

By  
Dist. 55  
Rep.  
Bill Bellamy

# House bill proposes \$23-million cut in state welfare

bill was enacted. Further legislative notes... The Oregon House approved legislation directing the Department of Environmental

Quality to establish alternative sewage disposal systems in Oregon. The bill addresses a concern of many Oregonians who own

land but cannot build homes on their land because it is not suitable for a standard septic tank and drain field. This legislation, HB 2680,

would allow alternative sewage disposal systems to be used in areas not suitable for septic tanks. The D.E.Q. already has the

authority to develop and allow such alternative systems...but has dragged its feet in doing so. This bill sends the message from the Legislature to the

department to get moving. Many areas in District 55 are not suitable for septic tanks. This bill should ease that problem and make state

government more receptive to the needs of the people in the district. The bill now goes to Senate for consideration.

Abuses and overpayments in the country's welfare system have peeved taxpayers for years. Now, in Oregon, the Legislature is considering measures that would improve our welfare program.

This last week, a bill which I support, HB 2688, was debated in a House committee.

The bill is designed to cut \$23 million dollars from the state's portion of public welfare paid to families with dependant children. Before you think we are kicking kids out into the cold of night, consider that Oregon presently pays 15 per cent more to these families than the national average. Yet, the average working Oregonian makes \$12 less per year than the average American.

While Oregonians earn less than the national average in income, we pay our welfare clients 15 per cent more than the national average.

This bill would hold Oregon's present payments at current levels. But, the bill would not allow those payments to increase until the national average reached or exceeded Oregon's level. Then Oregon's payments would keep pace with the national average.

Presently, Oregon pays \$369 to an ADC family of three compared to the national average of \$312 for the same family. In essence, our high assistance standards do not conform with our ability to pay.

This cost-saving measure could total \$52 million in reduced expenditures by the state's welfare agency. The state would save \$23 million and the federal government would save \$29 million if the

## Forest Service announces 15.3 million feet of timber is sold

H. B. Rudolph, Forest Supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest announced Monday that a total of 15.3 million board feet of timber has been offered for oral auction during the month of March.

Blue Mountain Forest Products, Inc. was the apparent successful bidder on the Patit timber sale March 15. The sale was appraised at \$568,825 for an estimated 8,000,000 board feet and the final bid was \$919,540. Final bid prices per thousand board feet were: Ponderosa pine, \$117.77; Douglas-fir and western larch, \$81; white fir and other species, \$125.

The sale area lies in the Maloney Mountain-Patit Creek area approximately 15 miles southeast of Dayton, Washington on the Pomeroy Ranger District.

Kinza Corporation was high bidder on the Yearling timber sale March 23. This sale was appraised at \$1,075,989 for an estimated 7.3 million board feet and the final bid was \$1,804,400. Final bid prices per thousand board feet were: Ponderosa pine, \$308; Douglas-fir and other species, \$123. This sale is on the Heppner Ranger District in Grant County.

## Studded tires are illegal past Apr. 30

Studded tires on Oregon's highways are illegal after April 30, Fred B. Klaboe, director, Oregon Department of Transportation, announced today.

Studded tires are permitted on the state's highway system by statute from Nov. 1 to April 30. Motorists are asked to remove their studded tires as soon as possible if not needed because of the damage caused to road surfaces where there is no ice or snow.

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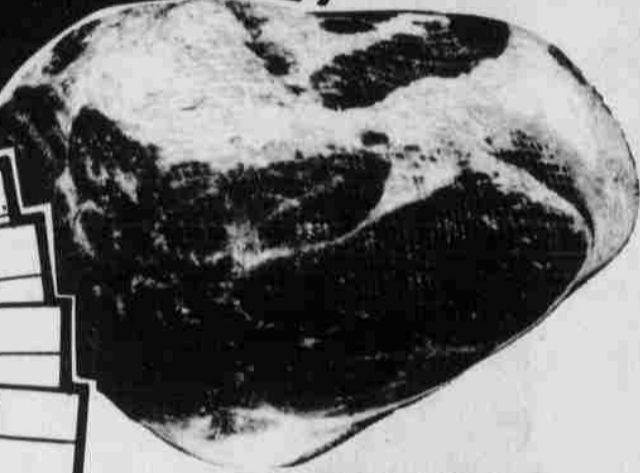
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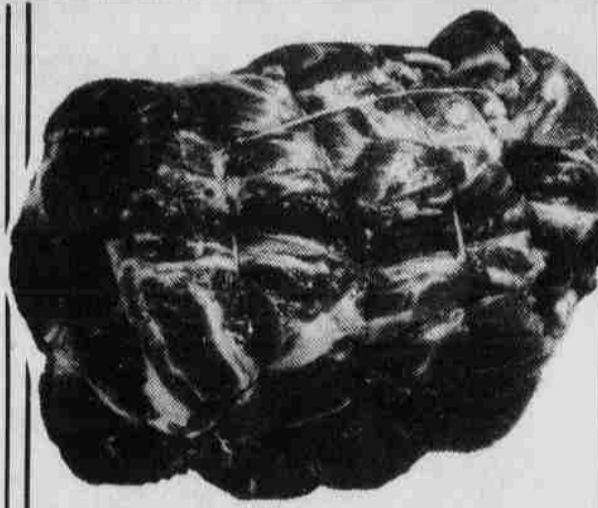
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