

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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LESS TAX HEADACHES

There's a lot of double talk and somewhat rabid arguments offered by opponents of the measure which would add \$30 per census child to every school district in the state. This measure is the "306—Yes, 307—No" item appearing on the November 7th ballot.

Let us examine a basic fact to straighten out our understanding of this "Children's Bill" or "Basic School Support Measure". In the first place, let no one assume that any "economy group" of taxpayers can succeed in denying the schools sufficient money to properly educate the school-age youngsters of the state. Whether this money, above present basic school support contributions, comes from local or state property-tax levies, be sure of one thing: the end result is that the bill must be paid.

There are alarmist cries of "Bankruptcy" of the property-tax-offset funds derived from the state income tax, should this measure pass. This crystal-ball gazing seems almost like wishful thinking. Certainly, by denying a constructive education to our young, we would be contributing a bankruptcy whose effect would be long and disastrous to our state.

The state department of education is already committed to a program of standardizing education to a minimum level. This system works as a tax relief to local school districts by providing \$50 per census school child in a fund from state income tax surpluses. The investment of the state, by this way, is substantial notice that the education of the young generation is and will remain a matter of state-wide concern.

Fears that raising the per-child contribution might lessen local autonomy are not too realistic. The issue at stake is the education of the young, for the future. Local autonomy is not affected other than the lessening of tax-headaches to a degree.

A LIEN IS NOT A LIEN?

The wishes of an electorate, by the fictions of Oregon procedures, is inviolate. Whatever they pass, in referendum, has the effect of a direct mandate of the people. There is no appeal from the judgement of the people.

That is a stirring story in which pressure groups take solid comfort. But the comfort, last election time, was shortlived for pensioners seeking a bigger gratuity from the state.

In the strictest, legalistic sense, passage of the \$50 pension initiative in 1948 was enacted into law—on an oblique line from the intention of the initiative's sponsors. And yet, the last word on pensions has not yet been told.

There comes before the voting public, in November, the "Needy Aged Persons Public Assistance Act" for consideration. There's quite a bit of tub-thumping on both sides of this question. The proposition is submitted by those favoring "308—Yes" that accepting this law will keep the present old-age assistance machinery working as usual. Those partisan to "309—No" contend that the state legislature has turned its back on pensioners, particularly when the "lien provision" was added.

A strong presentation in behalf of the measure's passage argues that the "prior claim" mentioned in the law seeking approval is not a lien. Opponents say it definitely is.

This argument tends to obscure the major discussion—namely, should the referendum be passed.

In this enlightened age, no one should question the right of needy aged persons to a subsistence-level pension. Taking care of our senior citizens discharges a social responsibility, one which has a bearing on the health and welfare of a strong state and nation. But, unfortunately, there is a limit to the burdens of taxation which any state or nation may assume.

By the wording of the "lien provisions" of the act, a needy person over 65, owning a home, is not denied relief. But a prior claim is laid upon such property for repayment of pension money received.

Senior citizen groups cry out at this as an injustice. To us, it seems fair enough that pensioners with property should be willing to have these payments deducted from an estate which they might leave. There seems no justice in letting the heirs of such a needy person benefit from an estate which only the meager monthly pension sums had kept together.

Each case should rest on its own merits, of course. A home for a spouse or dependent children should not be broken up merely to satisfy the states "prior claim" and the law specifically provides this.

But claiming the "prior claim" is not a "lien", as has been done by one group agitating for "308—Yes" is trying to make too fine a distinction of meanings. A lien is a legal claim upon property, a security for payment. That was apparently the intent of the legislature and there should be no quibbling of words in trying to hide it.

If future payment is expected from property-owning pensioners, how could it possibly be that a lien is not a lien?

SERVICES TO BE MADE

Comparisons are only valid when they are made against an existing fact.

The Constitutional Amendment Fixing Legislator's Annual Compensation ("300—Yes"; "301—No"), subject to the November 7 election, is a generous liberalization of existing legislature pay. Even though it does not compare to other West Coast states, it is generous when seen in relation to the present pay of \$8 a day for not over 50 days.

What is proposed is not \$600 to replace the \$400 per session, or \$200 a year except for special sessions. This is \$1200 for each session, again excepting special calls, to be paid on an annual basis, or \$600 per year.

Certainly, \$600 a year is no great incentive for a legislator. It seems almost ridiculous to suppose that anyone should question the passage of this measure. It might be more healthy for the welfare of Oregon to even increase the stipend from the proposed figure.

