

Special Education for Gifted Children Asked By House School Unit

'Do Pass' Stamp Is Put on Astoria Bridge Bill

By DICK HUMPHREY
United Press Staff Correspondent

A bill appropriating \$50,000 to the superintendent of public instruction to set up a program for educating specially gifted children was before the joint ways and means committee today.

A recommendation of "do pass" was given the bill by the House Education Committee yesterday. The group also discussed a controversial bill which would enable the superintendent to refuse to issue or to revoke teaching certificates of any person convicted of a felony or a sex crime.

No action was taken on the sex-crime bill.

Also going to ways and means with the "do pass" recommendation of the House Ways and Means Committee was the bill appropriating \$50,000 in highway funds for design of a new bridge across the Columbia river at Astoria.

The \$34 million bridge would be constructed jointly by Oregon and Washington. Witnesses previously testified before the highway committee that the bridge was a necessity for the economy of northwestern Oregon and would benefit the whole state.

At the education meet, Cecil Peery of the Oregon Education Association said the education of gifted children was "the most promising and most challenging area in education today."

Only opposition to the bill was voiced by Rep. Keith Skelton, Eugene Democrat, who favored the idea but doubted the wisdom of starting a program while the state was in the midst of a "recession."

Sex Bill Draws Fire

The bill asking mandatory revoking of teachers' certificates in cases of felonies or sex crimes drew some committee fire because felonies included involuntary manslaughter and other crimes involving negligence.

Jim Turnbull of the state department of education said the bill was aimed mainly at preventing sex criminals from teaching. He said there were only "three or four" such cases in Oregon involving teachers last year, none of them involving children.

Other Highlights

Key District: A proposal to change distribution of basic school funds drew an overflow crowd to a public hearing last night. Portland educators spoke out against the plan while spokesmen from upstate western Oregon spoke in favor of it.

Ad Valorem: Republican Sens. Philip B. Lowry, Medford, and Budie Wilborn Jr., Portland, had ready for Senate introduction a bill setting an ad valorem tax ratio on utilities 30 per cent higher than on other classes of property. They said the practice is being followed in many other states.

Deductions: Farm corporations would be allowed up to 25 per cent deduction on corporation excise taxes for soil or water conservation expenses under a bill passing the House.

Ageing: A Senate bill would create a council on ageing and a citizens advisory committee on ageing, to study the problems of elderly persons and report back to the Governor every other year, on the eve of the legislative session.

Labor: Labor and employer representatives clashed at a hearing on changes labor would like made in the workmen's compensation law. Labor representatives sought to eliminate accident caused by violent and external means as a definition of injury. Opponents called it an "on-the-job health bill."

700 PACK HEARING

Schoolmen Back Key District Plan

Oregon schoolmen fighting for more funds for their hard-pressed districts took their battle to the state Senate last night when they testified at a hearing on the controversial "key district" plan of school support.

An estimated 700 persons overflowed a Senate hearing room to hear upstate school directors and superintendents defend the bill that would equalize school tax millages throughout the state but force large districts like Portland to foot the school bill for many smaller less solvent districts.

Portland, Klamath Falls and five or six other districts opposed the measure. Leader of the proponents was Leonard Mayfield, superintendent of Medford schools. He said it would correct the inequities in the support fund distribution law that went into effect in 1947.

"We have a key district now, but it is the poor district, not the wealthy one," he said.

His view was supported by James King, Lebanon superintendent.

Portland was joined by A. L. Gralaup of Klamath Falls who said his district had found a good part of the solution to its financing problems through better organization. He suggested that many other districts might do the same thing.

Lake County Joins Portland

Anne Sprague, Lake county school superintendent who also spoke for Harney county, said that under the bill seven rural school districts in eastern Oregon would "put into the pot 50 per cent and receive back 19 per cent" of school support money.

Herbert Schwab, chairman of the Portland school board, and Dr. Howard Cherry, Portland school director, made the same argument. They said the "key district" plan would force Portland taxpayers to pay the state \$18 million for school support while getting back only \$7 million for its own schools.

