

Governor Wants 'Long Look' at Pay Plans

Success of Merit Plan Said Based on Deserved Pay Hikes

By WILLIAM WARREN
United Press Correspondent

Salem — (U.P.) — Success of the new state pay plan recommended by Barrington Associates of New York—provided the 1955 Legislature adopts it—will depend on state department heads granting merit raises only when they are deserved, Rep. Orval Eaton of Astoria said Saturday.

Rep. Eaton is vice-chairman of the legislative interim committee on retirement and compensation. The committee is studying the Barrington report before drafting its own recommendations to be submitted to the Joint Ways and Means Committee Tuesday.

Backs First Section
The committee has agreed to recommend adoption of the first section of the report dealing with new classification of state jobs and a six-step salary structure with an average 30 per cent spread between the beginning scale and the top range.

The suggestion, by the Barrington group, for a state personnel officer, working directly under the governor, will be submitted to the ways and means committee for its study. Rep. Eaton said his committee would make no recommendation one way or another about the suggestion.

Members of the State Civil Service Commission met with the committee Saturday with Phillip A. Joss of Portland, chairman, the principal speaker, agreeing with Rep. Eaton that proper administration of the merit system is necessary if any graduated pay plan is adopted.

Make Careful Study
Rep. Eaton said members of the committee studying state salaries during the past two years had made a careful survey and found there were several state employees who, in their opinion, were not entitled to merit raises.

"Too generally our committee had found that department heads feel the merit raises are automatic," Rep. Eaton said. "This is the wrong conception and this Legislature will certainly make it clear that merit raises to state employees must be earned by competent and efficient work before they are granted."

To put state employees on a pay basis equal to that of others in the Pacific Coast area, it will cost the state an initial \$345,000, Barrington Associates have estimated.

Balentine Receives One-Year Probation

Portland — (U.P.) — A 54-year-old Klamath Falls lawyer received a one-year probation term Friday for failing to file income tax returns in 1950, 1951, and 1952.

U. S. Judge Chase Clark of Idaho told the family of the defendant, U. S. Balentine, that he hadn't "the heart to take him away from you."

The judge, temporarily assigned to Portland, said his leniency was prompted by a letter from a Klamath Falls judge who described the high character of Balentine.

Autopsy Into Death Of Recluse Slated

Portland — (U.P.) — An autopsy was scheduled Saturday into the death of Beryl Elliott, 78-year-old Portland recluse whose body was discovered Friday in her litter strewn home.

Police said the woman apparently had been dead for five days before neighbors notified the authorities.

A welfare recipient, Miss Elliott had the rooms of her home piled waist high with odds and ends. Some rooms were so packed with debris, it was almost impossible to force back the doors.

Welfare workers said the woman apparently slept on the kitchen floor.

January Auto Mishaps Kill 22 in Oregon

Salem — (U.P.) — Traffic accidents claimed the lives of 22 persons in Oregon last month, according to a tentative count released by the secretary of state's office Saturday.

The report may be revised upward as delayed reports reach here or as injured persons die.

Multnomah Grand Jury Clears Murder Suspect

Portland — (U.P.) — A Multnomah county grand jury has cleared Tom J. Jurich, 62, on a charge of murder.

The jury ruled Jurich acted in self defense when he shot and killed David Chapman, 61, after the latter fired a shot at him in a Portland cafe.

CONFERENCE SET

Salem — (U.P.) — The State Department of Agriculture will hold a conference here next Tuesday to survey the extent of the ragweed problem in Oregon.



SPOE ON THE OTHER FOOT, ETC.—The nation's number one bellhop, Lincoln Mansfield of Reno's Hotel Mapes, is really living it up as he stops over in San Francisco's St. Francis Hotel. Showering him with attention is Eileen Rasmussen, taking a letter; Asst. Mgr. John Stevens, lighting his cigar, and Bell Captain Paul C. Broderick, handing him a newspaper. The 46-year-old Mansfield was selected "Bellman of the Year" by Washington State College's Society of Innkeepers from a field of more than 1000 bellhops.

Increased Services, Balanced Budget Pose Problem to Lawmakers

By BILL FORCE
United Press Correspondent

Salem — (U.P.) — Oregon's lawmakers Saturday were trying to find out what is most important to the state's citizens—increased state services or a balanced budget.

Will the taxpayers standstill for higher taxes, or will they content themselves with sharp cuts in the amount of services state agencies can offer?

That is the dilemma that will face the Joint Ways and Means Committee when it reconvenes Monday to resume its struggles with the budget requests of the agencies who claim they must have more money to give the new services the people demand.

At a special policy meeting Friday, the committee learned that more than 41 per cent of the costs of state government have been approved by the voters and the Legislature has no power to cut them. They also found that if every state agency living off the fat of the general fund were wiped out, except schools, welfare, public institutions, and veterans' aids, the state would still have a deficit of more than 7,000,000,000 to make up.

The committee wrestled with three antagonistic concepts of state finance: Retain the principle of increasing state services every two years and increase taxes to pay the costs; slap a two-year moratorium on state services and hold the dollar-and-cents level of department budgets to the 1953-55 level; lop off services and programs where possible and emerge at the end of the legislative session with higher taxes and higher costs but still with a balanced budget and a higher level of services.