Oregon seems to have a characteristic of its own, however, wherein the ability to serve in the big state "talk house" does not depend entirely upon the remuneration. There are many legislators who have given up their regular businesses during drawn-out sessions at a distinct financial loss.

Even the spook-story that fat lobbyists would be able to buy out the brains and integrity of law-makers unless they were amply paid doesn't quite hold together. Certainly, this has not been the general rule before and should not in the future.

We might well consider the raise in legislator's pay as not a sop to a clamorous demand but as a conservative compensation for services to be made.

WHY NOT THE RIGHT WAY

Reapportionment of the legislature as provided in a proposed constitutional amendment, ballot numbers "314—Yes" and "315—No", divides the state up by a balanced pattern, not fully in line with the spirit of the state provision for such.

In effect, it gives the smaller counties of the state, with much less population, a disproportionate voting strength, at the expense of more heavily populated counties—such as Washington and Multnomah. This measure offers a premium to the sparsely settled areas and lessens the voting value of the more densely populated.

There is certainly time for some adjustment in the makeup of the state legislature, in keeping with population changes. But it is never time to penalize one segment of taxpayers by allowing a greater advantage to another segment.

There should be a legislative reapportionment, but why not do it the right way?

BONUS NOW OR NEVER

In Beaverton, recently, the American Legion took down a Community Honor Roll signboard, listing the names of all residents who served in World War II.

If anyone needed further notice that the war was over and the citizens once singled out for mention are now anonymous, this provided it. And in the November 7 election, there is another way in which will be expressed whether or not those who shouldered arms are completely forgotten.

The "World War II Veterans' Compensation Fund" initiative (312—Yes; 313—No) proposes pay at the rate of \$10 per month for domestic and \$15 per month for foreign service, maximum of \$600, to veterans of at least 90 days between September 16, 1940 and June 30, 1946.

We who do not selfishly benefit from this act, yet who will be called upon by general taxation to pay the bill, could look at this as a raid on public monies of a special interest group.

Would we have looked at it this way, back in the dark days of 1941, '42 and '43?

It's easy to discount wartime services. After all, isn't it merely an act of patriotism, a mass call to duty? And didn't many of these veterans spend all their time in the United States, enjoying a ration-free existence and all the hospitality and deference because of uniforms?

Patriotism takes many forms. One who spent the war in domestic service was nevertheless required to make numerous sacrifices in personal advancement which was not made by many civilians.

Those who look closely enough may find numerous flaws in this initiative. But there will always be flaws in any such measure. It is more honestly a matter of whether wartime service should be honored or be shrugged off.

The thunderheads of World War III are doing their best to roll down upon us. If the present uneasiness persists, there might well never be another opportunity to vote on such an issue. And so it looks, on this issue, as if it is a situation of a soldier bonus now or never.

Noted In File Of County Sheriff

TOO FAST ON CURVE

The 1939 Plymouth sedan of Ratus Wheeluck Grinnin, 584 Greenway Drive, Beaverton, on October 19, edged into the left lane on a sharp curve about 3 miles west on Jaquith road, meeting the 1950 Dodge pickup of William H. Drahn, of Springfield, Oregon, head on.

The curve was 18 feet wide on a gravel surface. Visibility was poor and weather rainy.

L. F. Drahn, passenger in the pickup, suffered slight head injuries.

OLD WHITE HORSE PFFT!

R. S. Bryan, 630 S. E. 20th, Portland, on Patterson road close to Skyline boulevard, reports an old white work horse of some 1600 pounds, value unknown, has taken off, perhaps in search of greener pastures.

Bryan thinks his nag may be wandering around in the vicinity and he is most anxious to recover it.

OFFICE SAFE KIDNAPPED

Burglary and kidnap of an office safe, on the night of October 17 or early morning of October 18 is told by George Cote, Wolf Creek Highway Water Department, 12917 N. W. Cornell road, in Cedar Mill.

Contents were approximately \$115 in cash and records. West door was jimmied for entrance into garage and store room, from where entry was made into office. Safe was removed through storage room to front of the building where it was probably loaded into a car or truck.

Included in the loss was about \$1 of nickels, in the cash register.

TALE OF SLEEPY DRIVER

Elwin Paxson, 350 Washington street, Beaverton, driving a 1941 Buick sedanette, October 19, was traveling east on Canyon road at about 45 miles per hour when disaster struck.

