EDITORIALS

Governor Patterson Talks

In his inaugural message to the 48th Biennial Legislative Assembly Monday, Governor Paul Patterson gave a studied and intelligent report to the combined houses, but he largely left unanswered the problems that will face the state and the lawmakers in Salem.

He reported of the past 15 year growth of Oregon and the rise in the General Fund Budget from $17,000,000 to $193,000,000 without an increase of a new tax; but he neatly sidestepped the need of a sales tax and reported that it should not come from his state legislature but from the people. Said the Governor, "Until we have exhausted the other avenues of revenue, I do not believe that the Legislature should adopt a retail sales tax. If we are to have such a tax, it should be initiated by the people themselves."

On highways and the need for money, he recommended against a two-cent tax on gasoline, but did go for the okehing of a proposal to make possible the issuance of $11,000,000 in bonds for highway purposes. We feel he has neatly side-stepped the tax issue here for certainly bonds would only add to the growing deficit which he says will approach $45,000,000.

On Unemployment Compensation Governor Patterson pays tribute to the social thought behind the program, recommends it for all employers of 1 or more employees, and then says he would approve a fact-finding committee to make recommendations. The only trouble here is that a fact-finding committee is often so well loaded against social legislation that other than the governor's friendly pat on the head, nothing may come of it.

We are disappointed in the message to the legislature on the basis of taxes and highway construction. Both are major problems confronting Oregon. The one will, unless met soon, strangle us; the other, highways, will stop us dead in our tracks unless we have ways to move about and transact our growing business.

We don't think the people are so bound up with emotional prejudices but what they would welcome a constructive tax program. We know they realize the need for road modernization. It looks like it is up to the legislature now to put out a program of courage, vision and audacity.

We think the people are ready for it.

All it takes is courage to forget the polls in the years ahead and solve the problems of the voters today.

A Friend Is Gone

Keith Leslie, or more familiarly known as "Brick" to his host of friends in Coos County and Oregon-at-large, will be missed greatly for he possessed a quiet, unassuming charm that made him a good and thoughtful citizen, and a warm friend.

One of the sons of Coquille who went on to football greatness at the University of Oregon, he played life the same way he took part in famed intercollegiate athletic contests. He played the rules; and he did it with all the greatness of a true gentleman.

A highly capable professional man, his services to Coquille, the county, and his many other clients was of the highest caliber.

But more than that perhaps, was the warmth of his interest in the people of this, his home town. He was always a part of Coquille despite the fact that his home was in the north of the state. So much so that he passed away at his lake cabin on Laurel Lake where he loved each changing sunset and swaying tree.

This area was his home; our people were his people; and we think that there is no one who has not been a bit more cheered when Brick Leslie smiled at them and spoke softly a "hello" even as we have been.

Off To A Good Start

We can't help do a bit of boasting for Coquille and its aggressive spirit. Not so long ago we had to get amused at the manner in which a lot of people were consigning us to a definitely step-son relationship in Coos County. But we sort of kept plugging away, and now look at us.

First off, First National Bank comes out with plans to modernize one of our corners in downtown Coquille. Yep, they're going to build the finest modern bank building in Western Oregon right in this little town of Coquille.

Then comes Mayor George Burr with a program of projects for Coquille that might floor an average man, but not George; he'll right off make plans to move the city dump and that in turn opens up the most gorgeous lot of building sites in the entire state.

And though it can't be said out loud, it so happens that some of Coos County's most progressive citizens already are talking about a home area that will be homes for the people who have been wishing for nice homes in a district similar to those you find in Salem, Eugene, Bend, and other cities.

We'd say keep your eye on Coquille in 1955 . . . it looks good.

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WINTER COMES TO SUBURBIA

keen interest in the probability of a state property tax and/or other burdensome taxes, including a general sales tax with exemptions on foodstuff.

The tax horror tension is not relieved by the fact that this legislature will have an unusually large number of members who have had previous legislative experience.

Only four of the 30 members of the Senate are without previous legislative experience. In the House only 26 of the 60 members will be serving their first terms.

The drop in income tax revenue and the immediate necessity for more buildings for state wards and students poses an enigma that is hot on both ends. The only answer seems to be drastic cuts in expenditures and more taxes.

That alone makes for a hot legislative session.

Things get spastic whenever members get to voting "No" on appropriation bills for districts represented by other members.

Having observed 29 legislative session in Oregon we assume to predict a swift-moving but lengthy sessions in Oregon we assume to

Source of Laws

There will be approximately 50 bills drawn from recommendations made by 1953 legislative interim committees. The Governor usually has suggestions for new bills and amendments in his message to the legislature. The way legislation has been averaging the past several sessions each member will have from five to 25 bills. Another 50 or more will be introduced by request.

Making New Laws

Although taxes will be the theme song of the 1955 legislature, a great number of other legislative acts have been proposed and have passed the talking stage. Now written or outlined are bills:

To raise income taxes.

To increase the gasoline tax two cents.

To call a constitutional convention.

To create new milk laws.

To reorganize the Tax Commission with one commissioner only.

To prohibit carrying a loaded gun in a car.

To compel use of luminous tape on rails of cars.

To create an extra cheese week before Lent.

To make parents pay support for children in State Training Schools.

