

28 Senators Employed Relatives In Fiscal 1949, Report Discloses

Washington, Apr. 13—(U.P.)—An official report has disclosed that 28 of the 115 senators who served during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, had close relatives on their office payrolls.

The report, which did not disclose the duties or salaries of these relatives, was issued yesterday by Senate Secretary Leslie L. Biffle. It presented a detailed breakdown of the expenses of senate operations during fiscal 1949.

The senator with the most relatives on his office staff was Sen. Arthur V. Watkins (R., Utah). At varying times, they included one son, two daughters and a daughter-in-law. But Watkins' daughters merely worked for him for a few weeks.

Sen. Dennis Chavez (D., N.M.) employed a son and daughter, and the late Sen. John H. Overton (D., La.) employed two daughters at intervals during that period.

There is nothing illegal in the employment of relatives by a member of congress. There are several well known examples of wives and children who have been indispensable parts of the administrative machinery built up by senators and representa-

Son Aids Vandenberg
Arthur H. Vandenberg Jr., has been associated with his famous father for several years. The GOP Michigan senator is known to lean heavily on his son for carrying on the burdens of administrative tasks.

A United Press survey in December disclosed that at least 90 of the 435 house members have relatives on their payrolls. House payrolls—unlike those in the senate—are kept on a monthly basis and show the amount granted to each employee.

Monthly Allowance
Senators are entitled to a basic monthly allowance to pay their office staffs. Senators from the more populous states receive additional grants on the theory that they have more constituents and a greater volume of work.

Other present or former senate members on Biffle's list included:

Former Sen. Carl A. Hatch (D., N.M.);
Also Senators Henry C. Dworshak (R., Ida.); Edwin C. Johnson (D., Colo.); Ernest W. McFarland (D., Ariz.); James E. Murray (D., Mont.); Glen H. Taylor (D., Ida.); and Elbert D. Thomas (D., Utah).

Northwest Solons Seek To Salvage Columbia Program

Washington, Apr. 13—(U.P.)—Northwest senators meet today to start "Operation Salvage" on the \$600 million reclamation features of the Columbia river coordinated program as proposed by the senate interior committee.

The committee amendment to the flood control bill has been under steady fire on the senate floor for three days. One of its chief supporters, Sen. Warren Magnuson (D., Wash.) said he did not believe it could pass the senate in its present form.

13 Projects
He suggested that northwest senators meet today before the senate convenes. He said they will try to decide how to proceed.

The interior committee amendment would authorize 13 reclamation projects, create a Columbia basin account and authorize use of power revenues from both reclamation and army engineer projects to help pay irrigation costs. Those revenues would include interest collected on the federal power investment.

Chavez Opposed
Chairman Dennis Chavez (D., N.M.) of the senate public works committee opposed the interior committee amendment because his group had not been consulted. Sen. Arthur V. Watkins (R., Utah) proposed that the amendment be withdrawn and referred as a separate bill to both committees for joint hearings.

Sen. Guy Cordon (R., Ore.) submitted an amendment to authorize the reclamation projects, treat them as one for bookkeeping purposes, but eliminate the basin account as such.

Binaggio Bullets Compared With Illinois Slugs

Kansas City, Mo., Apr. 13—(U.P.)—Two Kansas City detectives left today for Chicago to compare the bullets that killed democratic boss Charles Binaggio and his rowdy lieutenant, Charles Gargotta, with slugs recovered in recent Illinois murders.

Binaggio and Gargotta were shot to death by unknown gunmen a week ago last night in a democratic party clubroom on Truman road in Kansas City's north side.

To Check Guns
Police wanted to check whether the guns that killed the two men could have been fired by Chicago gunmen, possibly representatives of the alleged national crime syndicate commanded by remnants of the old Capone mob.

Lt. Lester Haupt and ballistic expert William Myers were sent to check the slugs taken from their bodies with pictures and bullets in the famed Chicago police ballistics laboratory and library.

