

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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Publishers
H. A. YOUNG, Editor

Subscription Rates
One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.00
Three Months60
No subscription taken unless paid for in advance. This rule is imperative.

Advertising Rates
Display advertising 30 cents per inch. No advertisement inserted for less than 50 cents. Reading notices 10 cents per line. No reading notice, or advertisement of any kind, inserted for less than 25 cents.

Entered at the Coquille Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.

Office Corner W. First and Willard St.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON SUPREME COURT PROPOSAL

For 150 years under a written Constitution the American people have worshipped at the altar of sportsmanship. They have accepted the doctrine that it is fundamentally unethical to refuse to respect an adverse decision. Traditionally the spirit of America has been that if you do not like the rules of the game, change the rules—but don't soak the umpire.

"The Judicial Department of the government is the umpire. The Supreme Court for generations has been the umpire in deciding what are and what are not the rules of the game and legislative branches of the government within the meaning of the supreme law of the land—the Constitution."—David Lawrence.

"No people ever recognize their dictator in advance. He never stands for election on the platform of dictatorship. He always represents himself as the instrument for expressing the Incorporated National Will. When Americans think of dictators they always think of some foreign model. If any one turned up here in fur hat, boots and a grim look he would be recognized and shunned. Likewise any one resembling six Roman Emperors, or some one you must greet with a stiff arm and a Hell. But when our dictator turns up you can depend on it that he will be one of the boys, and he will stand for everything traditionally American. Since the great American tradition is freedom and democracy you can bet that our dictator, God help us! will be a great democrat, through whose leadership alone democracy can be realized."—Dorothy Thompson, in New York Herald-Tribune.



Oregon will shift its old age pension set-up to include needy persons 65 years of age and over effective January 1, next, if Governor Martin signs the bill which has passed both the house and senate as he is expected to do.

During the remainder of the current year, however, pension payments will be limited to needy persons of 70 years and over under the terms of the bill which is now in the hands of the governor.

Reduction of the age requirement for old age assistance, it is estimated, will cost the state an additional \$680,400 during this biennium. The several counties will also be required to budget this additional amount next year to meet their share of the pension cost.

In passing this pension program, which represents the original ways and means committee proposal, with only one minor amendment, the house receded from its stand for immediate reduction of the age requirement to 65 years and for a shift in the cost ratio, which would have imposed one-third of the total burden on the state, with the counties paying only one-sixth of the cost, instead of state and counties each paying one-fourth of the cost as under the present program.

The only other change of any consequence in the old age pension program at this session—assuming that the governor signs the bill—was an amendment under which aged persons, otherwise qualified, may use their pensions in paying for a portion or all of the cost of their keep in a private institution. This provision, however, will not apply to persons who have paid or are able to pay their own way in one of these homes.

Chief concern of both the house and senate in liberalizing the pension program was the ability of the counties to meet the additional cost. The state, it was explained, would be able to meet its share of the increase without any additional revenue, whereas some of the counties, it was admitted, will be hard put to meet the increased burden. With this problem in mind an interim committee will study the problem during the

next two years and report back to the next session with recommendations for raising additional revenue, a part of which will go toward relieving the counties of their tax load.

Reports that Charles H. Carey, state corporation commissioner, and Frank Wire, state game supervisor, are to be replaced have been denied by Governor Martin. The governor explained that he had made no change in the corporation department and that the game supervisor was under the game commission of whose plans he knew nothing.

One of the wildest scenes staged at the current legislative session—or at any session in recent years for that matter—was enacted in the house late Saturday afternoon over the issue of adjournment. The senate had sent over a resolution calling for sine die adjournment at 5:00 p. m. Monday. This was promptly tabled by the house. A motion was then made to adjourn until 10:00 a. m. Monday. This was promptly amended to read 3:00 p. m. Tuesday, and the amendment again amended to read 10:01 a. m. Monday. Then the amendments were withdrawn and the same procedure repeated again. This horseplay continued for more than an hour until the members, exhausted by their own parliamentary maneuvering, were content to knock off work for the week-end and come back Monday morning.

Four state officials will emerge from the legislative session with bigger and better pay checks. Salaries of the three industrial accident-unemployment compensation commissioners were increased from \$3600 to \$5600 a year and the state insurance commissioner was given a pay boost from \$3600 to \$5000 a year.

Oregon's 39th biennial legislative session is now history. Sine die adjournment came officially at 11:00 o'clock Monday night, although actually the time was rapidly approaching the midnight hour when Speaker Bolvin's gavel rapped out adjournment in the house, President Franciscovich having closed the senate session some 15 minutes earlier.

The end was comparatively peaceful, fairly devoid of the chaos and confusion that all too frequently have marked the dying hours of an Oregon legislature. Last official act of the senate was to take the power memorial, together with the committee amendments, from the table, adopt the amendments and then put the memorial on Tuesday's calendar for third reading, where it still remains. In the house the closing hour was enlivened by a tirade from Representative Jeannot, of Clackamas, denouncing the practice of stopping the legislative clocks, Representative Hannah Martin's vigorous protests against a final appropriation bill and Representative Mahoney's attempt to resurrect a ways and means committee bill which sought to reduce the personnel of county relief committees from seven to five members.

The last day of the session was filled with important developments. In the house the long pending struggle between the labor group and the anti-labor group at last came to a showdown with the laborites scoring a 35-to-24 victory in the defeat of a bill which would have required labor unions to register with the corporation commissioners. In the senate a group of three bills designed to reform the state's system of parole and prison sentences were defeated by decisive majorities. Offered as administration measures defeat of the bills brought W. L. Gosslin, secretary to Governor Martin, to the legislature in an eleventh hour attempt to save the measures. So insistent was Gosslin in his demand for reversal of the senate action that he went onto the floor during the senate session to lobby members. Two attempts to revive the measures, however, were unsuccessful.