They challenged the principle of the plan and asserted that it would cripple the school system in which a large part of the state's children are being educated.

Supporters of the bill included Carl Gehlert of Coos Bay, Glen Smith of the Jackson county rural school board, Charles Schmidt of Salem schools, and Clarence Hyde, superintendent of Eugene schools. They contended that wealthier school districts should compensate poorer districts unable to reach proper school standards.

Farmers Seek Right to Road Shift Damages

A plea for amendment of the highway code to permit owners of property outside incorporated cities to file for damages against the state, when damage is caused by change of grades, was made Thursday at a meeting of the Oregon highway committee.

Under the present law, owners of property adjacent to city streets are allowed to seek damages caused by grade changes.

All people in the state should have the same rights, George Dewey, executive secretary of the Oregon Farm Bureau, said in support of the bill.

If it is right for property owners, living within the limits of an incorporated city, to recover damages from grade changes, then that same right should be given to owners of rural property.

Robert L. May, Jr., member of the highway department's legal staff, opposed passage of the amendment, stating that the present law applies to city streets and not to highways located within cities.

"Perhaps, if you approve this bill, the property owners adjacent to the highway should be assessed for part of the cost of the highway," May said.

Representatives of Oregon Rural Mail Carriers Association appeared before the committee to urge passage of a law permitting rural mail carriers to use flashing amber lights on each end of a sign at the rear of their vehicles.

Action on the bill was deferred by the committee to allow a number of amendments to be made.

Keizer to Welcome New Branch Bank

KEIZER (Special)—Members of the Lions club and the fire department will conduct welcome ceremonies Saturday at the site of the new Keizer branch of the First National Bank of Portland.

The two groups of men will erect a sign designating the corner of North River road and Judes street as the site where the bank will be built. Construction is scheduled to start in March.

MEET THE LEGISLATORS

REP. ROBERT BENNETT
Rep. Robert A. Bennett, (R), Portland, was returned to the 1957 legislature after having served in three previous sessions, 1943, 1945 and 1947.

Rep. Bennett has long practiced in Portland, and has been active in civic and fraternal organizations. He was born in Ohio county, Ky., February 12, 1889 and spent his boyhood days in that state.

His first work in Oregon was as a locomotive engineer for Union Pacific in 1909. He then moved to Christian, Ill., where he engaged in ice and coal business, returning to Oregon where he finished his law training at Northwestern College of Law. He was admitted to the bar in 1929.

Rep. Bennett served a term as chancellor of the Oregon Knights of Pythias. He is a Mason, Shriner and a member of the Methodist church.

In the 1945 and 1947 sessions in the house, Rep. Bennett was chairman of the important revision of laws committee.

Umpqua Lakes Fishing Plan Hearing Set

The Senate Game and Fisheries Committee Thursday set next Monday afternoon for consideration of bills to permit boat angling on lakes formed by dams on the North Umpqua River, and creation of an advisory committee on hunting seasons in Klamath and Lake counties.

The committee also will take up a bill to open Davis Lake in Deschutes and Klamath counties to fly fishing.

The committee heard state game officials estimate \$400,000 will be spent to clear out all trash fish in the Ten-Mile Lakes system. Game Director Eric Schneider said some savings might be effected if experiments prove more economical and produce a poison deadlier than rotenone.

The commission spent \$140,000 last summer clearing trash fish from Devils Lake in Lincoln County. Schneider said the project was highly successful, although some carp eggs escaped treatment because the water cleared too rapidly.

He said the growth of trout planted after the treatment has been above expectations.

HEARING SET

The Senate State and Federal Affairs committee will hold a hearing at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday on a House-passed memorial asking Congress to provide funds to build a high dam at Hells Canyon.

Cahills United After Prison Release



It was a happy reunion outside the Oregon State Prison Thursday afternoon as Otto W. Cahill was greeted by his wife Goldie after being freed from a one-year sentence by a commutation from Gov. Holmes. Cahill had served three months of a one-year term for converting Lincoln county water district funds to his own use. (Capital Journal Photo)

Holmes Frees Cahill

Otto W. Cahill, 50, the Lincoln county justice of the peace who sparked the Lincoln county vice investigations of 1952 and 1953, was released from the Oregon State penitentiary Thursday on order of Gov. Holmes.

