



Salem Scene

By ROBERT DERNEDE

Hot Political Battle Over Boardman Site

In the furor of debates over the governor's budget cutting requests, little notice has been given to political "hanky-panky" with regard to securing the validity of the Boardman space age industrial park lease to Boeing Co.

Governor Hatfield asked for legislation to allow borrowing of \$1 million from state trust funds to finance the purchase of lands making up the Boardman site.

Both Assistant to the Governor Warne Nunn and Boeing attorney Grant Anderson confirmed in testimony before joint ways and means committee that without an established fund to pay for land purchased from the Navy, the lease could possibly be held invalid.

The lease is contingent on an unqualified written opinion of legal counsel selected by Boeing that the state is empowered to enter into the agreement. Anderson said, he, himself, could not write such an opinion unless proposed legislation is enacted.

In addition, the state needed specific legislation to change a prior legislative order that all rental income from state owned lands be put in common school fund. Rental income from Boeing is needed to pay for land purchased by the state from the Navy.

These legal necessities sparked political fighting with cries of "illegal acts" against the State Land Board and unqualified charges that the state would be "flat on its back for the next 77 years."

At a period in history when all but six states in the nation are desperately competing with one another to secure new industry to provide more jobs for its citizens, some Oregon legislators and a "private citizen," would prefer to take a wait-and-see attitude with the Boardman site and thus renege on the Boeing deal for at least two years.

Ways and Means Committee members were compelled to hear testimony from Howard Morgan, ex-federal power commission member and ex-Democrat state chairman, after a motion was made to adjourn late Tuesday night, November 19. A Portland newspaper, "The Reporter," had carried Morgan's testimony hours before it was presented to the committee.

Sen. Ward Cook prevented the motion to adjourn saying Morgan wanted to testify and would not be available the following day. Morgan, after charging the lease was a "dangerous agreement" admitted he would be available for questioning the next day.

Contrary to the wording of the lease, Morgan suggested that tax deductions on the amount of rental could produce negative figures and "Boeing lawyers will go to court and get a ruling" that the state owes Boeing money. He said, "We need industry, but there is a limit." The lease spells out tax deduction limitations.

Following Morgan's much debated testimony, political sharpshooting was aimed at the Governor, his aides and the State Land Board. Senators Edward Fadeley and Alfred Corbett and Representatives Beulah Hand and Sidney Leiken (all Democrats) asserted the lease agreement was "illegal" and they were not about to make an "illegal act legal."

Corbett contended the "land board got in over its head," beyond 1961 legislative appropriations and "wants this legislature to bail it out."

Nunn said the block of land was developed to attract a prime

contractor in space age industry. "There are not many such customers," he said. He defended the lease asserting it promises to bring appreciable industrial development to the state and the Boardman area.

Another Boeing spokesman said the company has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on plans to develop the new desolate site for testing space propulsion systems. He said present plans would employ many people. The greatest amount of land would be used for future expansion.

Anderson said the lease has an automatic expiration date of December 15, and "I would be surprised if Boeing pursues the matter any further," should the legislature not enact the needed measures.

Attorney General Robert Thornton was asked to give a written opinion to the constitutionality of the bill, but instead entered into the political scrap with recommendations rather than an opinion. Thornton suggested the issue be referred to the people, which, in essence, would place the Boardman site and Boeing Co. in the center of political battling during the coming election year.

The legislature stopped all debating as news of President Kennedy's assassination was announced, and consequently recessed until after the state funeral.

Advisory Group Slates Meeting

Members of the Oregon Livestock Advisory Committee, which serves as an advisory group to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, will meet December 3 at the Agriculture Building, Salem. The meeting is set for 10 a.m.

The committee will review the Oregon brand inspection law and determine whether it will advise the department to propose that the 1965 legislative session consider making changes in the law.

In its study of the brand inspection law the group will hear a report on receipts and disbursements under the brand program; and have reports on the number of strays returned; proceeds withheld until evidence of ownership of an animal is established and prosecutions completed in the case of thefts of animals.

A report is to be made to the committee on the effects of present and proposed department budget reductions and Dr. Glenn Rea, state veterinarian, will report on the present livestock disease picture in Oregon.

Also considered during the meeting will be recommendations to the U. S. Department of Agriculture on its proposed grades for feeder cattle and a recommendation to the Oregon Department of Agriculture on which breeds of male livestock should be permitted to run on open range. At present regulations limit the breeds to Hereford, Angus and Shorthorn.

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Club Installs, Outlines Christmas Plans

By DELPHA JONES

LEXINGTON — Home Economics Club of the Lexington Grange held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Alfred Nelson, Jr., last Thursday afternoon. Plans were made for the December Grange meeting on December 14. This is to be a potluck dinner (with turkey furnished by the club) and Christmas party with treats for the children. Gifts for the Oregon State hospital in Pendleton are planned, and it is asked that they not be gift wrapped as they would have to be unwrapped, as all gifts are examined.

Following the regular meeting an installation of officers was held with Mrs. Norman Nelson acting as installing officer. The following ladies were installed: Mrs. C. C. Jones, chairman; Mrs. Edward Hunt, vice chairman; Mrs. Nora Turner, secretary; and Mrs. Edna Turner, treasurer. Lovely refreshments were served later.

Rev. Earl Soward was a visitor in La Grande on Friday of last week.

Frank Robinson is a patient in Pioneer Memorial hospital having undergone surgery there last week.

Mrs. Carl Marquardt and infant daughter have returned to their home from Pioneer Memorial hospital.

Mrs. Marvin Way returned home Thursday from a few days stay in Pioneer Memorial hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. George Irvin and family of Rufus visited Friday night and Saturday at the C. C. Jones home with Mrs. Florence McMillan and Mrs. Vic Groshens Jr., they enjoyed an early Thanksgiving dinner at the Jones' home. Scott and Greg Groshens returned home with the Irvins for a visit.

Holly Rebekah Lodge met on Thursday night for their regular meeting. Preceding the meeting, Miss Marcia Rands of Heppner showed slides and gave a talk

on the U. N. trip she enjoyed last summer. Mrs. Altha Kirk, district deputy president, was present to examine the new officers in their work for the coming year. Following the meeting refreshments were served. There were four members visiting from San Souci lodge of Heppner, also Mrs. Earl Eskelson of Hermiston.

Earl Miller, who is employed at Ice Harbor Dam, was a Lexington caller on Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hunt were week-end visitors in Spokane.

Lexington Bridge club met at the home of Mrs. Dean Hunt last week for their regular meeting. High score was held by Mrs. William J. Van Winkle; second high, Mrs. Oliver Creswick, and low, Mrs. D. Bellenbrock. Others playing were Mrs. Johnnie Ledbetter, Mrs. Gene Cutsforth, Mrs. C. C. Carmichael, Mrs. Eldon Padberg and the hostess, Mrs. Hunt.

Gene Cole is a patient in Pioneer Memorial hospital, having undergone major surgery there

on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bothwell have moved into the Donald Hunt house since there household furnishings were destroyed in the J. F. McMillan fire. The community will join in a miscellaneous shower to help replace some of their possessions lost in the fire. This will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Lexington IOOF hall sponsored by Lexington Women's Fellowship and Holly Rebekah lodge.

Mrs. Doyle Key accompanied her mother, Mrs. Floyd Hutchins, home from Portland Saturday. Mrs. Hutchins was a patient in Providence Hospital, undergoing extensive physical examination.

Mrs. Mike Saling returned last Monday from an 11-day stay in Cornelius with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Don Hevener, new parents of a son.

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