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REDUCING TAXES

A letter from Oregon's junior senator gives some figures about budget appropriations as a preliminary to the statement that economy in government isn't easy. There isn't a thing on the list except interest that couldn't be cut and that could be by next year.

Perhaps the reason the people are constantly burdened by huge taxes is that they elect men to office without sufficient imagination to provide a means of getting things done with the expenditure of money—government money, taxpayers money.

Down in Salem the ways and means committees are trying to cut the budget although which one or whose is not known. The tax spenders are constantly with them and it is reliably reported that the taxpayers are writing them letters in increasing numbers.

They, too, will soon be telling us how impossible it is to cut a budget.

The fact is that cutting a budget is easy. There isn't a man in business for himself who isn't an expert at it. He has had to be. The way to cut a budget is to provide less money to spend. Do without. Fire somebody. Put the help to work. Let the people be people instead of robots.

An examination of the services offered by the state of Oregon would show the numbers of citizens using them. Some would surely be found that are of use to one or two percent of the people, some may serve five or ten per cent, very few are useful to as much as a quarter of the citizenry of the state. In most cases the service could be done better and cheaper by private venture—and with less arrogance.

Let's be done with yes sayers, those nice agreeable shoe clerks with a ready smile and get us a bunch of tough, factual no sayers. Then we can go back to spending our money ourselves—and get more for it.

REAPPORTIONMENT

The house state and federal affairs tabled a resolution to permit voters to pass on giving each county one state representative Monday morning after a hearing.

Actually the resolution should not have been in that committee at all there being an elections and reapportionment committee that was constituted for just such measures. A desire to defeat the resolution on the part of the speaker undoubtedly was responsible for the incorrect referral.

There were 27 names of representatives on the resolution, enough to assure it being sent to the floor with some sort of a report unless there was great prejudice against it. We think it was badly treated and in a bad manner.

We don't know what rural Oregon is going to do about obtaining representative government in the state. It has been trying many kinds of legislative apportionment and is constantly losing ground. After 1960 there will be no need for more rural counties to hold an election for legislative candidates for whether good men or bad—or none at all—are elected, will make little difference.

It isn't only Portland, it is also the secondary towns of the Willamette valley that are arrogating to themselves the power to speak for the state and pass unnecessary taxes onto the farmers and small townsmen. It will surely divide the state.

DAVE TAKES THE FIFTH

Dave Beck, when called before the senate investigating committee this week, refused to answer questions because he might incriminate himself.

His decision to hide behind the fifth amendment and not to give testimony that might help him be found guilty may be the best thing that has happened in the labor movement for years. Certainly the more responsible heads of labor will have to go through with the AFL-CIO resolution to expel labor groups whose officers took the fifth amendment.

Unless, Meany, Reuther, et al, weaken in that decision Beck will

be ousted. The teamsters will go it alone. In that case, certainly, responsible labor will aid the government to bring a semblance of democratic government to labor unions, now being bossed by petty tyrants who steal their dues while dealing with business for higher wages.

Every state needs a labor commissioner as much as it needs a corporation commissioner. He should be empowered to see that labor organizations are properly conducted. Membership should be voluntary; there should be no organizational picketing. Labor is growing up and must learn to deal fairly with members and the public.

HERE COMES THE SUN

The sun has been getting its licks this week, not without competition, the wind having blown cold off the snow fields part of the time.

But a late March sun has passed the meridian and is not to be dimmed by clouds or cooled by wind as easily as a weak January sun. An hour of sun these afternoons does wonders for the growing wheat, the garden seeds tucked hurriedly in the cold ground. It even takes the coat off the worker's back which is an action he thought most unlikely a few weeks ago.

The weather prophets, encouraged by the March weather which was as cold and wet as they foretold, have said that April will likewise be cold and wet. That may well be, for April is noted for showers and is not one of the warmer months. Yet, in this country, two wet months are much, much more than we can expect.

In fact, a cold wet April is not such a bad thing to happen in a wheat country. Wheat likes cold weather and grass will grow much higher if April is wet than if it is dry. A dry April can be the reason for short grass.

Having withstood the coldest of the winter, survived the wettest March in many a year and been missed by the drouth area snowstorm, we feel confident that no weather will daunt us until fall.