Cahill had served three months of a year's sentence for taking \$750 of funds of the Taft-Neslett-Delake Water District, of which he was a commissioner and secretary.

He made the original charges that led to the Lincoln County grand jury investigation of gambling and prostitution.

The grand jury, however, returned only one indictment. It was against Cahill himself for using the water district funds.

He fought to the United States Supreme Court in an effort to escape a prison sentence. That court ruled against him shortly before he re-entered the penitentiary last Nov. 20.

Gov. Holmes, commuting the sentence to the time already served, said two doctors advised him that Cahill's severe heart condition makes it possible that further confinement could kill him.

If the Governor had not released Cahill, he would have gone out on parole next March 7.

Cahill actually began his sentence last June 16, but was released 13 days later on his appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Tax Chief Warns of 'So-Called Experts'

By LEWIS GULICK
WASHINGTON (Special)—Revenue Commissioner Russell C. Harrington says taxpayers should beware of the "so-called tax expert" who claims he can save money on taxes in making out other people's tax returns.

"Any person who advertises himself as a tax expert who can save money for people on taxes is not legitimate," Harrington told a House Appropriations Subcommittee in Jan. 29 closed-door testimony made public today.

"He is violating all of the canons or ethics of the profession. He is violating the regulations of the Treasury Department on representations. We have had a lot of trouble with those fellows."

Harrington made clear he was not referring to "the reputable tax consultants in the country," the legal and accounting professions and persons like bank clerks and school teachers who help others make out income tax returns as a favor or for a small fee.

"That is perfectly legitimate and should not be confused with these shysters who do all of this advertising and all this crooked stuff," Harrington said.

One such "refund artist," Harrington said, claimed false deductions for his clients amounting to more than \$400,000. He said the man was put in jail and \$175,000 collected from the clients, the "innocent parties."

"That is one of the saddest things that happens to me in my present job," the Revenue chief said.

Firm Serves Portland Bus Halt Warning

PORTLAND (Special)—This city's mass transportation company may quit March 19.

So warned the Rose City Transit Co. Thursday, saying it would take a fare increase to keep the company in business.

The City Council, angry because transit company officials refused to answer questions about profits and future plans, rejected the demand for an increase.

Transit officials walked out after saying they would serve notice on Feb. 19 when the buses are to stop running. The city is entitled to 30 days' notice.

"The Rose City Transit Company has not acted in good faith. There can be rough days ahead. It is entirely possible we'll be without mass transportation until something can be worked out," said Mayor Terry Schrunk.

The company had asked for a straight fare of 20 cents for adults, eliminating tokens, which sell at three for 50 cents, and the weekly pass, which sells for \$2.75.

Israel Replies Favorably to Dulles Offer

WASHINGTON (Special)—Israel has sent what embassy officials call a "generally favorable" response to Secretary of State Dulles' offer aimed at getting Israeli troops out of Egypt, but has asked further clarification.

Instructions from the home government reached the Israeli Embassy here overnight. Ambassador Abba Eban set up an appointment to see Dulles Friday afternoon.

Meantime it was learned that the Israelis specifically seek further clarification of the U. S. position on opening the Gulf of Aqaba permanently to Israeli shipping.

There seems to be no doubt that on this point, and perhaps on others relating to the Gaza Strip, the Israeli government wants more definite assurance of U. S. backing once Israeli troops are out of the area.

Salem 1st Citizen To Be Announced

Salem's First Citizen of 1956 will be announced this evening at the seventh annual First Citizen banquet which will begin at 6:45 at the Marion hotel.

Even the person to be selected will not know he has been chosen until E. Burr Miller, winner of the award last year, announces the selection.

Study of Old Age Problems Sought

A 16-member council to study economic and social problems of the aged would be created by a bill introduced Thursday by Sen. Budie Wilborn (R), Portland.

