

Sales Tax Sentiment Found To Be Growing Over State

Amount Would Be Used To Offset Tax for Schools

Salem — (U.P.)—Growing sentiment in favor of a sales tax that would be the first of its kind in the country has shown up in various parts of Oregon, Rep. Earl Hill, (R-Cushman), its sponsor, said today.

The three per cent sales tax as proposed by Hill would raise at least \$60,000,000 a year, and some believe as much as \$75,000,000. And the entire amount would be used to offset school taxes which now consume 75 per cent of the entire property levies by counties. This use of the sales tax entirely for education is a new conception in the country, Rep. Hill said.

Some Granges Change Stand

Some Granges, heretofore always opposed to the sales tax, have gone on record as favoring Rep. Hill's measure, known as the sales and use tax law. Several legislators have received expressions of approval from their constituents — along of course, with several expressions of disapproval.

Rep. Harry C. Elliott, (R-Tillamook), this week received a petition from his home county signed by 304 property owners advocating Hill's measure. Marion Winslow, superintendent of Coos Bay public schools, said a mass meeting was held there recently which went on record for the sales and use tax.

Lower Property Tax

The school tax offset would work like this: Suppose you are paying \$200 a year property tax to the county on your home. Of that amount if you are in an average county, \$150 would go to the schools. If the sales tax offset should go into effect, you would pay \$50 a year property tax instead of the \$200.

The sales tax has been rejected by the people five times at the polls. Rep. Hill took cognizance of this fact, but said he thought such a tax levied for school purposes and school purposes only would find favor with the voters.

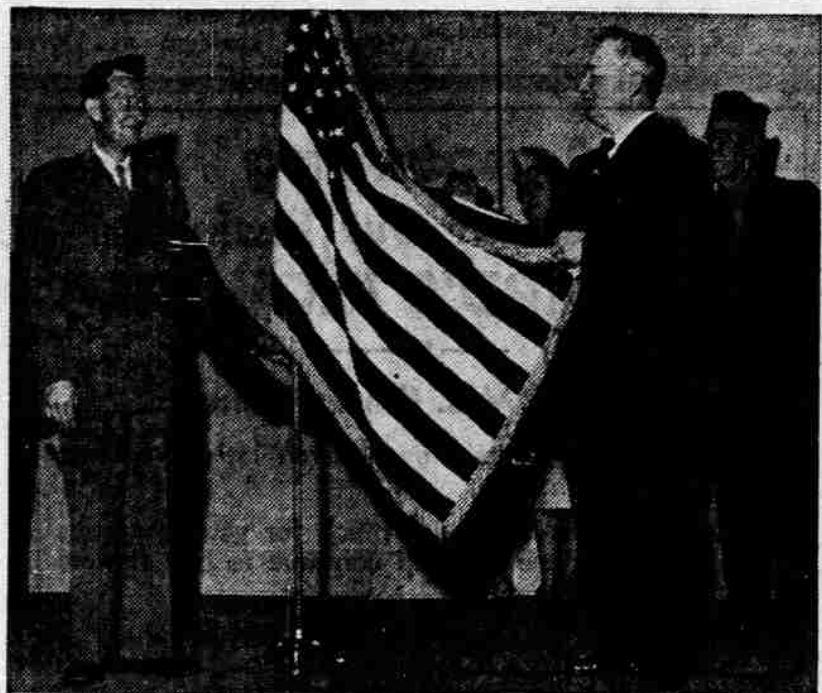
He said sentiment in favor of his measure was spreading through southwestern Oregon to the point where organizations are being formed to back it in Coos, Curry, Jackson and Josephine counties.

The income from the sales tax, which would not exempt food, would go to the school districts on the basis of the same school child census as that on which the basic school support fund is measured, including children from 4 to 20 years of age. That would be the first step.

Surplus To County Fund
If the tax brought in more than the amount needed at the local district level, and its proponents believe it will bring in much more—the surplus would go into the county school fund. That would be the second step.

And if the tax yielded enough to take care of the schools at the local and county levels and there remained a surplus, the third step would be taken. It would go to offset the basic school support fund at the state level. Eventually, Rep. Hill and his supporters believe, the sales and use tax would eliminate the necessity for basic school support at the state level.

Rep. Hill said if eventually the sales tax should raise more money than is needed for all school purposes, he would favor lowering the rate to 2½ or 2 per cent.