BASIC SCHOOL RESULTS

In 1947 when the legislature passed the method of distribution of the basic school fund the tax for schools on Sherman county property was \$95,044.24. The next year, perhaps in anticipation of a pocketful of state cash the school tax went to \$155,775.18.

The first basic school appropriation was based on \$50 per census child or a little above \$80 per school child. This has since been raised to \$80 per census child or about \$125 per school child.

Last year the local tax for schools was \$304,702.37, just about twice the 1948 figure in a matter of eight years. This year it will be more.

In addition to this the county's taxpayers put more money into the state's basic school pot than they drew out.

There has been some inflation although the whole decline of the dollar from 100 cents down to half that cannot be laid to the last eight years. A dollar wasn't worth much more than 60 cents even then.

Schools are costing more. With inflation that is to be expected. Costs, however, are up more than the amount that can be charged to inflation.

Are schools and better? Certainly the high school should be better but it wasn't when taxes were paid last fall. Grade schools must be about the same as to quality.

Efforts to increase the amount of basic school appropriations are based on the need for more money for schools and for teachers. There is no historical evidence to show that it will be of help to taxpayers. We are paying a high price for lack of the ability to say "NO".

Letter From Salem

By Nicky Tom

On Friday, March 15, in their first afternoon session of the year members of the House passed HJR 11, providing for a referendum to determine whether the people of Oregon wish to abolish capital punishment except in the case of a second murder committed by a person under sentence for murder. The debate was long and solemn, and the measure passed with seven dissenting votes.

If this resolution passed the Senate the voters would once again have to take a stand on capital punishment. It was abolished in 1914 and reinstated in 1920. Should the measure pass in the 1958 General Election, Oregon will become the seventh state to abandon the death penalty.

Monday the Senate passed HJM 1, introduced by Representative Tom and Senator Wilhelm, memorializing Congress to appropriate funds for the immediate construction of the John Day Dam. An amendment aimed at the preference clause, asking that Oregon be given "her fair share" of the power generated by the dam, was killed by a tie vote.

A Senate memorial adopted the same day requested Congress to provide funds for deepening the Columbia channel from Vancouver to The Dalles.

Among several bills which have kicked up a fuss in the House this past week was HB 187, which would give weighmasters the authority to require trucks parked within five miles of the weighing station to come and be weighed if the weighmaster has "reason to believe" the truck is overweight. This bill has been referred to the committee on Highways three times, which must be something of a record.

Our mail is steadily increasing in volume as people become more personally concerned with bills before the legislature. One of the first problems about which we received numerous letters and cards this time was the request for a new dormitory and display building at the state fair grounds for 4-H and FFA youngsters. It is still being considered by the Ways and Means Committee, and we hope funds will be available.

Also early in the session we started receiving many letters regarding the proposal to close banks on Saturday. This measure was tabled a few days ago in the Senate Financial Affairs Committee.

Our friends at home who have been pleading with us to save Green Stamps may now relax because the same Senate Committee has also tabled the trading stamp bill. Senator Sweetland states that he is going to rescue his bill, which he introduced in company with Representative Wilderman, but he will probably run into a solid wall of opposition.

A good share of our mail naturally concerns education, since Allen has served on the House Education Committee since 1955. Of real concern to many people is HB 171, which would increase Basic School Support to \$120 per census child. This has probably brought us more mail than any other one issue, and everybody seems to be in favor of it.

For about a week we heard

from many people who were alarmed when several members of the Education Committee forced through an amendment which would have repealed the provision in the law which requires the teaching of sound moral values, respect for the flag and constitution and the effects of narcotics and alcohol. In the face of so much protest the committee hastily rescinded its action.

Objections are coming to us in regard to SB 68, which would, among other things, require that a contractor be hired for any construction job costing over \$100. This would work a real hardship on many individuals, especially farmers. Lumbermen are also protesting.

In the last few days we have had many urgent pleas from oil distributors and operators of service stations that something be done to halt HB 633, relating to oil and gasoline distributors. A House member with personal interest in this legislation told me this morning that he does not expect this bill to come out of committee.

These are but a few of the matters about which we hear from the home folks. We do appreciate the interest taken in the actions of the legislature, so please keep writing to us.

Fortunately few of our citizens take the attitude of the man who recently wrote to one of the members of the Education Committee in regard to increasing teachers' salaries. He stated, "Any teacher who will run away to another state to get more pay is not fit to be called an American. He should go to Russia to stay."

