

1955 Legislature Expected To Be Busy One; Sales Tax Talk Heard

Salem — (U.P.) — The 1955 session of the Oregon Legislature will convene here in January, and veteran observers are as one in predicting it will be one of the most interesting sessions in a couple of decades—and perhaps one of the longest.

Some knotty problems confront the session, from education and the direction of the basic school support program to taxation.

Talk was revived in Corvallis at a tax conference last week of a sales tax to take up a deficit expected to develop within the next year. Oregon voters have turned down a sales tax five times. In 1951 some legislators made overtures indicating they would like to try it again, but F. H. (Dutch) Young, head of the Oregon Tax Research, who had spearheaded previous tries at the sales tax, told the legislators: "Don't do it, boys. The time isn't ripe yet. You'll just get turned down again by the voters."

But the indications are that the attempt will come again this next session. The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation this year, for the first time, at its recent meeting in Medford, came out in favor of a sales tax. Then came the further emphasis at the Corvallis conference. And several legislators and commentators have said Oregon must look to a new form of tax, other than its property tax and income tax. Few doubt that the "new form" they mention is the sales tax, in vogue for many years in Wash-

ington to the north and California to the south.

An indication of the long struggle the Legislature will have in the field of education is seen in the fact that an advisory committee to the State Board of Higher Education split pretty close to down the middle on whether the basic school support fund formula should be changed or left as is. Those who want to change it would like to put it more on an equalization basis; that is, give more to the school districts with less local tax resources to bring their schools up to minimum standards. That would take about \$600,000 of basic school funds from Portland and spread it to update districts.

This plan was recommended by the advisory committee by a vote of only 17 to 14, and observers are quite certain the debate will be about equally divided one way or the other when it comes before the education committees of House and Senate and when it gets to the floor of each house.

The State Board of Education, meeting here last week, decided

to pass the report of its advisory committee on to the Legislature, without taking any stand on it. In fact, George C. Huggins of Coos Bay, chairman of the board, questioned whether it was within the province of the board to recommend changes to the legislature.

Welfare will be another matter, as it has in the past, to get a long look and a lot of attention.

Liquor control will, as in the past, also be given a careful scrutiny. Only recently Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said he was going to look into any and all reports of gratuities or favors received from distillery representatives by Oregon Liquor Control Commission officers and employees.

Suspension Upheld

He made the statement after the State Civil Service Board had upheld the suspension of an OLCC executive for accepting a small amount to help defray the expense of bringing his wife to a convention.

In all, it looks as if the 1955 session will have a job on its hands. And the men destined to lead the two houses—Edward A. Geary of Klamath Falls as speaker of the House and Elmo E. Smith of John Day as president of the Senate—have taken a page from the past and have indicated they would make no predictions as to the length of the session.

For the past two sessions, leaders had predicted a certain goal, and last session the Legislature adjourned sine die on the 100th day, 16 days shorter than the 1951 session.



IRISH DISASTER — Shaded area on Newsmap locates Dublin, Ireland, where winds of gale proportions drove towering tides from the Irish Sea into five square miles of city, flooding 6000 homes. A municipal spokesman called it Dublin's worst disaster since Republican Raiders burned the city during the 1916 anti-British uprising. Navin, 40 miles north, also reported floods.

Two Sharp Quakes in Puerto Rico Reported

New York — (U.P.) — Two "sharp earthquakes" in the vicinity of Puerto Rico were recorded Saturday on the Fordham university seismograph.

The university said the first quake shook the recording instruments at 8:03 a.m. It was followed by a second one five minutes later.

The university said the earthquakes probably were not from the same area from which quakes originated Friday, about 1,800 miles from New York in the Caribbean.

'Do-It-Yourself' Woodworkers Receive Professional Help at Shop in New York

New York — (U.P.) — Pity the poor do-it-yourself fiend who doesn't have a basement to putter around in. Or even a workbench, or a brace-and-bit.

But he need sorrow no more if he can cough up \$50 plus subway fare to a nondescript old building on the upper east side of Manhattan where, lo and behold, his workshop is ready and waiting.

Behind the doors of this converted garage is a mouth-watering array of brand new hand and power tools, individual workbenches and stacks of lumber.

Also there are three professional cabinet makers who have nothing to do all evening but look over the do-it-yourself man's shoulder and help him out if he has trouble squaring up a board.

All this is the project of Sam Kuhn, a retired management en-

gineer and long-time amateur woodworker. It is not exactly a woodworking school nor an occupational therapy center nor a private club. In fact, Kuhn thinks there isn't anything else quite like it.

"When I sold my place in Connecticut and moved into New York I couldn't bring my workshop with me," he explained. "I looked around for a place I could set up a little shop and before long I was organizing this thing."

So far Kuhn has recruited about 20 "clients" from the Manhattan cliff dwellings where a drill-press wouldn't fit into the penthouse decor or the neighbors wouldn't countenance the whine of a lathe or electric saw.

They include a dentist, a real estate man, a retired construction engineer, an advertising man, the head of a grape juice company and a postman who re-

tired after 43 years of carrying mail and doesn't like being off his feet all day.

Women aren't barred, but so far the only do-it-yourself lady is a professional photographer who is making some furniture for her studio.

The clients pay \$50 for the privilege of using the shop for 12 periods of three and half hours each. "It works out at less than \$1.25 an hour. They can spend an evening here for about what it would cost to go to the movies," Kuhn said.

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