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The Legislature

Last week we decided to have a look at the legislature, thinking it might be the best show in the state. It may be but the act is pretty repetitions.

The lobby is almost unanimous in saying that individually the members of this legislature are very good with none of the outstandingly dumb ones often included by the voters; and with a high degree of intelligence the general status. Perhaps. They are dressing better than they did a few years ago, and seem busy at the routine tasks.

But we got the impression that this legislature is motivated by some outside force, that it is going through an act, the script for which was written elsewhere. We suspect that it may be party organizations, which are comparatively new in Oregon legislatures; it may be labor, which prefers to work behind the scenes; it may be personal ambition, although that has always been a factor in legislative behavior.

We heard the house debate re-consideration of a bill to set the salaries of Multnomah county officials. The arguments were superficial. Not one legislator said that it was none of the state's business to set the salaries of county officials and had not been in years; no one mentioned the principles of government. It was carried by almost a party line vote with only the highly independent Jake Bennett and Don McGinnis of the Democrats voting against it and three Portland Republicans voting for. That is party—or something—discipline that no upstanding up-state Democrat would have stood for a few years ago. Also, it is poor government.

The lobby, many members of which have watched legislatures for 20 years or more, say there is no leadership in either house. That is criticism often leveled sourpusses si pure scampisioi je true. It may be in this case, but we think it might look that way if controlled from outside. If the voters want to respect their legislators, which they do not seem to do this session, they must elect more independent ones.

The legislators have been in Salem long enough to be convinced that they must approve a budget of \$50 or \$60 million above the last one; next session it may be \$100 over. Voters will have to be alert to keep from having their pockets picked. GLP

Wait Awhile

It is certainly too early to determine the effect of the wheat referendum. This is the time of extreme eagerness on the part of the advocates of the referendum and the time of elation for opponents. It is also a time for trying to get a new wheat bill. In this regard we must say we are not much impressed with the Farm Bureau's idea of public bidding for wheat acreage.

We see no evidence to date that wheat is going to drop to the six bits the administration's henchmen predicted and certainly one of the reasons for the loss was the fantastic threats and promises that came from Washington to be relayed to farmers by department of agriculture and ex-

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We certainly doubt that farmers are going to plant all the wheat they can and flood the market with unwanted grain. Only under government controls does that happen. Farmers are smarter than that.

Certainly farmers who can grow other crops will do so and that will be a happy day for the big wheat farmer, who, in many parts of the country can grow no other grain for cash crop. Even the big farmer can grow more livestock, especially in the north-west which has been importing most of the pork and beef eaten here. The big farmers have borne the brunt of federal regulation and may now regain their once profitable wheat market.

There will be more wheat used if the price drops to \$1.50 or thereabouts and if there is more used, more can be grown. Under a competitive system the big farmer will gradually crowd out the little wheat farmer who just got into the act because prices were inflated and guaranteed.

Gradually we may again develop a group of dealers who are interested in selling wheat. They have been long gone under government controls. Bad things will come of the vote—and also good things.

Not a single wheat state voted for the controls, and only six states favored them and these were all in the southeast—plus Maine. As for us, we are willing to wait until the tears are shed and the jubilant shouts stilled. GF

Tax Bill

Legislators have been concerned over the possibility, nay probability, of a referendum on any tax bill they might pass. The long continued session and the long tax committee conferences have done little to assure tax payers that the end result will be the best for the state. Principal interest of legislators was very apparently the raising of an additional \$60 million dollars and a great many taxpayers do not think that necessary.

As tax bills go the bill passed back to the houses by the conference committee wasn't so bad. If you assume the state needs an additional \$60 million.

We are certain that voters do not favor paying taxes on their federal income tax; we are equally certain they do not like a sales tax; we do not think they like a cigarette tax. If some one starts a referendum we think the bill will be defeated.

For reasons unexplained the legislators made no hard effort to drop the exemptions of \$600 and thereby adopt the principle that those who receive benefits should pay for them. There is big tax money to be had by reducing the personal exemptions down to half \$600 or less.

Some legislators think that Oregon has traveled long enough on two tax legs: income and property taxes, and should grow more legs, by adopting a sales tax and a cigarette tax and perhaps others when some resourceful tax gatherer thinks them up. The same results—money from the lower income group—can be obtained by dropping the personal exemption.

