

Public Welfare Bill Down in Washington

Olympia—(U.P.)—Washington's public welfare bill for January was about \$137,000 more than December costs but nearly \$1,000,000 less than January costs a year ago.

Social Security Director Rod-eric Olzendam said welfare payments for about 136,000 persons in January this year totaled \$6,341,000. January grants last year for nearly 149,000 persons totaled about \$7,330,000.

Olzendam said about 6,600 more persons requested state aid in January than in December and that most of the increase was in the general assistance program for employable persons. The increase in the general assistance program was normal for mid-winter, when employment is at its lowest, he said.

BANK ROBBED

El Cerrito, Calif.—(U.P.)—A lone bandit held up the Central Valley Bank here, Saturday and escaped with \$20,000 in cash, police reported. It was the fourth California bank robbery in recent weeks.

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KAPERING KIWANIAN KAMPAIGNS—Senator Blowhard (Jack Peters) one of the Dandy Candidates is shown with his bevy of bathing beauties in one of the scenes from the Kiwanis Kapers and Minstrel show presentation of "Gee! Washington" slated for the Medford senior high auditorium on March 5, 6, 7 and 8. Left to right are Arlene Kellenberger, Claudette Lettken, Peters, Evangeline Robinson and Glenda Gray. The girls are from Southern Oregon college. Medford and Ashland Kiwanians are sponsors of the fourth annual Kapers. Medford's share of the proceeds will be used for underprivileged children's work. The seven scenes of the first act are of a hotel, a wedding, white collar girls, a political convention, big brass and red tape, and the Washington monument and conclude with a finale urging unity. The second act is a minstrel show, "The Supreme Court Jesters," with Bob Rector as chief justice. The farce-filled act is complete with end men and a variety of entertainers.

Celebration Planned In Columbia Basin

Seattle—(U.P.)—Financing plans for a 10-day Columbia Basin celebration to mark the first irrigation of the area in May were made here Friday.

Directors of the Columbia Basin Celebration, Inc., headed

Shipping Loss Worries Seattle

Seattle—(U.P.)—The Port of Seattle commission is considering hiring a firm of economists to determine why shipping business is slipping away from Seattle to competing ports.

President E. H. Savage of the commission said several developments made it evident that the port must adopt an aggressive promotion policy. He said Seattle has already dropped to a minor position in the booming grain export business.

Also, he said the port must consider the changes in the economy of eastern Washington that will come about as the Columbia river irrigation project develops. Savage added that the future of the coal export trade, iron ore movements and the fishing industry and Alaska development are other questions which will be investigated in the proposed survey.

by Hubert Walter, Ephrata, said Pasco would open festivities with a big water carnival May 22.

First water from Grand Coulee dam will be conveyed on a gravity system to about 80,000 acres of arid land this year. Among the other celebrations will be the "farm-in-a-day" project sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The winner of a national contest will be installed on a new farm complete with house, barn and new equipment near Moses Lake.

Ephrata, Soap Lake and Quincy will stage separate celebrations.

In conclusion, 17 denominations are planning a mass religious service in the Basin area June 1.

Dead line on Classified Ads: 5:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. Monday; noon Saturday for Sunday a.m.

Lone Pine Vicinity Citizens Air Problem Of School Principal

The school community of Lone Pine to the northeast of Medford, rent by dissention, resorted to the old American custom of the "town meeting" Friday night.

Nearly 150 patrons of the school met in its chilly gymnasium to discuss, sometimes bitterly, sometimes quietly, the question of whether the principal of the school is worthy of his job.

Upshot of the meeting was that the question was thrown back into the laps of the men who have to make the final decision, the three members of the school board.

School Welfare Aim

It was apparent from the beginning that each person present, in his own way, had only one ultimate objective—the welfare of the school children. Their difference was over whether the principal, Thyrre A. Dodge, is the best man to attain their unanimous objective.

Medford Attorney Otto Frohnmayer, for seven years a member of the Medford school board, had been brought in to act as a peace-making moderator. As he calmed heated speakers and called on others with opinions and statements to make, the problem shaped itself into the following situation:

Dodge has been principal of the Lone Pine school for four years. During his incumbency, some parents have been increasingly dissatisfied with his administration and with certain facets of his personality.

The matter came to a head last week, when a group of 12 men met with H. Chandler Drew, chairman of the board, and J. G. Cameron, board member, Friday night at the latter's home. Their "grievances" concerned the safety program at the school which they felt was inadequate and misguided; the student council system, which involves the use of student monitors, and what might have been a misunderstanding about a ban on girls wearing "jeans" to school.

