

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

In the last decade, there has been a wholesome revival of interest by the individual in what his governments—local, state and national—do. That interest should be encouraged and stimulated, for the American people are intelligent enough to sift out the unsound and the silly when they know all the facts.

It is, therefore, an obligation of the thoughtful and patriotic to assist in bringing about this public understanding, and to make clear the worth of our form of government, balanced between the executive, legislative and judicial.

Under our plan of government, unlike that of most others, the citizen is still the sovereign. He has established a limited Federal government and given to it such powers as he thought it ought to have. All others he has reserved to the states or to himself.

Some of his rights, the citizen has denied to invasion by anyone. These are in the so-called "no man's land." That is not an accident, nor a product of the courts. It is a deliberate reservation, created by the people themselves. It could be more correctly described as "every man's land" or "no ruler's land."

In coming months and years, there doubtless will be many proposals to take those rights away from the citizens. If, after understanding all the facts, he agrees to yield them, his will must be supreme, for the United States is still basically a democracy.

In the meanwhile, though, he should be on guard against movements which would deprive him of those rights through subterfuge. And above all, he should fulfill his obligation not only to know what it is all about himself, but to do what he can to create a better public understanding.

If those things happen, confidence in the American system cannot wane.

SIT-DOWN STRIKE CALLED EXTORTION

The "sit-down" strike was described by David Lawrence, newspaper columnist, as "extortion" which is capable of being carried to fantastic lengths.

It means, according to Lawrence, that "a man who comes in to fix the electric light or the plumbing or to lay the carpet can demand an increase in his pay or refuse to let the occupants of the house use the property in question."

"A group of employees of a store can seize the cash register or the keys to the store rooms and keep the proprietor from getting access to one or both."

Another observer described the technique as similar to kidnaping a person and holding him for ransom, except that the "sit-downers" kidnap a plant or property.

Whether you enjoyed the latest Mac West picture shown in Coquille, "Go West Young Man," or not, you'll have to admit she is honest. The lady of curves reported to the federal income tax department that her annual income was \$480,833, being next to the half million acknowledged by William Randolph Hearst, lord of an empire of newspapers who stood at the head of those filing returns in the United States for their "salaries, commissions and bonuses," which does not include investment income.



Statistically inclined employees around the legislature have it figured out that the present session is 50 per cent the record of that of 1935. With the session well into its third week fewer than 200 bills have found their way into the house and senate hoppers. Of these only 22 had passed the house of origin up to Tuesday night. Only two measures have made the circuit of the two houses and received Governor Martin's official "Okeh." One of these appropriated \$25,000 for legislative expense. The other made it possible for legislators and employees who find themselves

short of ready cash to draw against their per diem earnings.

The slowness with which the session has gotten under way may be a good omen. On the other hand it may be anything else but. Some observers ascribe the paucity of bills to the fact that groups with pet measures to introduce, pack confidence in their representatives and senators and hesitate to entrust the bills into their keeping. If this mistrust continues the scarcity of bills will also continue and the customary eleventh hour congestion avoided. This, however, is too much to expect. The air is filled with rumors of measures in the making, many of which will doubtless begin making their appearance within the next week.

One of the most controversial bills of the session was put out of the way through indefinite postponement Tuesday afternoon when the senate killed the Lessard bill which would have repealed the milk control act. This, however, does not mean that the attack on the milk law is at an end for this session. Defeated in their attempt at repealing the attack opponents of the control measure are now expected to amend the law in several particulars.

A number of controversial measures are being nursed by the committees. These include the Carney bill to repeal the criminal syndicalism act, the Stringer bill to stop the extension of branch banking in Oregon, the Olen bill to reduce the age of old age pension beneficiaries to 65 years, a couple of measures designed to curb strikes and lockouts, a proposal to pension policemen and firemen through a tax on liquors, and occupations, and several others.

Already some of the members are talking about an early adjournment. Sub-committees of the ways and means committee are putting in every spare minute at the task of analyzing budget requests and Senator Walker senior chairman of the committee, has urged his colleagues to begin bringing in their reports so that the appropriation bills can be whipped into shape and sent into the house so that this phase of the legislative program, at least, can be gotten out of the way before the expiration of the 40 days for which the lawmakers are permitted to draw their \$3 per diem.

It's off again, on again for the state budget.

When Governor Martin presented the document to the legislature on its opening day it was supposed to be balanced with a \$500,000 surplus to spare.

Then last week discovery of a "million dollar error" in the estimated revenues threw it "off balance" with a \$500,000 deficit staring the ways and means committee in the face.

Now it is balanced again with a surplus of more than \$340,000 available for miscellaneous appropriations.

The latest transformation was due to the discovery of some \$800,000 in hidden wealth by experts of the state department and the state tax commission. Of this newly discovered wealth \$300,000 represents an increase in the estimate of unexpended balances in the appropriations of state departments and institutions; \$310,000 represents unappropriated cash surplus which the budget director had not included in his estimate of revenues, and \$212,000 represents an adjustment of income tax revenues which only an accountant can explain and about the use of which for appropriation purposes even these experts disagree.