Paxson was in the right side of the inside lane as a 1949 Chevrolet club coupe, driven by Roger D. Harms of Canby, traveling west, started across the highway toward him. Paxson swerved to the left to avoid a collision, at which time Harms also turned back toward his own lane, hitting the Buick's right rear fender.

Harms stated that he fell asleep and only awoke when he was headed for Paxson's car. Pavement was wet, visibility poor and weather rainy.

SHORT END OF PAYCHECK

Most everyone recognizes that many a paycheck seems to have a short end. And in the case of Bobbette Hawxhurst, Tualatin butcher, this was rudely brought home.

Hawxhurst, September 27, cashed a check in the amount of \$36.24, drawn as a payroll item on the account of Harris Lumber company, in Sandy, in a sale of some \$6 worth of meats and picnic ham.

By October 17, the paper returned to Tualatin with a shocking notation, "Unable to Locate".

The John Doe suspected in the case was in his early 30's; 5'9" to 5'11"; medium to slender build; blond hair and light complexion.

BUMPTIOUS BRICKLAYER

Ben Carsh, Metzger, Oregon, had a run-in with a bumptious bricklayer, but Ben won out.

About 11:30 p. m., October 16, he accosted a man in non-descript clothes loading 50 to 75 grey cement blocks, costing 12 to 15 cents apiece, in the trunk of a Pontiac sedan.

"What are you doing?" Carsh demanded.

The brick-layer replied he wanted to buy these blocks but couldn't find the owner. Carsh told him to unload them, whereupon the man drove off.

License number was taken down and forwarded to the state police who later found the car with two blocks still in the back compartment.

VALUABLE DOG KILLED

Floyd Davis, Route 3, Box 82, Beaverton, reports the shooting of a 7 months old pointer pup, value \$700, between October 6 and 13. The canine remains were found by W. Wier and his 11 year old grandson on the evening of Oct. 13.

A rifle had been used in the killing, entering the right hip and blowing a large hole at the left hip exit. Dog when found had been dead for some time, apparently. Little blood was found, indicating the shooting had occurred elsewhere and that the dog had crawled to fence row in briar patch, ½ mile from the Davis place, to die.

Dogs are Davis' business and he is determined to "smoke out" the culprit responsible for this inhuman attack.

LOST PURSE SOUGHT

Mrs. E. Rose Murray, Vancouver, Washington, reports the loss of a brown leather wallet with keys, money, driver's license and personal papers lost on the Bert Wilson place, Allen avenue, Beaverton, on October 17.

Finder is asked to contact Henry Mayfield, chief of police.

SUSPICIOUS SKULKING

Mrs. Ernest Brown, Route 1, Box 584, Aloha, on Rosa road, west of Wheeler, on October 17, reports a car driving around neighborhood without lights.

The vehicle pulled into her driveway about 1 a. m. but soon left as soon as she flashed on the lights.

About a week previous, someone tried the doors and windows of the house before being run off. This occurred between 8:30 and 10:30 p. m.

HOW TO BE JAILBIRD

The pattern of becoming a jailbird might be a simple one, if the act of E. J. Finley, Tigard justice of the peace is any criterion.

Andrew Jennings Ellison, of Tigard, was convicted of operating a motor vehicle with no tail light and by order of the j.p., was fined \$10 and jailed for a term of three hours.

This stroke of justice occurred on October 20.

THEFT OF REAR END

John Dalton, Route 12, Box 141C, Sherwood, reports the theft, between 8 a. m., October 14, and 9 a. m., October 15, of a 1934 Plymouth rear end.

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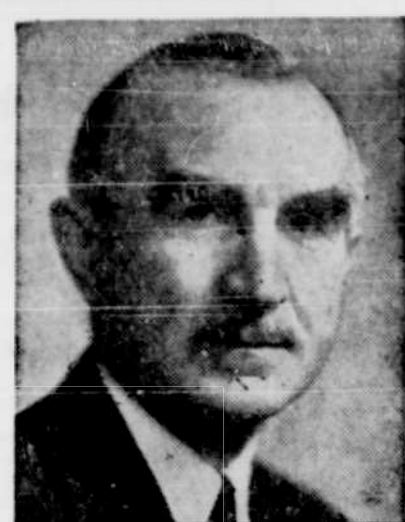


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Pd. Adv. The Children's Bill Comm., Mrs. Jennelle Moorhead, Chrm., 1006 Broadway Bldg., Portland

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