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SCHOOLS AND TAXES

Senate Bill 64 was introduced early in February and has been the subject of several hearings. SB 64 is one of the projects of the Oregon Education association. Another project is the boost of basic school funds to \$120 per child. Many counties, this one included, would get much less at \$80. And might be expected to approve \$120 to get the same as now.

SB 64 is undoubtedly a product of the persistent but restricted mind of Carl Huffaker, University of Oregon professor, who has been trying to bring about tax equalization under the basic school program since 1947 when the law became operative. For a professional educator Huffaker is remarkably intent on taxes. He has evolved some of the most complex theories of taxation, the latest one before SB 64 being so involved that it fell of its own complexity.

Let us put aside for the moment the foolishness of trying to "equalize educational opportunities" by emphasizing equal taxation and examine the difficulties of tax equalization itself.

Federal Land Omitted

Oregon's privately owned property is annually assessed and put on the tax rolls. Different assessors do a different job and the state tax commission tries to equalize the figures by means of ratios. It is admittedly behind and admittedly incorrect. But the main trouble is that not all the property is on the tax rolls at all. In Oregon there is 61,641,600 acres and only 24,205,178 acres are on the tax rolls. Most of this is in eastern Oregon and isn't worth much. Across the mountains it is presently very valuable as it is covered with timber. Josephine county contains 1,040,000 acres and assesses 282,881 acres; Lane county contains 2,926,720 acres and assesses 1,249,838 acres; Douglas county contains 3,239,680 acres and assesses 1,346,400 acres; Coos county contains 931,040 acres and assesses 608,507 acres; Jackson county contains 1,802,880 acres and assesses 838,524 acres.

These are the big timber counties. They are also the counties that would gain by equalization under SB 64. You see, it isn't equalization at all unless all the property is included, not just the privately owned property.

Timber Makes Money

This government timber is being used. It brings a profit to the counties, which workers, who have the children, also share. Coos county has 3.16 per cent of the state's population and pays 3.28 per cent of the income tax. Other percentages are Douglas 4.25 of population and 4.27 of income tax; Jackson 3.89 and 4.59, Lane 8.67 and 9.33.

Most of these counties also get a bigger percentage of basic school fund money than they pay in income tax. That should prove that they are not hurt by the present distribution. They get a much larger percentage of basic school payments than they would pay on a property tax basis. That is because federal timber is not taxed and yet is used to make incomes and hire men.

Neither are these counties hurt when it comes to per capita property taxes paid for schools. Use Sherman county's \$105.20 for comparison if you like. Coos citizens pay \$59.88, Lane's \$54.50; Baker \$55.62; Harney \$54.74; Gilliam \$96.15; Douglas, \$59.34; Marion \$41.50; Jackson \$53.40.

O & C Payments Out

Furthermore the timber counties receive a good slice of money from the federal government. This money is divided three-quarters for roads and one quarter for schools. Douglas county got \$4,179,082; Jackson \$2,088,693; Josephine \$1,606,682; Lane \$3,766,489. These amounts are not figured in basic school distribution although other school receipts are included.

These figures show the impossibility of ever achieving any fair equalization among counties by basing that equalization on property tax assessments. We suggest that if the legislature persists in using such a method it in-

clude federal timber payments and that it make mandatory an estimate of the value of timber owned by the government because it is a part of the county's economy.

Property Tax Base Inadequate

We maintain that the method of using property assessments as a base is not satisfactory and that income taxes paid would be a better criterion. We think a limit should be placed on the percentage of payments that can be taken from any county. No county should be expected to subsidize other counties for more than a quarter of its total payment.

The method of determining the effort each county makes toward schools by the millage levied is most unsatisfactory. Per capita tax payments would be better, perhaps income tax payments better yet.

Robbing the rich for the benefit of the poor is bad government, not only because it injures the rich but it impoverishes the poor. Furthermore in this case, the counties that hope to gain most from SB 64 are not poor. They only seem to be poor because federal timber, from which they derive their incomes, is not included.

Timber Lightly Taxed

If such a method of distribution is foisted upon Oregon it will be absolutely necessary to find a means of making timber pay a larger share of the taxes. We have babbled the timber interests too long, fearful that their threat to cut and get out might be carried out. We probably couldn't drive them out by fair taxation.

Portland, which stands to lose heavily in further equalization has proposed a bill SB 285, which is based on the same principle and is also had and deserves defeat almost as much as SB 64.

The wisest thing for the legislature to do is to name a committee to study methods of distribution of the basic school fund. The committee should study means of actually achieving "equal educational opportunities" which is what the people voted for. It should also find a more equitable method of dividing the money and certainly not by using property assessments as the sole criteria for ability to pay for education.

JOHN DAY DAM

The Oregon senate gave unanimous approval to a memorial favoring construction of a federal dam at the John Day site although not without pointing out the dangers of the preference clause that, unless changed, will mitigate seriously against Oregon. The preference clause gives power to public agencies before it does to private agencies and Oregon is mostly served by private power companies.

It is not likely that the request of the Oregon legislature, by means of the memorial, will have much effect on a congress beset with angry requests for tax reduction. Some funds may be found to continue the work being done toward preparing to build a dam.

