAM WARREN
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Whether it's pencils or penitentiary, safety pins or sanitarium, asphalt and oils or feed and seed, if it has to do with state institutions or departments, it's a safe bet the board of control is in there pitching.

Before coming to the capitol, you think hazily of the state board of control as a Oregon's three top men—governor, secretary of state and state treasurer—meeting for an hour or two once a week and making decisions of state. Actually, the board of control is a hard-working, always-on-the-go organization that handles all state purchases—except for the liquor commission—and watches after the upkeep and welfare of Oregon's 10 top institutions. Not to mention handling all bids for major building construction for Oregon.



William Warren

Secretary of the board and state purchasing agent is Roy H. Mills, usually smiling but always serious. He and his aides buy about a million dollars worth of supplies and provisions a month.

They go to the state hospitals here and at Pendleton, tuberculosis hospitals here and at the Dalles, state penitentiary, Fairview home, blind school, deaf school and Hillcrest home—all of Salem—and Woodburn boys school, and to various state departments from highway to police, from agriculture to utilities commission.

Roy Remington handles buying when it comes to building materials, construction materials, automotive equipment and supplies. And contracts involving labor on the job and those requiring performance bonds. Dairy equipment and supplies, feed and seed, farm equipment, fuel—they are among his purchasing chores.

Joe E. Wood handles alcohol and spirits—but not for the liquor commission which buys its own bourbon and brandy. He handles bedding and carpet, biological supplies and animals—a consignment of rats recently for the University of Oregon Medical school. Crockery and glassware, dental equipment, drygoods, drugs and notions. Tea, coffee, spices and foodstuffs and others.

Alva N. Wysong is the man who buys ammunition and musical instruments, brooms, brushes, grinding wheels, janitorial supplies and flags—and a host of other articles including glass—window, plate and looking.

Timothy J. Burke, new assistant purchasing agent, has taken over electric purchases. He buys the electric ranges, light globes, and watches after refrigeration and traffic signals. He also looks out for fire fighting equipment and supplies, oxygen and pumps.

To give you an idea of what goes on in the purchasing departments, in the six months from July 1 to December 31 in 1948, the state bought some \$320,000 worth of asphalt and road oils; \$302,000 worth of autos and trucks; \$112,000 worth of feed and seed; \$40,000 worth of clothing, boots and shoes; \$152,000 worth of drugs.

Not to mention \$227,000 for hardware and plumbing, \$152,000 for printing and paper and \$223,000 for meat.

Only about one per cent of the business handled by the board of control—by the pur-

chasing agent and his aides—gets up to the three top men who make up the board itself.

The rest is handled either by bids for larger or competitive items, or by rotation to firms through the state on items where prices are about the same for all brands or makes.

The property control division of the board, supervised by C. B. Mudd, keeps a master inventory of all personal property of the various institutions and department—equipment and everything but buildings or other real property. Each institution and department keeps its own list of inventory and sends a detailed revision to the property control division every three months.

The collection division of the board of control, supervised by Mrs. Beverly Armstrong, gets information about repatriation of state hospital patients to other states, and also helps get Oregon patients from other states back to their home state.

The division also sees to collection of money for care of patients at the state hospitals, tuberculosis hospitals and Fairview home. The law sets a maximum of \$25 a month for the state hospitals and Fairview, and \$65 a month for TB patients. Next of kin are required to pay up to that maximum according to their ability.

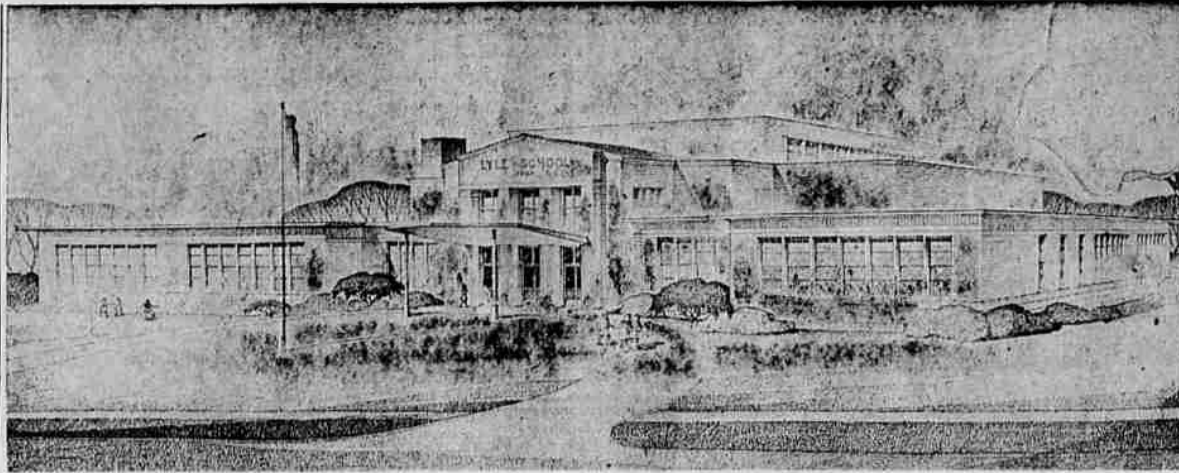
Just to show you that this is no small business, the board of control through this division collected \$750,000 for state and TB hospitals in the last biennium. Over 1,500 patients have part of their care paid for by relatives. The total number of inmates is over \$5,200.

