

## STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Official Family
- Reapportionment
- Building Program

By A. L. LINDBECK

Salem. — Oregon's official family will continue to function with only one major change of personnel after the first of the year. Leslie P. Scott of Portland, the voters' choice for state treasurer in the recent election will take over the duties now performed by Walter E. Pearson on January 6. In addition to his duties as state treasurer Scott will also sit in as a member of the Board of Control, Land Board, Printing Board and State Bond commission. In compliance with the statutory provision that requires the treasurer-elect to take the oath of office within 20 days of his official notification Scott was sworn in by Justice Percy R. Kelly this week, the simple ceremony taking place in the presence of a few friends in the supreme court chamber.

Incidentally, Justice Kelly be-

comes chief justice of the supreme court after January 1, succeeding Justice John L. Rand who has held that post of honor the past two years.

In addition to the \$19,500,000 of general fund cash which it is estimated will be required to finance appropriation-supported state activities during the next two years, state boards, commissions and departments will spend the huge sum of \$87,000,000 according to estimates filed with the state budget director. Greatest spending agency will be the highway department whose budget calls for a total of \$31,000,000 financed largely through gasoline taxes, automobile licenses and federal grants. Expenditures of the Public Welfare commission are estimated at \$19,200,000 including liquor profits, federal aid and county contributions toward relief of the needy. The Unemployment Compensation commission expects to disburse \$9,700,000 in jobless insurance payments and administrative costs, financed through taxes on industrial payrolls. Expenditures of the Industrial Accident commission are estimated at \$9,500,000 in benefit payments to injured workmen and their dependents. Expenditures by other non-general

fund activities include: World War Veterans State Aid commission, \$5,000,000; Fish, game, forestry and agriculture departments, \$3,200,000; education (in addition to appropriations from general funds) \$3,000,000; public utilities commission and other regulatory bodies, \$2,000,000; general government, \$900,000; health and sanitation, \$400,000.

A discarded measure of the 1935 session has been dug out of the scrap heap, dusted off and is being presented to members of the forthcoming legislative session as the solution to the problem of what to do with the state's aged residents. Briefly, the measure provides for a retirement annuity of \$60 per month, or so much thereof as finance will permit, to all residents of the state who have passed their 60th birthday and who are ready to cease gainful employment. The retirement annuity would be financed through a tax on wages, salaries and other individual incomes. The 1935 measure called for a tax of one per cent with a provision that this levy could be increased to a maximum of two and one-half per cent if experience proved the one per cent levy to be inadequate. The measure has the support of leaders of the old age pension

movement who, it is understood, will offer it to the session as a substitute for the program to be offered by the governor's interim committee for the retirement of public employees.

Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten, state director for selective service, returned Friday from Washington, D. C., where he conferred with national officials on problems connected with the draft. While no official word has yet been received on the subject Wooten expects a call for a large number of Oregon men for military training in January.

One of the biggest problems confronting the approaching legislative session will be that of reapportioning the state. While the constitution provides that the task shall be undertaken every ten years, following each federal census it is now more than 30 years since the last legislative reapportionment although minor readjustments in representative and senatorial districts have been made from time to time.

Multnomah county legislators, whose county would be the chief beneficiary of any thorough reapportionment at this time, are coming to the session prepared to insist upon a complete reshuffling of the legislative deck. At the present time Multnomah county has six members of the senate, plus one other shared with Clackamas county, and 13 representatives, plus one shared with Clackamas and Columbia counties. That gives this one county approximately 22 per cent of the senate and House membership. Inasmuch as the county contains approximately one-third of the state's population its delegation insists that it is entitled to one-third the legislative seats. That means an addition of three senators and six representatives. But in order to give Multnomah county these additional members they must be taken away from less populous counties. And there is the rub. Up-state counties feel that Multnomah county wields entirely too much influence in the legislature already for the good of the state as a whole. To give Multnomah the additional members to which she is entitled on a strictly population basis, it is feared, would be to turn over complete domination of the law-making body to that county. Counties destined to lose through a legislative reapportionment at this time can be expected to oppose the move, and, under the circumstances these

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