So far politics has prevented development of the west with one side insisting on government ownership and preventing private capital to build any big dam. The other side is not so antagonistic and often votes for public power construction. With the government out of money it may be that there can be agreement on the use of private funds.

PORTLAND SCANDAL

Portlanders seem somewhat upset over the disclosures about its public officials by the senate committee on investigations. It might well come as a shock to a city that is given to proclaiming its purity.

To most of the newspaper readers who are following the testimony there is sufficient evidence to cast serious doubt on the integrity of the officials concerned. The defense seems based on much more flimsy testimony than the accusations.

Attempts to rush to the defense of the accused officials are fine friendly gestures but what Portland needs to do is dig out the facts as far as possible and prosecute the culprits. In such circumstances a desire for clean government is more important than a desire to defend an accused.

WASCO NEWS

The Woman's society of Christian service spring tea, originally scheduled for March 20, has been postponed to March 27 at 2 p. m. in the church social room. Mrs. Woolsey of The Dalles will provide the main program with her slides and comments of a trip to the Holy Lands. There will be several musical numbers on the program. Every woman is invited to attend.

Mrs. L. L. Funk was hostess to a birthday dinner, Sunday for her husband, Larry, and Andy Engberg. Also present for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Engberg and Kaye.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Nisbet and children Nancy, Wayne and Bill, of Ephrata, Wn., were guests at the W. A. Nisbet home last weekend.

Letter From Salem

By Nicky Tom

The uninformed visitor to the State House this week might have come to the conclusion that we were conducting a Youth Legislature. With spring vacation under way throughout most of the state we have been surrounded by young visitors and generously supplied with honorary pages.

Tuesday morning we were most pleasantly surprised by a visit from Mrs. America, Mrs. Chris Maletis of Portland. She was accorded the honors of the House and Senate, making a short talk in each chamber.

Her whole appearance and manner of speaking gave each woman in the room a thrill of vicarious pride. I know we were all completely satisfied that here is a woman of whom Oregon and the United States can happily say "That's our girl". One sentence from her talk particularly appealed to me, "The nation is built in the home, child by child."

Opposition is developing in Eastern Oregon to HB 481, relating to property taxes. It moves tax payments up three months, which would mean property taxes would have to be paid in August rather than November. This is an unhappy prospect to farmers, most of whom would be right in the middle of harvest and at the lowest financial ebb of the year.

But all is not gloomy down here. I am pleased to be able to tell you that SB 213, designating bullfrogs as gamefish, passed the Senate on Monday with but one dissenting vote. Who was the lone skeptic? Senator Anthony Yturri, Ontario.

Tuesday the House defeated HB 419, a measure which would give county assessors access to individual income tax returns in the hands of the State Tax Commission for the purpose of discovering possible omitted property. It was attacked on the grounds that:

- (1) It circumvents the secrecy provision in the State Income Tax law.
- (2) Confusion would be apt to arise from the fact that many farmers, lumbermen, etc., have real and personal property in more than one county.
- (3) Machinery on the property tax rolls frequently does not appear on the income tax depreciation account because it has been completely depreciated.

The bill failed with 32 opposition votes. Thursday it was reconsidered by the House and sent back to the taxation committee. This means that after working it over the committee will have another opportunity to send it to the floor. The second effort could be successful, but this sounds like an unworkable piece of legislation. Certainly it cannot be expected to bring in the "millions of dollars in omitted property" of which one of its sponsors so hopefully spoke.

Wednesday the House passed HJR 14 which provides for a Lieutenant Governor. It is to be referred to the people, and will make the sixth time such a measure will have been voted on by the public. It must still go through the Senate, however, and since it received 16 dissenting votes in the House it may have tough sledding.

Thursday the House passed HB 321, which sounds to me like the most sensible approach yet to the problem of how to limit the game-hogs among the sports-fishermen and charter-boats, without unduly penalizing legitimate commercial fishermen.

It will require all those buying commercial licenses for fish and shellfish to paint certain designated letters for each license on each side of their boats, as well as on the deck or cabin top.

We enjoyed two traditional social events this week. Tuesday night Speaker Pat Dooley and his wife entertained House members, wives and state officials at a reception. Decorations were all in green in honor of the Dooleys and St. Patrick's Day. We were particularly intrigued with the two huge baked salmon which were decorated with shamrocks piped on with green mashed potatoes.

Thursday night we were guests at one of the series of buffet suppers being given by Governor and Mrs. Holmes. It was a most enjoyable evening, casual and informal. Parties such as this, after working hours, give most of us opportunities to become acquainted with other members and their wives which we simply don't have during our rather hectic days.

World's Largest Oil Storage Reservoir



Creole Petroleum Corporation, Venezuelan affiliate of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), has drastically cut storage costs by constructing an 8,800,000 barrel earthen storage reservoir. Creole, with the help of experts from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, discovered that the clay at Amuay, Venezuela, was impermeable enough to hold oil without any appreciable loss from seepage.

Built at a cost of \$2,800,000, this earthen reservoir is more than twice the size of the number one reservoir that Creole completed last fall, as shown above left.