To provide for state to rent cars for state use instead of buying and owning them.

To change motor vehicle department from supervision of Secretary of State to Governor's office.

To adjust payments of workers and employees for Unemployment Compensation.

To set up a new state department of Research and Planning for the Governor.

To set up qualifications and standards for assessors and give greater authority to State Tax Commission.

To establish minority rights in the two branches of the legislature so each political party would be entitled to chairmanships and patronage in proportion to number of members each party has.

To pay bonuses to veterans of Korean War.

To require seedmen to guarantee germination of seed and attach guarantee to container.

To discontinue use of red tail lights and substitute yellow lights.

To put teeth in corrupt practices of law and require candidates to report money spent on policial campaigns five days before election.

To prevent the legislature from writing into appropriation bills provisions requiring emergency board approval of spending for building by board of control and state system of higher education.

New Chief Justice

Justice Harold J. Warner of the Oregon Supreme Court was elected Chief Justice Friday for a period of two years.

His tenure begins January 3rd when he succeeds Chief Justice Howard C. Latourette. Justice Warner will be the 63rd Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court organized under provisional government in 1841 when Ira L. Babcock was elected the first Chief Justice.

As Chief Justice Warner will administer the oath of office to members of the 1955 legislature and to Governor Paul Patterson who begins his first elective term JJanuary 10th.

Another Oregon First

This week Oregon became the first state in the nation to have a pack of trained bloodhounds and an experienced trailer of lost person's in the state's dense forests.

Norman Wilson and his dogs are on the job ready to save lives. It was Wilson and his pack that came from California and finally located the bodies of three lost hunters on Fanno Mountain after search crews had searched in vain for many days.

Old Spanish Swindle

The Old Spanish Swindle must continue to get victims in Oregon. Reports from postmasters are that a number of letters have been turned in to their offices instead of being answered by those addressed.

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Remember, when it's advertised, there's no catch! Only topgrade merchandise at fair prices ever see the public eye. 21tf

THE BAFFLES By Mahoney

Coos County Taking Part In World Farm Youth Exchange Program

"Welteinvernehmen", Wereloverstandhouding" and "Comprension mundial" are three ways of saying "World Understanding" in the language of many of the 39 countries participating in the International Farm Youth Exchange program.

The I.F.Y.E. program, as this program for developing international understanding is called, arranges for exchanges between farm youth of the United States and countries of Europe, South America, the Far East, the South Pacific, the Middle East, and Scandinavia.

The program has three phases, namely: (1) Selection of delegates to represent the United States for from four to six months on farms in participating countries. (2) Locating farm families in Coos County to be host families for incoming delegates. (3) Raising money to finance the program. The I.F.Y.E. program is entirely financed by private sources with no government money being spent.

The Coos County 4-H Leaders' Association has assumed the county chairmanship of the I.F.Y.E. program and is at present conducting a fund raising campaign. Because of the shortage of funds only one delegate has been nominated thus far for the summer 1955 program.

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In the average American home today, electricity does the work which would require the labor of 35 servants, each working a 40-hour week.

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See "Spike" Leslie for insurance of all kinds, phone 4891. tfc

Friendly Thoughts By Schroeder Bros.

Smiles differ. There is the friendly smile as natural in its geniality as the sun peeping gaily through the clouds. There is the smile of courage, of heroic splendor—a sunset loath to bid the world goodbye. And there is the smile of love, that smile of promise that illumines all life.

Those things which shall make for correct observance, for dignity, for amelioration, for fairness of fee—these things shall we always do.

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VETS MAIL BAG

As a service to veterans in the community, this newspaper will publish a weekly column of news briefs from the Veterans Administration. For further information, veterans should contact or write their nearest VA office

Korea GI Bill Students Pass Half-Million Mark

Veterans' enrollments under the two-year-old Korean GI Bill passed the half-million mark in December, reaching an all-time record of 528,000, Veterans Administration announced today.

The figure more than doubled the total of 252,000 post-Korea veterans in schools and at training benches a year ago. Also, it is 77,000 above November's total of 451,000 trainees.

More than half of the 528,000 veterans in training or 286,000, were enrolled in the nation's colleges and universities. This is twice the 142,000 Korean GI college students recorded by VA one year ago.

Farm training under the Korean GI Bill made the biggest strides over the past year. A combination of classroom work and actual experience on the farm, the program tripled in size, jumping from 8,900 trainees on December 1, 1953, to 26,000 on December 1, 1954.

Korean GI Bill enrollments in schools below the college level rose two and one-half times during the year, going from 65,000 to 162,000.

On-the-job training increased 47 percent, from 36,000 on December 1, 1953, to 54,000 a year later.

The Korean GI Bill went in effect August 20, 1952.

Question of the Week

Q. I am entitled to 36 months of training under the Korean GI Bill. Does that mean my GI on-the-farm training course can last for 36 months?

A. Not necessarily. The length of your farm training program will depend on how long it will take you to reach your objective. Your program is tailor-made to fit your own needs and experience; it may be shortened to take advantage of the farming you already know.

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CAPITAL PARADE

By MURRAY WADE

The Forty-Eighth Legislative Assembly of Oregon convened in regular session at the Capitol in Salem January 10th.

It is destined to be a high-tempo affair.

This is assured by a state-wide

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