No decision has been reached yet.

The method of levying \$80 for every child in Oregon between the ages of four and 20 for education drew some hard looks from the committee. Sen. John C. F. Merrifield (R-Portland) pointed out that the education budget was getting \$80 for youngsters who never set foot in a schoolhouse. The net payout to the schools, he said, was close to \$102 for each enrolled student.

Sen Charles W. Bingner (R-La Grande) said he was committed to holding the line on state expenses. He said his constituents expected him, if necessary, to demand lower standards of state welfare and lower basic school support allotment.

But Sen. John P. Hounsell (R-Hood River) replied that if the state doesn't furnish the more than \$70,000,000,000 school districts want from the basic school support fund, the difference will simply be made up from local

taxes. Oregonians want no cuts in their educational standards, he said.

Sen. Howard Belton (R-Canby) co-chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, emphasized that it is not the big cost items—schools, welfare, and institutions—that will break or balance the budget. It is the special legislation asking appropriations that will make the difference. Examples cited were the bill to increase basic school support to \$90 per census child; a bill for compulsory state meat inspection that may cost \$1,000,000,000; and bills for pay increases and interim committees.

Belton reported that there were almost as many decreased budgets and increased budgets in the requests for general fund departments. But, he said, their total was insignificant when set against the whopping increases asked for welfare, institutions, and building program. That total is nearly \$80,000,000,000.

New Plywood Mill Opens at Philomath

Philomath — (U.P.) — A new plywood mill, producing 15,000 square feet of green veneer on each of two daily shifts, has been put into operation here.

The mill was built by Benton Timber Products Company on the site of the old Central-Willamette sawmill, which was destroyed by fire several years ago.

Ed Albertsen, Jack Brandis and Don Johnson, Benton county lumbermen, operate the plant. The company employs about 60 men including those at its woods operations.

Green veneer produced by the new mill is shipped to other plants for further processing.

Mt. Tabor Uranium Rush Fizzles Out

Portland — (U.P.) — Hopes of a prospector that Portland's Mt. Tabor park might be loaded with uranium were dashed Saturday.

A radiological team from the city's civil defense bureau took three sensitive geiger counters to the crater of Mt. Tabor's extinct volcano Friday. The team reported no indications of uranium.

Prospector Charles Brudeen had asked the city council for permission to look for uranium there.

ARTICLES FILED

Salem — (U.P.) — Articles of incorporation were filed this week for Butte Falls Community Club, Inc., of Butte Falls, Jackson county.

Patterson Suggests Two-Step Move for Reclassification

Salem — (U.P.) — Gov. Paul Patterson Saturday expressed reservations about the administrative details of a recommendation for the reclassification and pay adjustments for state employees.

The recommendation of Barrington Associates, Inc., was for appointment of a personnel director responsible to the governor to administer the wage adjustment and reclassification program. Gov. Patterson said that proposal should be given a "long look."

The Barrington recommendation was contained in a report submitted Friday to the interim committee on retirement and compensation.

The governor tentatively suggested a two-step program calling for the state to adopt the reclassification and salary recommendations of the Barrington firm by allowing the state civil service commission to administer the plan for both classified and unclassified workers for the time being. The personnel director could be appointed later if it appeared advisable, he said.

The governor expressed fear that if either the civil service commission or a personnel director attempted to tamper with salaries of academic personnel in the state system of higher education, a civil war might be precipitated like that which flared here in 1953.

Parkland Woman Has New Flagpole Sitting Record

Parkland, Wash. — (U.P.) — Pretty Kathleen Donhum, who is seven months pregnant, claimed a new world's record of 169 days of flagpole sitting down when she climbed down from her 60-foot high platform here at noon Saturday.

Mrs. Donhum, a five-foot, 11-inch blonde, scaled the pole at noon last Aug. 21, determined to break the 152-day flagpole sitting record and to get enough money from her stunt to buy a house of her own.

"Kitty Flagpole," as she became known, isolated herself on her sheltered eight-foot square platform and had only a telephone and radio to keep in touch with the outside world.

Kitty got into her flagpole act by answering the advertisement of a local fuel company.

"The Pochel Fuel Co., ran the ad as a joke," Mrs. Donhum said. "But I took them up on it."

Kitty explained that she didn't suffer from the elements during her 169 days on the pole. "The platform had a roof and four-foot sides to it," she said, "so I didn't have to worry about rain or falling off when I slept."

"I had a radio, a telephone and anything I wanted to read—all the comforts of home," she added.

Myrtle Point Logger Gets 2½-Year Term

Portland — (U.P.) — Junior Gemes, Myrtle Point logger, was sentenced to 2½ years in prison Friday for trying to extort \$10,000 from a bank official.

U. S. Judge Chase Clark of Idaho gave Gemes, 25-year-old father of two children, what he called the shortest sentence "in the history of the country for an offense of this kind."

The judge deplored the necessity of sentencing Gemes to prison, but said he could not go unpunished for causing Harry Denton, vice-president of the Security Bank at Myrtle Point, and his family to "live in terror" for almost a month.