MARK GOC ANNIVERSARY—Cecil Bell, commander of the Medford Veterans of Foreign Wars post, is shown above, at left, presenting a flag to Earl Sterigere, supervisor of the Medford Ground Observer corps post. The presentation was made Monday night at the VFW hall during an observance of the first anniversary of the Medford GOC post.—(Brainerd photo)

Bill To Keep Oregon Cities Out of Gas Tax Field Pondered

Salem — (U.P.) — The House committee on highways today took under advisement a bill that would attempt to keep Oregon cities out of the gas tax field. The measure was attacked from half-a-dozen sources at a hearing here yesterday by city officials who feared its broad wording would wipe out their authority to levy business and occupation taxes.

Alexander Brown, Portland city attorney, charged that the bill was special legislation aimed directly at Portland and he said "it should be filed in the circular file."

The bill was the recommendation of the Legislative Interim committee on Highways. Rep. Edward A. Geary (R-Klamath Falls), speaker of the House and chairman of the interim committee, said aim of the bill was to block the loophole in state fuel tax revenues. He denied that its intent was to outlaw city occupation or business taxes, but he admitted that Portland's tax on the net gross revenues of businesses engaged in the sale of vehicle fuels was one of the loopholes the interim committee hoped to block.

Herman Kehrl, executive secretary of the League of Oregon Cities, the city managers of Astoria and Hillsboro, and Brown all declared that wording of the bill went beyond the interim committee's avowed intent.

Brown said it was still another attempt of the state to pre-empt tax sources at the local level and he warned that "you'll be buying a great deal of litigation if this thing becomes a law."

Brown reported that Portland collects between \$71,000 and \$74,000 annually from its tax on the net or gross incomes of filling stations and allied businesses. The money is used exclusively for streets. He pointed out that Portland receives only two-thirds of its allocation of state gas tax money distributed on the basis of population and he added that many Portland streets that are not part of any highway system actually carry as much traffic as state highways.

Kehrl told the committee that the bill was an invasion of home rule, an Oregon tradition. He said cities have been granted the right by the state to levy taxes either for regulation or revenue, he said.

Officials of the state Highway department told the committee that they favored the principle of the bill.

31 Disease Cases Listed in County
Thirty-one cases of communicable diseases were reported in Jackson county during the week ended Feb. 18, according to the county health department's weekly report.

Leading the list was chickenpox, with 11 cases. They included five each in Medford and Ashland, and one in Talent. Five cases of pneumonia, including three in Medford and one each in Ashland and Ruch, were reported during the week, as were five cases of scalp ringworm, with four in Medford and one in Gold Hill.

Three cases of measles were reported during the week. They included one each in Jacksonville, Ruch, and Ashland. Two cases of whooping cough, one in Medford and the other at Prospect, were included on the list.

Other diseases on the list were one case of infectious hepatitis in Central Point; one case of strep throat at Ashland; one case of rheumatic fever at Jacksonville; one case of German measles in Medford, and one case of scarlet fever in Medford.

Both Bishop and his wife are graduates of the University of Oregon. His wife is currently attending Southern Oregon college and will remain here until next August, completing her studies. Bishop also is working towards a master of arts degree in history.

Bishop will replace George B. Holcomb as editor of the publication.

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State Education Board President Speaks for Rotary

Those who profess the ideals of George Washington are on trial today in the world-wide struggle against Communism, not the ideals themselves which will always remain constant and right. This view was expressed by Edgar W. Smith of Portland, president of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, in a luncheon address Tuesday before the Medford Rotary club.

More than 200 Rotarians and wives, observing the Golden Jubilee of Rotary, International, gathered at the Jackson hotel to hear the speaker say that George Washington remains today the symbol of American democracy, and the lessons learned from a study of this great

American's life can become guide-posts in the current struggle against those who would abolish all human dignity and freedom.

Was "Man of Year"

Smith, Oregon civilian aid to the secretary of war, served three terms as president of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, was chosen the first citizen of Portland in 1952 and Oregon's "man of the year." He has been a member of the Board of Higher Education for the past 16 years, and has been president of the board for six years. Frank J. Van Dyke introduced the speaker.

The Medford high school string quartette, under the di-

rection of John Drysdale, entertained Rotarians and their wives. Robert Holmes is general chairman of the Medford Rotary club's Golden Jubilee committee and Mrs. Phil Brainerd heads a similar committee for women of Rotary. A special tribute was paid to William A. Gates, dean of past-presidents of the Medford club, at the Tuesday luncheon.

Ohio Seeks To Outrank Famed Kentucky Colonels

Columbus, O. — (U.P.) — A move was afoot today to create an honor that would outrank a Kentucky Colonel — but Blue Grass State Gov. Lawrence W. Wetherby said it can't be done.

Two Ohio legislators have proposed honoring their state's distinguished sons by going Kentucky one rank better and naming notables Buckeye Generals. Wetherby was quick to reply. "I don't think any honorary title of any state would outrank a proper Kentucky Colonel," he said solemnly.

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