The house and senate finally got together on a state building program before final adjournment. When the house refused to accept the senate program providing for a loan from the workmen's compensation fund to finance purchase of additional land and construction of a new state library building, conferees of the house and senate got together on a program calling for a direct appropriation of \$850,000 from the general fund to finance the program. The compromise was acceptable to both house and senate and the measure is now in the hands of the governor. While this revised program involves a bookkeeping deficit of some \$432,000 in the general fund, it is believed that the governor will permit the measure to become a law because of the overwhelming mandate in the house and senate that more adequate provision be made for housing of the state library.

Governor Martin in a statement to the press Tuesday declared that "on the whole the legislative session was sound and one that the people of the state can be proud of."

Governor Martin's veto of the emergency clause in the Martin anti-

gambling bill has brought a storm of criticism down about the governor's head. The governor's action, it is pointed out, throws the bill open to the referendum which would suspend its operation for another two years. Oswald West, former governor and staunch supporter of the administration, openly charged the governor with lying to friends of the measure in that he had assured them he would sign the bill.

Of a total of 926 bills introduced into the legislative hopper during the 57 days of the session just closed, 468 made the circuit of the house and senate and reached the governor's office. Up to Tuesday night the governor had signed 308 of these and filed two without his signature. Eight bills had fallen under the executive veto, three of this number being re-passed over the executive veto.

Legislative appropriations approved by the recent session together with millage levies financed within the six per cent constitutional limitation amount to the grand total of \$14,676,659. This is \$433,488 in excess of estimated revenues within the six per cent limit for the current biennium.

Time for Filing Work Sheets Is Extended

Bad road conditions in many sections of the state were responsible for extending the date for filing work sheets under the Agricultural Conservation Program and any farmer in Coos county who has not already done so may file a work sheet up to March 15, at the county agent's office, with C. M. Connor at Hollow Stump, on the highway north of Coos Bay, or with George Smith at Coos River.

Approximately 75 per cent of the crop land in Coos county has been signed up under the Agricultural Conservation Program, according to figures released at the county agent's office since the sign-up campaign was started by committeemen in different sections of the county on February 25. This sign-up represents 650 work sheets signed by that number of farmers.

In addition to those who signed work sheets for the farm program about 150 range operators are expected to apply for benefits under this program as range applications will be received up to May 1, at the county agent's office.

Most of the larger farms in the county, representing three-quarters of the total crop land, have filed a work sheet. Owners of approximately one-half of the farms in the county have not yet filed a work sheet for this year even though all farms have a minimum allowance of \$20.00 to be used in carrying out practices this year it was stated by W. E. Cross, chairman of the county association during 1936. For the purpose of this program three acres is considered a farm and all those operating places of this size or greater, are urged to file a work sheet by March 15.

In cases where both crop land and range land is operated in the same unit, most farmers this year have included all the land under a work sheet listing the range as non-crop pasture land.

Heavy Air Mail Last Year

Final reports from the office of the postmaster general for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1936, show that the air-mail services had the best year in their history, both from the standpoint of tonnage transported and airmail revenue. During the fiscal year of 1936, there were 15,377,993 pounds transported with postage revenue of \$9,702,676.46, as compared to 10,775,248 pounds transported during the fiscal year of 1935, with postal revenue of \$6,589,534.44.

In the report of the postmaster general, attention is called to the present domestic air-mail system, which is so designated that it serves the entire United States, and that by means of train and star-route connections, every section is served.

Attention is also called to the fact that many patrons do not know that air-mail is transported over night from coast to coast in regular routine with a total of ten trips daily which operate regularly in the 24-hour period from various points on the Pacific coast to points on the Atlantic coast.

North and south routes connect trans-continental routes and are so interspersed that the service reaches into every state. Practically one-half of the mail schedules are flown at night through the use of lighted airways and radio beams.

The United States foreign air-mail now gives service to Central and South America and the West Indies, to Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippine Islands; it will soon be extended to China, where connections will be made to all the countries in the Orient.

Both domestic and foreign air-mail may be registered. Insured and C. O. D. parcels may also be sent by domestic air-mail. It is the desire of the post office

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Income Tax Deductions Allowed for Automobiles

Every penny paid to the state in the form of gasoline taxes, registration and other special fees related to motoring may be deducted when making out federal income tax returns, according to an announcement by the Oregon State Motor association. The one-cent federal gasoline tax, however, may not be deducted. Briefly, the A. A. A. outlined other deductions for motorists as follows:

1. Interest on money borrowed for purchase of an automobile is deductible.
2. If a passenger car is used wholly for business purposes, all expenses incident to maintenance including depreciation, may be deducted.
3. If used partly for business and partly for pleasure, only a proportionate part of the maintenance and depreciation may be deducted.
4. Loss sustained by reason of damage to a passenger automobile while being used for pleasure is deductible. It must be an actual loss to the person. If compensated for by insurance or otherwise it is not deductible.
5. Damages paid for injury to a pedestrian are deductible, provided at the time the injury occurred the car was being used for business.
6. Fines paid by a motorist are not deductible, as a fine does not constitute an "ordinary and necessary business expense."
7. Loss sustained from the outright sale of an automobile may be deducted in computing net income subject to the provisions of section 117 of the revenue act of 1936. This does not apply to trade-ins.
8. Amount paid for insurance on automobiles used for business purposes and also the amount of finance charges on a purchased car which covers interest and risk on the loan, may be deducted, but not the amount covering the premium on insurance to protect the finance company's interest.

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