Resignation Given

On Monday, Dodge submitted a letter of resignation as of June 1 of this year. He said, "This resignation and statement that I am not a candidate . . . is being submitted at this time for the sole purpose to stop any controversy among groups of the community that might lead to a situation that would not be to the best advantage of the school or the children."

"My decision to remove myself from the school has been prompted by the action of a small group of narrow-minded patrons of the district that refuse to even try to obtain the truth, but rather are fully satisfied to listen to and believe idle gossip and rumors."

During the week a group of patrons circulated a petition asking for Friday night's joint meeting of patrons and board members. The meeting resolved itself quickly into arguments for and against Dodge's administration. Robert Stokes, one of the spokesmen favoring Dodge, expressed confidence in the principal, and asked the board to refuse his resignation. Mrs. Virginia Wickert also supported Dodge, and recited some of the complaints she had heard against him to "get them in the open so they can be squelched or let stand."

Among these were the administrative contention, as well as some mostly unspecified "rumors."

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Davis represented the other faction, and Davis identified himself as one of the men who attended the meeting at Cameron's home the week before.

As the evening wore on and the hall became colder, tempers began to get hotter, and Moderator Frohnmayer several times had to slow down speakers who started getting into arguments back and forth on the floor.

Diplomacy Questioned

Near the end of the meeting Richard Schuchard, teacher of

the fourth and fifth grades at the school, said that Dodge had intimated to him that he should not attend the meeting. He said he knows of no finer school administrator than the principal, but he questions his diplomacy and his tact in some of his personal relationships.

Drew, as chairman of the board, made it clear to the audience that he, and other board members, will welcome the suggestions and complaints of parents and other community members interested in the school. Board members can't know the thinking of parents unless parents tell them, he said.

C. C. Hoover, resident of the district, stated that he believed the community was in "bad shape" when it had to get in a "jangle" like Friday night's. He said the board had been duly elected.

"You voted for or against them," he said, "or if you didn't it's your own fault. You are doing Dodge, the board and yourself an injustice by a meeting of this kind," he said. "They have the responsibility of hiring or firing, and if Dodge leaves now, he will leave with a good character if we don't blacken it tonight."

Roscoe Roberts also said he was willing to let the board "do their job. If we're not satisfied with the way they do it, vote against 'em next election."

The meeting concluded when Henry Padgham moved that the meeting go on record unanimously as having "complete confidence" in the board. Despite a quiet scattering of "noes" the result of the affirmative vote was declared unanimous.

After the meeting Drew said the board's decision would be made within about two weeks.

Defense Official Studies NW Needs

Seattle—(U.P.)—An official of the Small Defense Plants Administration was in Seattle Saturday to learn the problems of Pacific Northwest manufacturers and proposed solutions.

Telford Taylor, chief of the organization, talked to witnesses from all parts of Puget Sound at a hearing in the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Friday. Main complaints were the shortage of critical materials and disadvantages of Pacific Northwest producers in bidding for government contracts.

Taylor said the scarce materials problem is being met by establishing a pool of supplies specifically meant for small manufacturers who have suffered from the squeeze. He said the contract problem is caused by geographic conditions. Most government procurement agencies are in the East, he said.

St. Mark's Students Receive Train Rides

Some 156 students at St. Mark's Episcopal church Sunday school will get a free train ride today. The rides are prizes in a recently completed attendance and new membership contest conducted by the junior, intermediate and senior departments of the Sunday school.

The 33 students who placed at the top of the contest will receive a ride from Ashland to Medford. The next 17 will ride from Talent to Medford and the remaining 106 will board the train at Phoenix and ride to Medford. Their train will arrive here at 6:30 p.m.

Robert Dames, general superintendent of the St. Mark's Sunday school, reports that the contest resulted in a 30 per cent increase in attendance in the three participating departments.

State License Needed To Sell Nursery Stock

Salem—(U.P.)—The Oregon State Department of Agriculture reminded retail stores and other business houses selling nursery stock Saturday that they must take out a nursery dealer's license if they expect to handle Easter lilies, other potted plants, bulbs, perennials or ornamentals.

Concerns or individuals selling only vegetable and annual flowering plants or cut flowers do not need to apply for a license as the state nurserymen's law exempts those items from licensing.

Two-Year-Old Drowns In Eastmoreland Creek

Portland—(U.P.)—A joyful exploring trip ended in the death of two-year-old Anthony Gerard Schwartz here Friday.

Jan Schwartz, 4, and Tommy Duncan, also 4, returned from the exploring venture to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel G. Schwartz in the Eastmoreland section of Portland.

When asked where Tony was, the two youngsters replied: "He's in the water."

Tony's body was discovered by a groundskeeper in a backwater of Johnson creek near the south end of the Eastmoreland golf

course. The boy's parents arrived at the scene as the body was pulled from the creek.

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