Gemes was arrested by the FBI several months ago for

Klamath Timber Theft Brings Term in Jail

Portland — (U.P.) — William A. Thompson, 29, Richmond, Calif., received a 60-day federal prison term Friday for the theft of 650 white fir trees near Klamath Falls last December.

U. S. Judge Chase Clark of Idaho, temporarily assigned to Oregon, sentenced Leslie B. Robinson, Thompson's companion, to two years of probation.

Both men pleaded guilty to the theft. The trees, worth \$2500, were taken from a freight car at Beatty, Ore., and trucked to El Cerrito, Calif., for sale.

Threatening the bank official with bodily harm unless the money was paid.

Korean War Orphan Reaches Seattle With Adopted Father After Months of Trouble

Seattle, Wash. — (U.P.) — An excited, gum-chewing Korean war orphan stepped ashore here Saturday with his adopted father, M-Sgt. John F. Cassidy, Santa Cruz, Calif. After 19 months of paper work, delay and loneliness, 3½-year-old Chun Sik had a home.

Abandoned along a Pusan railroad track and picked up by a group of soldiers from the 3rd Division when he was six weeks old, Chun Sik is more familiar with barracks life than home life.

"He was a scrawny rascal when we got him," said Cassidy. "We fed him some powdered milk, got a doctor to fix him up, and christened him John Francis."

When Cassidy returned to the United States

in June, 1952, he put the boy in a Seoul orphanage with instructions to keep him there until the sergeant returned.

"I talked it over with my wife, Charlotte, and volunteered for another tour in Korea so I could adopt him," Cassidy said. "It took one more trip before we finally got him."

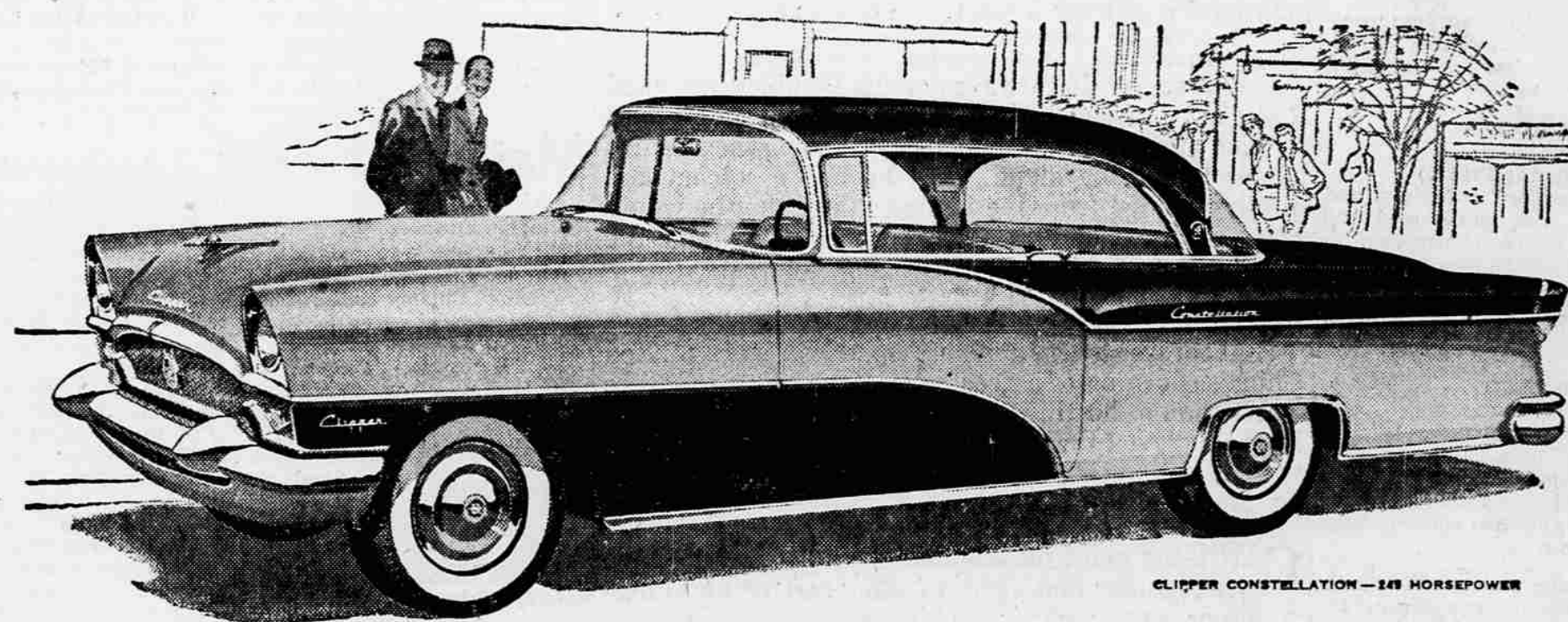
Cassidy will be stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash., where his wife is expected to join him in a couple of weeks.

"I guess I'll just keep him around my office during the day," Cassidy said. "At least he'll eat good."

The sergeant is a 23rd Infantry Regimental Food Service Technician — better known as a mess sergeant.

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