Governor Martin in commenting on the discovery of the hidden wealth declared that the "budget mountain has subsided to the mole hill it always was," and referred sarcastically to the "violent uproar from non-official sources" which followed discovery of the "million dollar mistake" which, by the way has been reduced to an error of only \$766,947 if the figures of the tax department and state department experts stand up.

To divert 35 per cent of the gasoline tax revenues to the counties as advocated by the State Grange would stop all construction on secondary highways and mean a loss of federal funds ranging from \$750,000 to \$1,100,000 a year, according to R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. As a compromise to the Grange proposal Baldock endorses the suggestion made by the state association of county judges that the county's share of gasoline taxes be increased by \$400,000 to \$2,000,000 and distributed on the present basis.

Baldock estimates that gasoline tax receipts for this year will total \$9,170,000. Thirty-five per cent of this amount would amount to \$3,214,500 or more than double the present diversion of \$1,600,000. In a tabulation prepared at the request of E. R. Fatland, of Condon, state representative from the 39th district, Baldock calls attention to the inequalities that would result through a distribution of this fund on the basis of county road mileage as proposed by the Grange. Multnomah county, for instance, which will receive \$603,562.88 under the present basis would receive only \$61,675.22 under the Grange proposal. Malheur county's share, on the other

hand, would be increased from \$16,910.62 on the present basis to \$271,892.15 and Crook county's allocation would be increased from \$4,809 to \$79,808.

Coos county which receives \$43,432.92 a year under the present allocation would receive \$54,508.74 under the Grange proposal and Curry's share of the gasoline tax revenues would be increased from \$5,408.54 to \$9,446.72.

Notes From the Legislature

Outstanding development of the legislative week was the discovery of a \$1,000,000 bookkeeping error in the state budget. The error resulted through allocation of the entire revenue from income taxes—estimated at \$8,500,000 for the biennium—to the general fund where it would be available for appropriation purposes whereas approximately \$1,000,000 of the anticipated revenue must go toward the reduction of special levies outside the constitutional six per cent limit. The error which was apparently due to a lack of understanding of the operation of the "offset" provision of the income tax laws means that the legislature has just that much less at its disposal than had been represented—that instead of a surplus of \$500,000 the governor's budget as presented to the lawmakers actually shows a general fund deficit of approximately the same amount if accepted at its face value. It means that the legislature must either pare \$500,000 off the approved budgets, many of them already pared to the bone, and approve no new activities, find some new revenues as yet unthought of, or restore the bookkeeping deficit from which the general fund has only just been rescued.

In spite of four defeats in the past 25 years advocates of the office of lieutenant-governor are again preparing to present the issue to the voters of Oregon again at the next election. Fifteen members of the house have affixed their name to a resolution calling for an election on the proposed constitutional amendment.

The public hearing on the milk control bill Friday night found the dairymen lined up in support of the control idea with the consumers supporting Senator Lessard's proposal to repeal the law and wipe out the milk control board. While many of the dairymen favor minor amendments to the act it was very evident that none of them wanted to discard the control idea which has stabilized the dairy industry since its enactment in 1933.

The first real coup of the session was staged in the house this week when the Harrison-Miller bill which would have barred liquor ads. from newspapers and magazines circulating in Oregon was killed through indefinite postponement. Action on the bill came as a surprise move after its friends had secured consent to postpone action on divided committee reports for one week. Organizing for action during the noon recess opponents of the measure took the reports from the table at the opening of the afternoon session and adopted the majority report of the committee on alcoholic traffic that the bill "do not pass."

Oregon Air Mail Minded

The greatest air mail in its history, as recorded by Oregon in 1936 when its citizens sent 229,329 pounds of correspondence over the airways, it was reported today in official figures, released by Postmaster M. O. Hawkins.

The record-breaking total represented a gain of 13,323 pounds, or more than six per cent, over Oregon's 1935 air mail volume. Of the total, 197,470 pounds were dispatched from Portland, 10,532 pounds from Pendleton and 21,327 pounds from Medford.

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CHEVROLET WORKERS MASS TO PROTEST AGAINST ENFORCED IDLENESS CAUSED BY STRIKERS

More than 9,000 men, virtually the entire personnel of the Chevrolet Gear and Axle Division of General Motors Corporation, staged a demonstration last week against the strikes which have shut down General Motors plants and thrown out of work nearly 135,000 workers. The demonstration shown above occurred at the main plant of the Division's four units in Detroit. The employees assembled after this demonstration to receive their pay checks, their last pay until the resumption of operations. The employees' committee voted to publicize their opposition to the strikes through personal telegrams to Governor Frank Murphy of Michigan and to President Roosevelt. The mass demonstration of protest was held under banners carrying these legends: "We don't want a strike," "We want our jobs back," "We object to minority rule," and "No labor dictators for us." In order to alleviate distress, the Corporation proposes to resume operations on a reduced basis in plants not shut down as a result of these strikes.

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