

Oregon to Give State Bidders 5 Pct. Margin

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

Oregon manufacturers and growers are going to get a bigger slice of the 16 million dollars worth of supplies that the State Finance Department buys each year for state departments and institutions.

Harry S. Dorman, state finance director, said Thursday he has begun to apply the 5 per cent differential permitted by the law in favor of products manufactured or grown in Oregon.

Secretary of State Earl T. New-

bry, a Republican candidate for governor against Dorman's boss, Gov. Paul L. Patterson, has made Dorman's purchasing policies a main issue of the campaign. Newbry claims Dorman isn't giving Oregon businessmen a break.

Newbry opposed creating the department in the first place. He said several weeks ago Dorman wouldn't be an issue in the campaign, but now Newbry is blasting him.

Newbry's deputy, Assistant Secretary of State William E. Healy, accused Dorman of ruining hundreds of businesses in Oregon because Dorman wouldn't favor Oregon suppliers.

Dorman, whose department buys 155,000 different kinds of items for the state, said he's now applying the five per cent differential because Oregon's neighboring states now are favoring their own firms.

All state purchases are bought by competitive bids. Applying the differential means that a firm bidding on a product made or grown in Oregon can bid up to five per cent more than an out-of-state firm, and the Oregon firm still would get the business.

Dorman took over the purchasing job Aug. 2, 1951, when the new department was created. Before that the Board of Control did the buying.

The Board of Control and Dorman always have hesitated about using the differential. They feared that if Oregon discriminated against products of other states, then those other states might discriminate against Oregon products. It has been used, however, to buy sugar at Nyssa, Ore., for several years.

Applying the differential might not mean too much to Oregon business houses. Dorman's department doesn't buy many commodities from other states when those commodities are made in Oregon. The Oregon firms generally submit the low bid, anyway.

It will mean that Oregon producers of such items as furniture, soap, feeds and food will get some more business.

The purchasing department has found that use of the differential reduces competition, and thus makes the state pay a higher price. Out-of-state firms are discouraged from bidding when they know that Oregon firms have a five per cent edge.

"The new policy," Dorman said, "might cost the taxpayers a considerable amount of money, but we have no choice when the other states are doing the same thing."

When Dorman took over the department 2 1/2 years ago, there were many headaches, as might be expected when a purchasing department is started from scratch. Dorman says most of those headaches are ironed out now, and that Newbry's criticism is based on things that happened when the department was struggling to get the system set up.

He still has some troubles, caused mostly by the inability of some departments to write proper specifications as to what they want to order.

As to Newbry's charge that his state department is getting inferior products from Dorman's division, Dorman points out that Newbry is buying through Dorman just because he wants to. The law doesn't require Newbry to buy through the state purchasing division, so he could buy direct from suppliers.

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Tax Lien Suits Filed at Albany

ALBANY — Foreclosure of tax liens on 42 parcels of property some of it highly improved, is asked in a suit filed Tuesday in circuit court here by District Attorney Courtney Johns.

The complaint avers that tax delinquencies against each parcel, ranging from a few dollars to \$500 were in arrears for three years or more before the 1949-50 tax year, and were still unpaid as of Aug. 15, 1953. At that time the number of parcels delinquent for more than three years prior to 1950 was much larger, but owners have since paid up, leaving 42 now subject to foreclosure.

Williams Reports Marine Reserves

Sgt. Edward E. Williams, member of Salem's Marine Corps Reserve unit, the Third 155 mm. Gun Battery, Wednesday reported for active duty with the Marine Corps as a volunteer.

Williams, a veteran of both World War II and the Korean conflict, is to report to the commanding general, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Santa Ana, Calif., for assignment.

The sergeant after World War II joined the old Salem Marine Corps Reserve unit here, "C" Battery, Fourth 105 mm. Howitzer battalion. With that battery he was called for active duty after the Korean war started, and later was one of the men going to Korea for service.

Volunteers to Fill County Draft Quota

Volunteers will again fill the draft quota for Marion County when men report for induction in March. Eleven men will leave that month and date for their departure from Salem is March 8. They will be inducted into the Armed Forces March 9 in Portland.

March's call for men to take their pre-induction physical examinations was for all men over 21, but this county has no men in that age group so only transfers from out of the county will be sent in for physicals. They report March 17.

A highway, 30 feet wide runs across the top of Grand Coulee dam.

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