

Dr. Holy's Report Runs Into Storm of Rural Protest

The Dr. T. C. Holy bill to reorganize school districts ran into a storm of protests Monday from rural people, who said it would destroy the little red school house and make the school children go long distances to larger schools.

On the other hand, the bill drew strong support from the Oregon Education Association, Oregon League of Women Voters, State Federation of Labor, and the Oregon Congress of Parent and Teachers.

The main objection voiced by rural school board members was that districts could be consolidated by a majority of all the voters. The bill would eliminate the present provision under which individual districts can vote to stay out, regardless of whether a majority of all the voters in the proposed consolidated district vote.

Democratic Way Liked

Harold Cooper, Newberg, said "We don't want to give up our democratic way of life. Children in rural schools learn more by individual guidance than by mass education in cities."

Civil Service Proposal Loses

By RICHARD ANDERSON
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

A bill which would require state office department heads to reinstate discharged employees upon recommendation of the civil service commission was defeated in the Oregon house of representatives yesterday.

The house voted 43 to 15 to kill the bill by indefinite postponement. The vote was an acceptance of the minority report of the house state and federal affairs committee.

Committee member Paul Geddes of Roseburg opposed the bill on the grounds that "there has been no showing of any abuses under the present law."

Geddes said that under the present law, a discharged employee may appeal to the civil service commission, and the commission may recommend his reinstatement. It does not have the power to compel reinstatement.

"Under the present law the back door is left open," Geddes said. "This bill provides for a closed back door. Under the present law, employees know that unless they do a good job, they can be put out the back door."

Rep. John Logan of Portland favored compelling department heads to rehire employees wrongfully discharged because "now there is no protection for the employee at all. If you want civil service, adopt this bill; if you want to scrap it, vote against it."

Rep. Bill Ireland of Molalla favored "closing the back door" because "it would give employees freedom from administrative caprice and political change."

Rep. Joe Dyer of Astoria argued that the measure would tie the hands of department heads.

Voting in favor of mandatory enforcement of civil service commission findings were Reps. Anderson, Coulter, Farmer, Gleason, Harvey, Ireland, Johnson, Klemsen, Logan, Mann, Neuberger, Overhulse, Thornton and Steelhammer.

Liberal Racing Laws Demanded

Horse racing spokesmen told the house judiciary committee Monday that turf operators face going out of business unless Oregon racing laws are liberalized.

They asked passage of a bill which would increase the allowable take at pari-mutuel betting windows from 12 to 15 per cent, and which would reduce license fees from \$300 to \$25 per racing day.

Cecil Edwards, president of the Oregon Thoroughbred Breeders association, told the committee that Portland Meadows is "one-half million dollars in the red . . . and the banks have become the track's real landlord."

He advocated that the state, for its own tax benefit, help put horse racing on a more sound financial basis.

Reconsideration for Beer Bill Ordered

The Oregon house of representatives Monday decided by voice vote to reconsider a previously defeated measure which would have banned cutting the price of beer to less than 20 per cent above wholesale cost.

Upon motion of Rep. John Hounsell, (R., Hood River,) the bill was revived and referred to the house committee on alcoholic control for further consideration.

The testimony, given before the senate education committee, also included a statement by George Denn, Benton county rural school board member, that it isn't fair to force rural school districts to consolidate as long as they have standard schools.

"I'd rather be under three or four democracy boards than be under a dictator board," Denn said. "My taxes is plenty high, but they could go higher if they let us keep our present, inefficient democracy boards."

Complicated Says Holy

Dr. Holy, the Ohio State University education expert who proposed the bills to overhaul the state's school system, said Oregon has the "most complicated school district organization in the nation, with nine or 10 different kinds of school districts. The system is inefficient, wasteful and educationally damaging."

Mrs. Sarah Knox, Portland, of the League of Women Voters, said the small districts aren't able to give adequate courses in such subjects as mathematics, science, music and art.

"The people won't stand for this rank waste of the educational dollar," she said.

Mrs. Edith Green, Portland, the Parent-Teacher representative, said the bill would "get the most economy and efficiency out of the tax dollar."



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MEN'S—Main floor

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