Management of the institutions is under supervision of William C. Ryan. He co-ordinates the farm activities of the state prison and state hospitals and Fairview home. He works out details of the needs of the various institutions, and sees that they are supplied with what they need most, first, and what they need otherwise, as soon as he can.

The board of control also has supervision of the state telephone exchange board, which employs three operators now. The state phone bill is a whooper—around \$6,000 a month. That's a lot of line conversation, but it attends to a vast multitude of big business—state business.

Secretary of mills is Mabel Marquis, and the woman in charge of vouchers is Miss Ruth Reed.

As for the state purchasing agent himself, asked who does the purchasing for his household, he admitted he leaves it up to Mrs. Mills, mostly, though he does buy a "buck's" worth of groceries now and then, just to keep his eye in shape for the bargains in small quantities, too.



Dallas—Architect's drawing shows the proposed Lyle elementary school, Dallas, which will be under construction soon. The building will be eight rooms and include a gymnasium. To be erected at Ellendale avenue and Levens streets, the school will serve the north side of town. School buses will drive up to the doorway and children will unload under the protection of the canopy that is shown in the picture. Francis Jacobberger of Portland is architect.

Bail Cancelled On Communists

New York, July 8 (AP)—For the second time in two days, immigration agents have cancelled the bail of alleged alien communists and placed them under custody on Ellis Island.

The action, the New York Times said today, stems from a new "get tough" policy of the justice department, which doesn't want such persons to imitate Gerhart Eisler and jump bail.

George Pirinsky, 47, executive secretary of the American Slav congress, free in \$1000 bail, was arrested yesterday by immigration agents and taken to Ellis Island.

He had been free pending a review of a deportation order given by an appeals board in Washington.

FREAK TORNADO

Witness Reports Boat Tossed 100 Feet in Air

Spokane, Wash., July 8 (AP)—An almost unbelievable story of a 480-pound boat being tossed more than 100 feet in the air by a freak "tornado" at Loon lake near here was reported today.

C. E. Stephenson, Spokane, owner of the boat, said it happened Sunday. Here's his account:

"We noticed the air was so still and almost stifling. Just as I reached for the door to leave our cottage, the storm struck. The boat suddenly was lifted into the air as though by invisible hands.

Huge Air Liner Returns Safely

New York, July 8 (AP)—A Pan American Airways stratoscruiser returned here safely early today after engine trouble developed as the plane started on a flight to London.

It was the second such incident in two days. The stratoscruiser, with 57 passengers aboard including former Washington state Governor Mon C. Wallgren, landed at New York International airport about 30 minutes after the takeoff.

Capt. C. R. Titus, the pilot, said one engine of the four-motored craft "acted a little rough," and he decided to turn back. Before returning, 1200 gallons of the plane's heavy gasoline load for the trans-Atlantic trip was dumped into the Atlantic.

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Fish Commission Approval Required for Pelton Dam

The state hydroelectric commission has ordered the Northwest Power Supply company to get approval of the state fish commission before the company can get permission to build its \$12,000,000 power dam on the Deschutes river.

If the fish commission is satisfied that the company's plans to build a hatchery are sufficient to maintain fish life, then the hydroelectric commission would consider granting a preliminary permit to build the dam.

The hydroelectric commission order said that the dam, 150 feet high, would be too high for fish ladders, and that a hatchery would be the only solution.

The fish commission has opposed building the dam, asserting it would harm the Columbia river fisheries and plans to rehabilitate them. The hydroelectric commission said:

"The fish commission in its discretion is authorized to grant such a permit if the company builds a hatchery and hatchery residence constructed according to plans prepared by the fish commission, and conveys the land upon which the buildings are located to the state."

The hydroelectric commission also advised the company it would have to maintain a steady flow of water below the dam, assuring a fluctuation of the water flow would endanger human life and injure young fish.

Both commercial and sports fishermen opposed the dam. They failed in their attempt to get the recent legislature to block construction.

The assets of life insurance companies have expanded at an annual rate of nearly \$3,500,000.

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Alcoa Surveying for Huge Plant in British Columbia

Vancouver, B. C., July 8 (AP)—The Aluminum Company of Canada today was engaged in preliminary surveys to start the largest aluminum industry on the continent which would eventually create a new North American city of 50,000 persons.

Officials said the undertaking was so vast it would be some years before the company would know if it could put its plans into effect. The project would cost from \$350,000,000 to \$500,000,000 in five years.

The industry depended primarily upon cheap water power to operate a plant larger than the huge Saguenay river development of Arvida, Quebec.

It was estimated the province's Columbia river basin alone could develop more power than the whole of North America was now producing. Conservative estimates placed this potential at 30,000,000 horsepower.

There were several schemes afoot and each would have to be investigated in detail, officials said. One would develop 1,000,000 horsepower of electrical energy and bring it out to Kitimat, in the Tweedsmuir park area of northwest British Columbia.

Another would develop 900,000 horsepower to Kimsquit, at the head of Dean channel, which empties into the Pacific, 400 miles north of Vancouver, B.C.

Engineers said it might be possible to develop 1,500,000 horsepower with a townsite at either Kimsquit or Kitimat, at the head of Dean channel.

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