Public Utilities Commissioner Coca-Cola Thinks He Has too Much Power Prices Upped

taxes, is a heavy responsibility, too. The legislature is thinking

of taking it away from him, and putting it into a new de-partment of motor vehicles.

At the last legislature, Heltzel was asked what he thought of losing this half of his de-

partment. He amazed the legis-lators by saying he doesn't

In any government, an offi-cial who doesn't mind losing some of his powers is a rare

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care.

Charles H. Heltzel, Ore- increase also quiz the com-

railroads. Oregon is the only state which has a single official regulating these utilities and freight haulers. California, for instance, has a five-man board, and Washington state has three men.

Heltzel, who bosses more than 200 employes and who has been on the job almost two years, makes his own laws, in some cases. As an exam-ple, he can say what safety equipment must be carried by

In conducting hearings on rates or other matters, he presides as judge, prosecutor and

That's a lot of responsibility for one man. and Heltzel doubts if it's democratic. He's one public official, a rare type, who thinks he's too pow-

He doesn't like the responsibility of making regulations governing the operation and safety of trucks. He says it's hard to get district attorneys and justices of the peace to prosecute and convict viola-tors of his regulations.

"Then why don't you ask the legislature to put the regulations into law," we asked.
"I tried that," Heltzel replied, "but the legislature would rather not have to tackle that job."

However, the 1955 legislature might put the regulations into law. The supreme court

into law. The supreme court, bawling out the legislature for letting the department of agriculture make laws on aerial spraying of farm crops, recently served notice that the legislature must make all the laws. Heltzel, a lawyer and former attorney for the corporation department, has the reputation of conducting his hearings fairly. Lawyers on all sides have told us that conducting those hearings is a hard job, especially when they come one after the other,

like they are now.
He sits on the bench with David Don, his chief engin-eer, at his side. Don says, jokingly, that Don runs the works, and Heltzel is the cap-

tain who pulls the whistle.

Heltzel had to preside over the hearing on the 20 per cent electric surcharge. Now he's in the midst of the tele-phone rate hearing. Next will come more surcharge hearing, and then the hearing on the California-Oregon Pow er comany's request for a rate increase.

When the hearings shut down for the day, Heltzel often works far into the night to do his other work. Sitting at a hearing is hard work. The testimony is dry, so there's a compelling desire to go to sleep. There usually are smart lawyers on both sides, so Heltzel has to stay alert to keep them in bounds.

are needed to assure a utility or freight carrier a fair profit, generally around 6 per cent.

Delving into a utility com-pany's financial affairs is a pany's linancial alians is a man-sized job. It's especially complicated when you have a company like the Pacific Tele-phone and Telegraph Co., of which more than 90 per cent is owned by the American Tele-phone and Telegraph Co.

In a hearing, the company which wants higher rates pre-sents its own witnesses, who say the company has to have higher rates because its profits are too low.

Then Heltzel's lawyer, John R. McCullough, takes over, cross-examining each of the witnesses. The opponents of the

Prices Upped

And now it's Coca-Cola.

The last of the old reliable reent articles, and one that the control of the control of

plants in Oregon to up the price, and maybe on the whole Pacific Coast

Charles H. Heltzel, Oregon's tall, affable 39-year-old public utilities commissioner, probably has more power than any other state official.

And he doesn't think too much of the idea, either.

He decides how much 180 private utilities can charge for their telephone, electric, gas and water service. He fixes freight rates within the state for 17,000 truckers and the railroads.

The last of the old reliable 5-cent articles, and one that for generations has been selling for a nickel a bottle, has gone up in price. It will be eight cents now in grocery stores and 10 in dispensing machines.

Some of the dispensing machines have already been changed to the new price, and others will be in the next few days.

St. Elmo Masengale, who then the coardinate in the coardinate in the court is often the conviction of many people", declared Judge Douglas Hay, others will be in the next few days.

St. Elmo Masengale, who then the coardinate in the co der than to stand trial in an in-ferior court' is often the con-

courts' because people think!

the 'cards are stacked against them' before they start. This view was especially prevalent in the days of the 'fee system' in which the judge received as his wages a percentage of the fines he assessed," Judge Hay stated. "In these cases it was often a temptation for some

pleading 'not guilty' prevail," mon citizen's views are con-Judge Hay said.

"About 8 per cent of Salem' that of a police officer's."

population faces trial in the courts each year, of which 97
per cent are tried by an inferior court. A total of about riding his motorcycle us \$115,000 in fines was assessed last year in Salem," the judge continued.

TOUGH FOR GEORGE
Devizes, England W.—
Dobson has been barred riding his motorcycle us \$9115,000 in fines was assessed last year in Salem," the judge of riding "without due continued.

often a temptation for some judges to convict almost everyone. About eight-tenths of one per cent of those who pleaded 'not guilt' were so found."

"Most manifeld in the municipal court is an independent branch of the government and as such is not subject to influence from the police department or any other source. There's not in the police department or any other source. "Most magistrates, including the Salem municipal judge, are now on a salary basis, and now about 35 per cent of those story, so therefore the comsidered with equal weight to

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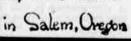
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You're invited to come in for a Free Coke and meet Sally's school board. Girls right off the campus who know what you like. Girls who can advise you what the popular crowd will be wearing this year. Left to right above: Bev Lamb, Jackie Jones, Bettylou Boehm, Judy Jackson.