WANT ADS

HORSE for Sale: Half breed Tennessee walker, 5-yrs old. Helen Sather, Kent Call Grass Valley 683. 21-3p
The Sherman High Booster Mothers are giving a benefit card party at the high school cafeteria April 8 from 1:30 to 4:00 p. m. Bring your friends, table, cards and score pad. Play what you please, bridge, canasta, pinochle, or other games. Prizes awarded for each kind of game. 21c

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS All person having claims against 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

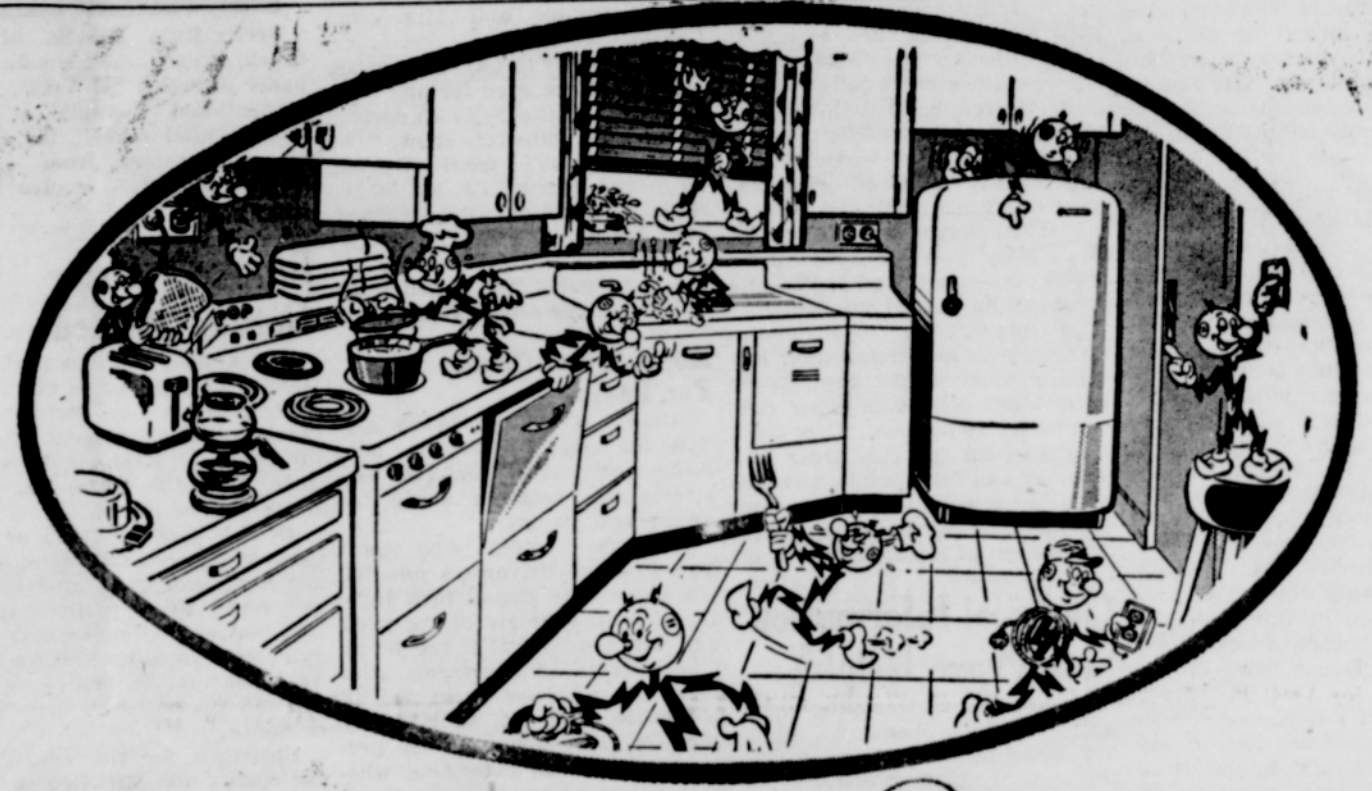
T. Lester Johnson Attorney for Administrator 18-21c

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. Orlow Martin, N. G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

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

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.P.&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

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