

### French Reviews The Legislature

By GILES FRENCH  
Rep. 22nd District  
(Held from Last Week)

Something of the temper of the house was discerned last week when it voted 46 to 14 to give a private power company favorable conditions in which to build a power plant on the Snake river. There was criticism of the attitude of public power advocates who were charged with wanting to prevent any private company from doing any building whatsoever, even though there was demand for the elec-

tricity that public power could not reach.

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The Tax Study committee excluded reporters from its sessions in the last months, an action that is now being proven erroneous. The report, issued in December, fell on a waiting public when it was more concerned with the holidays and it was not read by many. Now it lays like a load of undigested food on the house taxation committee, which, without having studied the report is inclined to by-pass it for something less constructive but simpler. This means probably that there will be a little patchwork on the already well patched garment of state taxes

instead of some of the major reforms so badly needed.

This action will meet with the favor of those who would be adversely affected by the acceptance of the commission's ideas. Property taxpayers would have been better protected, individuals would have paid a little more and business would have been taxed more heavily had the plan been adopted, a result that seems unlikely at this writing. The business tax is admittedly a fairer tax than the one on personal property, but needs more public acceptance than is now possible. The utilities dislike the report because its recommendations would have levied an excise tax on them.

The excise tax amendment also would have removed the present exemption which cooperatives now enjoy. Members of true cooperatives have studied the bill without finding it would damage them seriously. Some hope that a better definition of a co-op would be evolved to eliminate the so-called co-ops that are tax-exempt without being truly cooperatives. Removal of the exemption of utility corporations would have brought in around \$5,000,000 which would have meant more than four mills further reduction in personal property taxes, a little matter that would have meant much more to farmers than any possible tax on farm cooperatives. However, it may be years before this is sufficiently understood to permit passage. All corporations, except utilities, are double taxed, once by excise and once for income of stockholders.

Plan now being considered by those best informed is to raise another four million from income taxes to insure that there will be no property tax for the next biennium and then raise some money for the general fund through additional taxes, which may be necessary if welfare costs are not trimmed down. Those taxes may be some on gambling, more from dog and

### Lexington News Of The Week

By Mrs. Clarence Hayes

The band concert and dinner are definitely going to be held this Sunday, March 2. The P.T.A. is sponsoring it, but all proceeds go to the band. Dinner will be served from 1 until 2:30 and the concert begins at 3 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Warner and family and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gillum were week-end horse racing, perhaps some from a withholding tax on wages which is partly for revenue and partly to insure collection of income taxes from workers, may be a tobacco tax. If this policy is followed it would permit the state to end the biennium with a fairly good economic condition barring unforeseen conditions.

It is expected that the school bill, HB 9, will come out this week. Unless changed in committee it will be fought vigorously, and it is doubtful if the committee will change it much. It has become sacred to teachers and principals and parent-teachers, few of whom seem to have an understanding of it. It is impossible to believe that it will not eventually react against the present bunch of educational leaders and injure schools. Taxpayers are entitled to efficient administration and economy, especially in times of high taxes and they are not getting it. Schools that cost the state nearly \$40,000,000 should really educate.

The furor over the pay of state policemen is sort of a week-end tempest in a teapot, caused by personal rancor and will probably result in nothing. Funds and means is trying to find out the pay scale of similar officers and will act when that is available—not much before, if any. Senate ways and means members are little concerned over the attitude of the speaker and might be inclined to enjoy his discomfort. There will certainly be a substantial raise in pay for the members of the state police before the legislature adjourns. That much is accepted as certain.

guests at the Earl Warner home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jackson made a business trip to The Dalles Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Jones of Portland were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jones over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed McFadden and daughter were visiting friends in Hermiston Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig entertained the Letterman's club and the high school girls at a party in their home Saturday evening.

Mrs. Charles Breshears drove to Pendleton Friday. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Carl Whitlock of Heppner. Another daughter, Mrs. Everett Crump of Heppner had charge of the postoffice while they were gone.

Mrs. Margaret Smith was visiting her daughter Donna who stays at Mrs. Allyn's, last Tuesday.

A. M. Edwards was transacting business in Pasco and Kennewick, Wash., Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Urey of Eugene were visiting their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Peck, here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ladd Sherman and daughter of Hermiston were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Carmichael.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Munkers were visiting in The Dalles a few days this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Cutsforth, Mr. and Mrs. Myles Martin and Mrs. Elsie Beach entertained the members of the Lexington grange at a social Saturday evening. There was a short program and games were played with the evening ending with refreshments.

Guests at the Gus McMillan home over the week end were their sons, Jack and Pete, of Portland, and their nephew John, also of Portland.

Miss June Steagall was visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Steagall, over the week end. June is attending St. Joseph's academy in Pendleton.

Mrs. Adolph Majeske and daughters, Pat and Audrey, were visitors in Pendleton Monday.

### Kinzua News of Week

By Elsa M. Leathers

Arlington won the trophy at the sub-district tournament in Fossil last week end, with Condon runner-up. Mitchell lost to both Arlington and Fossil. Arlington will play in the district tournament at The Dalles Feb. 27-28-Mar. 1. Wheeler county patrons were happy to see Arlington win. They have a swell team of clean players, and good sports.

All stars were Bob Clough, sophomore; Bub Roberts, senior; Pete Wheelhouse, junior, all of Arlington; Melvin Pattee, senior; Don Didier, sophomore; Dick Wilkins, sophomore, all of Condon; Gene Roark, sophomore; Jerry Simmons, senior, of Fossil; Merle Elms, Bill, Shoemaker, Mitchell.

Kinzua grade school lost to Arlington grade in the district tournament.

Fossil A string has five boys from Kinzua: Owen Leathers, main, with Norvin Adams, Steve Harrison, Don Ostrander, Welter Weir Jr. as subs.

J. C. Walker, Maurice Brown and Andrew Staig went to Heppner to take the M. E. M. degree of the Royal Arch lodge, Friday night. Mr. Brown will go on to Portland to fetch Mrs. Brown home. She has spent two weeks there visiting.

Harold Sessor flew over from Sisters and visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sessor here over the week end. Harold is the state forester stationed at Sisters. He owns his plane.

Camp 5 is not operating until better logging weather. Part of the crew is working here.

Louie Canick, boss of the section crew, quit and left Kinzua, going to Seattle.

Mr. and Mrs. John Owens of Milton-Freewater were week-end visitors at Kinzua. Mrs. Warren Jobe, his sister, returned home with them and will also visit

her son and family in Pendleton before she returns.

Dorothy Wright is taking a vacation from the confectionery. Maridell Wahm is working there now.

Mark Ellick, Barbara Graham and Owen Leathers Jr. all have badly sprained ankles, and had to have extras.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Coleman and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Coleman left this week for San Francisco where they expect to spend two weeks at the West Coast Lumbermen's meeting.

Bill Litzell of Salem was visiting his father, Frank, this week. Bill went to grade school and high school here.

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