Members would include the state health officer, state public welfare administrator, unemployment compensation administrator, state superintendent of public instruction, state director of vocational rehabilitation, and 11 others appointed by the Governor.

Cellar Yields Ancient Fossil

MILTON, Pa. (Special)—It took nine years and a television program to arouse John Reich's curiosity about that piece of clay he uncovered while digging his cellar.

But now he knows. It's a fossil containing sea shell imprints and its about 320 million years old.

The American Museum of Natural History in New York City estimated the fossil's age in a letter to Reich, saying, "It was removed from its parent outcrop by glacial action approximately one million years ago."

Reich said he sent the fossil to the museum after seeing one of its films on television.

Negro Leaders Talk Of March on Capital

By STANLEY MEISLER
NEW ORLEANS (Special)—Negro leaders say they envision thousands of praying people marching to Washington unless President Eisenhower speaks out to the South on segregation violence.

The warning came to the President yesterday in telegrams sent by the Southern Negro Leaders Conference, headed by the Rev. Martin Luther King of Montgomery, Ala.

"This will not be a political march. It will be rooted in deep spiritual faith," he told a news conference after his group ended a two-day closed meeting.

King, leader of the Montgomery bus boycott, said he did not know exactly what form the pilgrimage would take. But he said he was sure thousands of whites would join thousands of Negroes in what the telegram called a "pilgrimage of prayer."

"If you, our President, cannot come South to relieve our harassed people, we shall have to lead our people to you in the capital in order to call the nation's attention to the violence and organized terror directed toward men, women and children," the telegram said.

King said the conference, comprising 97 men from 10 Southern states, would be satisfied if Eisenhower spoke in the North but pointed his remarks to the South.

"But we would prefer him to speak in a troubled Southern city, one that has been the scene of violence," he said.

The telegram also asked the President to call a White House conference on law and order.

Nothing that Eisenhower had turned down an earlier conference request to speak in the South, the telegram asked him to reconsider.

AIW Union Revokes Charters of 4 Locals

NEW YORK (Special)—The Allied Industrial Workers, then known as the United Automobile Workers of the old AFL, has announced revocation of the charters of its four locals in the New York metropolitan area.

The decision to dissolve the four locals here, made known Thursday, was one of a series of moves made by the union's international executive board to convince the AFL-CIO that it has cleaned house. The 73,000-member union has headquarters in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Labor racketeer Johnny Dio formerly was regional director of the

Allied Industrial Workers, then known as the United Automobile Workers of the old AFL.

Dio, who is awaiting trial on a charge of conspiracy in the acid binding of labor columnist Victor Riesel, got his first foothold in New York labor through the union.

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Solons Press Texas to Step Up Oil Output

WASHINGTON (Special)—Why haven't Texas oil officials authorized a big increase in oil production to help meet Europe's emergency needs since the blocking of the Suez Canal?

That's the question the House Commerce Committee set out to answer today. Ernest E. Thompson, head of Texas' oil output regulating agency, was called to testify.

Committee Chairman Harris (D-Ark.) said: "We've found out the Interior Department never did ask Texas to up its oil allowable."

Yesterday, Felix E. Wormser, assistant interior secretary, told the committee Europe needed 250,000 more barrels of oil a day than it was getting, but the government didn't want to "put pressure" on state oil agencies.

"I would welcome the closest cooperation with the regulatory commissions," he said.

A Joint Senate Antimonopoly Public Land's subcommittee is also investigating the program, along with recent oil and gasoline price increases.

Secretary of the Interior Seaton told the Senate group fresh reports from Europe show that about 80 per cent of all normal demands there for fuel oil, gasoline and other petroleum products was supplied in December and January.

He said that, barring unusually cold weather or other new difficulties, Europe could count on about this level of supply for the first three months of this year.

In response to repeated statements by senators that his department should have tried to persuade the oil companies to hold the price line, Seaton insisted he had no authority to do so. He also declared himself opposed to any price-wage controls in peacetime.

EL SINORE

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