We would not vote for any new tax. We do not think Oregon has to raise and spend an additional \$60 million each biennium as it has been doing. State government could be curtailed—and should be. And, if the people are given a chance to express their opinion, we are sure it will be. F

a Memorial Day Tribute...



Memorial Day, and always, let us honor our heroic dead by pledging ourselves ever to preserve the liberty of free men for which they gave so much.

Another Problem

When Rachael Carson wrote "Silent Spring", a book highly critical of the use of poison chemicals in food production and forest bug killing, we prophesied it would create quite a fuss. It has.

A committee appointed by the president has agreed that much of the chemical spraying is potentially dangerous to humans and is actually killing game and fish. The federal government will cease and desist its spraying of forests, we read.

As with other public scares, we presume that this one is exaggerated. Chemical spraying for weeds has certainly not been a panacea in this county, but there are other reasons for that than the chemicals themselves. We used to be told that weed seed would live in the ground for seven years and then sprout. We have been spraying for weeds for twice that long, on a fairly general basis, and weed seeds still sprout. We should have eliminated them long ago.

But we used to have livestock that patrolled the fence rows looking for a bite of food during the summer and a weed had to be pretty distasteful to escape. Trashy fallow has given weeds a chance, especially cheat, and it has taken ever great patches in some fields this year. There is no certain spray for it, however.

We are very sure that farmers are not going to resort to the hoe. Hoe handles cause callouses and are unpleasant to the touch, and neither boss or farm laborer will use them. No one has devised a hoe with a comfortable seat on it. Old fashioned methods will not be tried by this generation.

Neither do we think the spraying of weeds will be eliminated.

Technology Exhibit To Be Displayed At Oregon Museum

America's largest space technology exhibit—the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's "Space for the Benefit of Mankind"—will be on display for a full month at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland, opening Saturday, June 1.

The 120-unit display, which will include 2 72-ft. tall Scout rocket and a full-scale model of Mariner II, the spacecraft now speeding toward the planet Venus for a fly-by in December, will arrive by trucks from Washington, D.C. on May 20.

NASA crews will move in the following day, May 29, to set up the massive exhibit for its first public showing Saturday, June 1. Portland will be the second city in the U.S. to have an opportunity to view the new NASA outspace display which was first shown in Cleveland, O. during a ten-day "space fair."

The NASA Space Show at OMSI will be crowded into available areas throughout the museum and will help point up the projected \$600,000 building campaign to add two new wings and a planetarium to the OMSI building.

The new OMSI building program envisions construction of

But we do think the chemical companies will develop some better sprays and sprays less poisonous. That will be beneficial all around. And someone could find something more certain, in method or chemical, than we have so far. GLP

an outdoor planetarium, a wing devoted to the modern science of agriculture and a wing to house the state's educational TV network facilities.

OMSI Slate New Building Project For Near Future

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry at Portland announced plans today for a \$600,000 building project to add two new wings and a planetarium to the OMSI building on S.W. Canyon Road.

Constructed in 1948 with a spectacular one-day community "barn-raising" bee, the museum has rapidly outgrown its present facilities, according to Dr. Donald Stotler, OMSI president.

"Since 1958, OMSI has enjoyed a 20 per cent increase in use annually. Last year over 330,000 persons visited the science center.

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"Today our situation is, simply, that we have run out of space. Classroom space, office, storage and exhibit space are at a premium. At present, OMSI science classes are over-subscribed by 50 per cent. Although 5,000 young people registered for these classes we were able to accommodate only 2,500.

Further details on the fund-raising campaign, including announcement of the organizational structure and specific campaign goals, will be disclosed shortly, Stotler said.

Moro Persouals

Mel Parker the Camera Club instructor tells of the fine pictures taken Sunday evening up at high school during Baccalaureate service. Any adult interested in a Camera Club please make it known to Mel. If there are enough interested we might get him to have a summer project going. With so many summer activities going on it is a shame to let the summer get away from us without some kind of record of it in pictures.

Husky Hut has added something new to their usual schedule of customers needs. A dry goods service which is growing each week with different items of demand for the average citizen.

Here to visit her sister, Mrs. Mollie McLachlan and her daughter, Mrs. Irving Hart and family, is Mrs. May Norden of Portland, now recovered from a broken leg and able to dance.

Circuit Judge Lyle Wolff of Baker stopped in Moro Thursday noon while on his way from Klammath Falls where he has been holding court to Kittitas, Washington to see a nephew graduate from high school. Then he will go home to Baker.



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