Live Oak Grange
Regular meeting of Live Oak Grange will be held Thursday, April 13 with initiation of candidates. All Granges are invited to bring their third and fourth degree candidates. H.E.C. members please bring cookies.

Highway Program 'Gets Rolling in 1919-20 Biennium

This is another in a series of "Glimpses at Highway History," prepared by Ralph Watson, state highway commission writer. In earlier installments, Watson has told of the early history of road and highway construction in Oregon. In the following article he tells of the first really intensive work done on highways here, between 1918 and 1920.

Started rolling in 1917 with a \$6 million bond issue, plus other financial assets, with labor loosened by up returning soldiers and materials more available, the state highway commission started extending its lines at a much more rapid pace.

In 1919 the legislature became even more generous than it had been in 1917 and upped the highway bonds by an additional \$10 million. It set a special election for June 3 and submitted an amendment to the constitution authorizing counties to bond themselves up to six per cent of their assessed value. It submitted to a vote at the same election the \$2,500,000 Roosevelt military coast highway bonding act and as a final gesture passed and submitted the market roads tax bill, which authorized the state to levy a special ad valorem tax of one mill for county road construction in connection with the state program.

Voters Approve
All these commitments were approved by the voters by large majorities and the legislature held a special session in January 1920, set another special election for May 21 and submitted more financing legislation to the voters. One was a further amendment to the constitution increasing the bonding limit for road financing from two to four per cent of the state assessed valuation. It also submitted an additional constitutional amendment giving the power of eminent domain over land needed for public roads. As a final largesse, it authorized still another \$10 million bond issue, this dependent upon ratification of the four per cent amendment. They were approved at the election by a large majority.

The commission expended during 1919 and 1920 the total of \$20,234,177, exclusive of market roads, in highway construction. Of the total, state funds represented \$17,658,547; county co-operation \$1,237,090; and federal aid funds \$1,320,879.

Results Told
This expenditure bought 347.2 miles of paved highway; 369.4 miles of macadam; 761.4 miles of grading. During the same time the government had expended on the roads a total of \$1,568,241, resulting in 134 miles of grading and 57.6 miles of surfacing completed or under construction as the year ended. A total of \$1,311,300 was spent in bridge construction and design.

The biennium closed with funds on hand and more available, many contracts unready and pending, and the highway program going forward in high gear.

Douglas Not To Seek Presidency

Yakima, Wash., Apr. 13—(U.P.)—Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, long regarded as a presidential prospect, insisted today he will not be a candidate in 1952.

"There is nothing to the reports," he told reporters who found him in a bookstore yesterday autographing his new book, "Of Men and Mountains."

Douglas said he is going to try and break Justice John Marshall's record of more than 34 years' service on the bench. Next Monday, Douglas will have completed 11 years of service as an associate justice.

The entire city turned out yesterday to honor Douglas, its favorite son. The festivities were climaxed with a banquet at which a not-so-popular guest was a horse that slipped and fell on him last October, fracturing 19 of his ribs.

Interior Post Said Offered Rep. Jackson

Portland, Ore., Apr. 13—(U.P.)—The Portland Oregonian said today that the post of undersecretary of the interior has been offered to Rep. Henry M. Jackson, (D., Wash.).

The newspaper said Jackson was reluctant to discuss the report, but said it was "under advisement" and he expects to announce his decision upon his return to Washington following the Easter congressional recess.

The undersecretary position has been vacant since Oscar L. Chapman was elevated to the secretaryship following the resignation of J. A. Krug Dec. 1, 1949.

Negotiations Stalled In Portland Dispute

Portland, Ore., Apr. 13—(U.P.)—Negotiations remained at a standstill here today between employees and employers of the Portland Stages bus company. The buses operate between Portland, Lents, Gresham, and Troutdale, but the strike of 47 drivers and maintenance men for higher wages and better working hours has stopped bus service for 1200 residents.

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