

Labor Argues for Bills Repealing Picketing Ban

No Action By House Group

By DICK HUMPHREY
United Press Staff Correspondent

Labor bills providing for repeal of the state's "anti-picketing" or "right to work" bill and establishing a new state conciliation service were discussed at a hearing of the House Committee on Labor and Industry yesterday.

Action was taken on either of the bills which are sponsored by Rep. Don Willner, Portland Democrat, and others.

The proponent of the labor package was Don Richardson, an attorney for the Oregon Labor Council. He said the 1953 "anti-picketing" law forbids organizational picketing except when authorized by a majority of employees of an employer.

Richardson said the law had added to state labor strife and that it was expensive, unnecessary and restrictive.

Section Ruled Void
The Oregon Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional and void section 17 of the law which prohibited picketing by persons unless they were certified by the state labor examiner, the National Labor Relations Board or the employer.

Richardson said that section 16 of the law which provides that it shall be unlawful to compel a person to join a union also is restrictive.

He said his organization favored returning to the Norris-LaGuardia act which was in effect before the 1953 picketing legislation and which prohibits injunctions being issued in cases of peaceful picketing. He said court decisions under the Norris-LaGuardia act would allow injunctions in cases of unlawful or monopolistic picketing.

"The conciliation law would also be a forward step," Richardson said.

Blair Called "Incomplete"
Opponents of the bill repealing the anti-picketing law were led by Pat Blair of the Oregon Sand and Gravel Association. He argued that whether picketing was unconstitutional or not depended on whether it was designed just to publicize substandard conditions or to coerce employers or employees into joining a union.

Blair said he thought the proposed bill for a new conciliation service was "incomplete." He said provisions for a conciliation service should be written into the old law or a committee appointed by the labor commissioner to draft a new law.

Committee Chairman Robert Klemsens, St. Helens Democrat, said further hearings would be held on the subject.

Driver's Body Still Missing
MEDFORD — State police continued Friday to drag the Rogue River some 17 miles north of here for the body of Charles J. Hogue of Grants Pass, whose car was taken from the river Tuesday.

Ice along the edges of the swift stream, as well as numerous deep holes to be explored, slowed the work.

A number of volunteers aided police.

Hogue's car left the highway and plunged into the river Monday night.

B & K to Visit Finland
MOSCOW — Premier Bulganin and Communist Party boss Khrushchev are expected Friday to accept an invitation to visit Finland, probably this spring.

The invitation will permit Bulganin and Khrushchev to resume their traveling salesmanship abroad, cut short by the worldwide storm of anti-Soviet feeling following armed intervention in Hungary.

MEET THE LEGISLATORS



Serving as a holdover senator after being a member in the house for six sessions, Senator Carl H. Francis (R., Yamhill) is rated as one of the experienced legislators in the upper house.

He failed to dislodge Attorney General Robert V. Thornton in the 1956 general election. The Senator was one of the few Republican candidates to be given endorsement by organized labor.

Sen. Francis was born in Portland, March 20, 1915 and spent his youth on a farm near Grand Island. He attended Gervais high school and Willamette university, taking his law course at Northwestern college of law.

He is married and has two daughters. Sen. Francis volunteered in the U.S. marines in 1943 and has served on judicial committees in both the house and senate. He has been chairman of the committee on interstate cooperation and devoted a great deal of time to the work of this project.

Sen. Francis is a member of the American Legion, Elks, Oddfellows, Grange, Presbyterian church and the various bar associations.

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\$200,000 for Bridge Asked In Washington

Preliminary Planning Sought for Future Astoria Span

OLYMPIA — The Washington Legislature will be asked to appropriate some \$200,000 for preliminary design work on the proposed Astoria-Mezler bridge across the mouth of the Columbia River, Rep. Julia Butler Hansen, Cathlamet Democrat, said Thursday.

Mrs. Hansen, chairman of the joint Senate-House Highways Committee, told a meeting of Washington and Oregon legislators and highway officials a permit would have to be obtained from the Army Engineers before the two states could proceed with the final design, location and financing.

The conferees agreed the first step would be preparation of a preliminary design of the span to be submitted to the engineers. A similar bill is before the Oregon Legislature which would appropriate \$200,000 for preliminary design work.

A recent report from an eastern bond expert said the bridge apparently cannot be financed by tolls at this time because of the high cost of construction. But he recommended that planning be continued so that the states would be prepared should the bridge become financially feasible at some future time.

Oregon legislators who attended the hearing were Sen. D. E. Tibel, Warren Gill and Harry Boivin, and Reps. W. H. Holmstrom and Robert Elfstrom.

Also present were M. M. McIver and C. H. Reynolds, Oregon highway commissioners, and W. C. Williams, Oregon highway engineer.

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Lobbyists Relax Between Sessions



The least-publicized but very important "third house" of government, lobbyists, is very much in evidence during this session of the Oregon legislature. So far 98 have registered, more than the total number of senators and representatives. This group taking it easy between sessions include (left to right) Jack Schmidt, Foster & Kleiser; John Misco, Oregon State Medical society; Dr. William Galager, Oregon Chiropractors association; J. O. Johnson, ex-member of the legislature who just dropped in for a visit; Henry A. Speckman, Oregon Pharmaceutical association.

The division between urban and rural school operations was well marked Friday after a legislative committee began consideration of a series of educational proposals, some of them recommended by the Governor.

The House Education Committee heard strong support and some objections to a plan to reorganize school districts. Mainly, opposition was rooted in the desire of rural school areas to retain autonomy.

The proposal is designed to require all counties to re-examine their school groupings with a view toward more efficient operation.

It calls for a convention of all school board members in a county to elect a committee to blueprint reorganization within a year. If approved by the state Board of Education, voters in the proposed new district then would make their decision.

State Grange Master Elmer McClure said his organization doesn't like the bill "in principle" because it has compulsory language. He said it failed to guarantee that small districts wouldn't be "gobbled up" by a bigger and more financially secure district.

Opposition also came from several county school unit officials. They asked that county units be exempted, contending they now have all the advantages the proposal may provide.

Max Manchester, executive secretary of the Public Employees Retirement Board, said his office is "deeply concerned" by the number of "faulty retirement and social security filings" from local school clerks. He said some clerks are weeks behind, and "inaccuracies" are common.

He predicted the reorganization plan would step up efficiency and lessen expenses.

Several school officials said the plan ought to have more "teeth" in it to force the weak and inefficient districts to go into a larger area.

The committee also heard testimony that three-fourths of the approximately 750 school districts in the state do not have educational facilities above the elementary level.

Gardner Knapp, former president of the Oregon School Boards Assn., said few districts that were brought into a larger framework ever "regretted" the move.

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