Covering nearly 28 acres, it is 60 feet deep and has an earthen dam 275 feet wide at the base around two sides. According to company spokesmen this type storage can be built at a cost of about 35 cents a barrel compared with \$1.65 to \$2.00 for conventional tank storage.

By permitting sustained, more nearly constant throughputs in the face of variations in product output, the outdoor storage affords the added advantage of assisting Creole to maintain uniform refinery operations during the summer periods.

County Ramblin's

County Agricultural Agent

Paul and Doug Alley submitted three different hay samples to the agricultural chemistry department at Oregon State college for protein analysis. The protein content of the hay submitted was: fall Omar Wheat - 6.05%; Soft Federation - 6.70%; and Oats - 4.75%. This figure is a crude protein analysis and, of course, is not all digestible by the animal.

Experimental trials at the Sherman branch experiment station during the '40s showed the percentage of protein in wheat ranging from 9 to 14%, according to date of cutting. Wheat cut in the early heading stage ran near 9% while that cut after the grain was formed and in the dough stage ran down towards 4%.

Recent reports have given the value of vitamin D for the prevention of milk fever. Some specific instructions have come to my attention which I felt might be of interest. Fleischmann's irradiated yeast type 142F is used, thirty million units daily of vitamin D. No. 2 has given the best results. persons should feed 7 1/2 ounces daily and not more than 5 1/2 ounces in total in a period of from 5 to 7 days before calving. If calving occurs on the 6th day feed for one day after calving.

Research work at Iowa State college has shown that soybean or lard derivative oil added to the water or sprayed on green chopped feed reduced the occurrence of bloat. One quarter pound per head daily was fed in the trials. Cattle seemed to like the oil and drank more water than usual.

Basic research has been the foundation of all the big advances in agriculture. The use of systemic insecticides developed by basic research will probably be the next big step in farm production. Chemicals are used to treat the plant seed, in this way they get into what might be called the blood stream of the plant. Insects attacking the plant during early growth stages are killed by the chemical. The plant itself remains healthy until it reaches maturity. The systemic insecticide usually disappears completely during later stages of plant growth.

Pregnancy testing of beef cattle can save 20 to 40 dollars for the cost of winter feeding. This program is developing more interest and one that could be justified on the cost angle. Under test work at Washington State college one herd of beef animals had 26% barren cows, others report from 10 to 20 % of cows not settled. Sherman county farmers could give this consideration for next fall. Luther Davis of Kent utilized this pregnancy test a year ago on his cow herd. A private veterinarian can do the inspection job almost as rapidly as cows can be put through a squeeze chute.

Another use for stillbirth has been reported to me by Dr. Skov, veterinarian, Goldendale. Use of 60-75 mg on bull calves castrated at 8 to 12 months has taken staginess from the animals. This rate should not be harmful and could be helpful on bull calves marked at a late age.

A chemical summer fallow research trial was established on the Richelderfer ranch, Huck place, in China Hollow, by Dean Swan, in charge of weed research work in the Columbia Basin. The main material used was dalapon with and without 2,4-D and a wetting agent. Detailed research work is needed on the idea of chemical summer fallow to evaluate materials. If this proves successful at a reasonable cost then how this system of fallow would work into our farming operations would need be determined.

WASCO ITEMS

Monday, March 18, several dropped in on Mrs. Desta Hoyt for cake and coffee to celebrate her 85th birthday also. They were Mrs. Gus Hartmann, Mrs. Charles Everett, Mrs. Jerry Barnett and children Stephanie and Bradley, and Mrs. Owen Barnett.

WANT ADS

The Condon Cottonpickers, from the Condon PTA will appear at the Sherman High school cafeteria Tuesday night, April 2, at 8 p. m. sponsored by the Sherman High Booster Mothers. Admission will be 75 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

FOR SALE: Mighty Man garden tractor complete with riding attachment, plow, spring tooth and cultivator. Curly DeMoss, Moro. JO 5-3219. 20c

FOR SALE: 11 squares asbestos shingles and nails. JO 5-3223. 20p

FOR SALE: Full size cemetery lot 25 x 16, cement wall around it, headstone and marker, and heavy steel airtight vault. \$100. Mrs. Scott Fortner, 2128 Hawthorne, Portland, Ore. Ph-Belmont 2-0630 19-20p

FOR SALE: Belt pulley for D-4 Caterpillar, and S' Case Tiller Plow. Bob Helyer, Kent, Moro. Grass Valley 687

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS All person having claims again-

at the Estate of Earl James Lyons, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed and acting administrator of the Estate of Earl James Lyons, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, to-wit: March 8, 1957. Clair Balzer Administrator

T. Lester Johnson Attorney for Administrator 18-21c

Moro Lodge No. 113 I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited. Moro, Oregon. Genevieve Powell, W. M. Gwen Ross, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78 O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Genevieve Powell, W. M. Gwen Ross, Secretary

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F.&A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. Paul Alley, W.M. Clyde Gillmor, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. L. Grabenhorst, N. G. Vada DeMoss, Sec.



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