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With the legislative session now in its fifth week, all hope has been abandoned of adjournment at the end of the 40-day pay period. In fact it was only among the novices of the session that this hope existed at the outset of the session. Speculation now centers on just how far beyond the 40-day period the session will extend with guesses ranging from one to three weeks—that is a session of 50 or 60 days.

Although more than 30 days have elapsed since the session opened, little has been accomplished to date that will have any bearing upon the public welfare. In fact, as far as that is concerned, there is nothing in the legislative hopper that could not be dumped overboard without any serious loss to the state as a whole. In many respects this session has been the most colorless within the memory of the oldest attendant upon these biennial law-making assemblies here in Oregon.

The big ways and means committee started shoving its appropriation bills out onto the floor this week, well ahead of the record of previous sessions which have seen those measures held up until the closing week of the session. Except for two or three matters of policy which this committee has yet to determine it could very well complete its work this week. One of these problems involves the manner of financing the income tax division of the state tax commission. Heretofore this activity has been financed through appropriations out of the general fund. The governor's budget recommends that the \$300,000 needed by the division be captured out of receipts before these are turned into the general fund. This recommendation has a two-fold purpose. For one thing through an appropriation—money which the governor and the tax commission believe would be returned to the state many times over in increased collections of income taxes. In the second place this "manipulation" would release another \$800,000 of general fund money for other uses—to be doled out to other activities or to balance the budget as the case might be.

Much of the blame for the prolonged duration of the session must be accepted by the House organization. Most controversial issue before the session revolves about proposed amendments to the unemployment compensation act. Although most of these were in the hopper early in the session no attempt was made by the judiciary committee, which has these measures in charge, to whip them into shape for legislative action until the fourth week of the session. The House has also been most dilatory in its attack on the problem of congressional and legislative reapportionment.

Practically every legislator is agreed that something must be done about these problems at this session. Early in the session Speaker Farrell announced that he proposed to name a special committee to handle this problem. Up to Saturday night, with four weeks gone by and with six bills dealing with reapportionment in the hopper, this highly important committee had not yet been named.

Motor vehicle operators will be taxed another 25 cents a year for their driver's license if the senate follows the lead of the House which this week passed a measure providing for the license fee increase which would go toward reimbursing hospitals for the care of indigent victims of traffic accidents.

One of the first measures of the current session to receive the signature of Governor Sprague was senate bill No. 4 by Senator McKay repealing the non-resident motor vehicle registration law. Under its provisions tourists who visit this state will be no longer be required to register their cars. The repeal was recommended by Secretary of State Earl Snell who declared that it cost the state \$20,000 a year to administer the law which had outlived its usefulness.

The problem of more adequate pensions for the state's needy aged is receiving much attention at this session.

Bills already introduced contain at least half a dozen proposals for raising additional funds for this purpose. Latest of these proposals involves a special tax to be paid by patrons of public service utilities—electric, telephone, water, gas, etc. Proponents of this plan would add eight percent to the monthly bills of the utility patrons, the revenue from this source—estimated at between \$1,750,000 and \$2,500,000 a year—to go into the old age pension fund. Another measure, sponsored by the Oregon Old Age Pension Federation would levy what amounts to a poll tax upon every resident of the state, based upon the individual's income but in no case to be less than \$6 a year. One of the first old age pension measures introduced calls for a corporation dividend tax of three per cent, and Representative Frank Lonergan is backing a bill that calls for a two per cent tax on gross revenues, all for the aid of the needy aged.

County judges and commissioners were in Salem this week to oppose a measure introduced by Senator Dorothy Lee of Multnomah calling for a change in the method of handling insane cases. The Lee bill would transfer responsibility for the custody of the insane persons from the sheriff's office to that of the county health officer. It would also require that two physicians be called in to pass on sanity cases. The reform, it was pointed out, would work a great hardship on some of the more sparsely settled counties, especially those with only one physician which would necessitate the calling in of outside physicians at great expense to the taxpayers.

The Gibson-Jones bill providing for a consumers' tax of 15 per cent to be levied against all patrons of electric utilities in Oregon is drawing a lot of fire from centers served by municipally owned power and light plants which are now tax exempt. Under the Gibson-Jones bill electric utilities would be relieved of present ad valorem taxes, the saving thus realized to be passed on to consumers in the form of rate reductions, which, in turn would be absorbed in the new consumers' tax. This tax would apply to patrons of municipally owned utilities as well as to those who are served by privately owned utilities.

Considerable interest attaches to attempts to tax trucks and busses for support of general governmental activities. Governor Sprague in his program to the legislature at the opening of the session called attention to the fact that busses and trucks now pay no general taxes, that all of the licenses and fees extracted from these commercial carriers go into the construction and maintenance of the highways which makes their operation possible. The governor suggested that the legislature should either move to capture the gross revenue tax now paid by these operators for the state's general fund, or to levy some new tax that could be used for general governmental purposes. The House and Senate committee on highways and highway revenue and assessment and taxation are giving serious consideration to the problem but as yet have agreed on no program that appears to cover the situation.

Dean Walker, Polk county senator, enjoyed the unique experience this week of serving in the dual capacity of president of the state senate and governor of Oregon, an experience without precedent in Oregon. Walker,

senate president, became governor when Governor Sprague went to Denver to attend a conference of western governors on state's rights over non-navigable streams, a field which the federal government now threatens to invade in the New Deal's search for more power.

Legion-Auxiliary Met Monday

The members and their families of Coquille Post, No. 36, assembled at the Legion hall at 6:30 p. m. Monday evening for a potluck dinner. After dinner Miss Dae and a pupil, Jack Carroll gave a short musical recital and Ray Jeub gave a short talk on preparedness, after which the auxiliary and the Legion post went into sessions as separate organizations.

The Legion meeting opened with the regular opening ceremony, followed with the regular order of business.

Under the able leadership of Commander George E. Oerding the interest and the membership of the post has pepped up and there was an attendance of twenty members and one visitor.

Commander Oerding has adopted and put into practice a slogan "Every body works," which is showing marked success.

At the January meeting, the old house committee was discharged because of no activity, and a new committee was appointed. The new committee has taken its duties seriously. The building shows the effects of some needed work and the walk from the street to the building has been repaired and new plank has been laid where the walk was a succession of puddles and a dash of crushed rock has been added, making a neat walk to the building.

After the pros and cons were discussed by the members present, it was decided that the commander appoint a special building committee, with the view to purchasing, erecting and collecting in sufficient funds for a new home, adequately large to make a comfortable home for the Legion and auxiliary, in which to hold our meetings and other Legion activities, some time in the future.

A committee to start preliminary work on the organization work on the National Disaster and Relief Organization was appointed which is to report back at the next regular meeting.

The major topics of discussion at the February 10 meeting was the National Defense Questionnaire of the American Legion and the National Disaster and Relief Organization.

Ray Jeub gave a short discussion on the objective of the questionnaire and Bob Stewart gave a report on the National Disaster and Relief Organization.

The National Disaster and Relief Organization committee reports that things are framing up nicely. The commander has appointed the personnel of the major offices of the organization: Commander Ray Jeub, Chief of Staff C. T. Selbig, Judge Advocate Art Berg, Personal Assignment Officer Bob Stewart, Finance Officer Guy Kelley, Chief Adviser O. Wood.

Platoon Commanders: First Aid, Dr. J. D. Rankin; Communication, Perley Lund; Supply, Claire Gray, Sr.; Rescue, A. Mintonye; Guard and Patrol, Jack Arnold; Transportation, Harry Hunt; Shelter, Lee Hand. The roster of the personnel of the separate squads has not as yet been completed, but specific information may be obtained from Commander Ray Jeub or Personal Assignment Officer Bob Stewart.

Chas. Selbig personally guaranteed that the Post would be over the top in membership on or before our next regular meeting.

The committee on the organization of a drum and bugle corps, reported unfavorably, because of insufficient funds to successfully carry out the project.

If any of the Legion posts or other organizations have successfully sponsored a drum and bugle corps with little or no funds to begin with, we will be glad to have you tell us your secret. You may write to our post commander, Mr. George E. Oerding, or to the post adjutant, Guy Kelley.

—Roy C. Morley, Publicity Director

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- The same log fire that provided light provided the heat for cooking in the Lincoln log cabin. Today's kitchens use automatic electric ranges for cooking and protect the family foodstuffs in an electric refrigerator.
- Lincoln's mother died young, worn out with the drudgery of existence. Today's young mothers have every electrical aid to make home making easy and pleasant, such as washers, ironers, vacuum cleaners, and dozens of handy appliances.

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