

Oregon Senate Alcoholic Traffic Committee To Put Witnesses Under Oath

Move To Prevent Irresponsible Accusations

Salem — (U.P.)—All testimony taken hereafter by the Senate committee on alcoholic traffic will be taken under oath. Chairman John P. Hounsell (R-Hood River) said today.

Sen. Hounsell said his committee voted 6 to 1 at its meeting yesterday afternoon for the unprecedented move to make sure "irresponsible charges" aren't made against the volatile subject of liquor regulations and against members of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission or their officers and employees. Veteran observers say it is the first time in their memory that a committee of the Oregon Legislature has made it a policy to put witnesses under oath.

Want Responsible Evidence

"Our committee wants to get at the roots of all the problems concerning liquor control in Oregon," Sen. Hounsell said. "And we want all responsible evidence we can get. But we think we protect the responsible testimony and give ourselves protection against irresponsible testimony once we put our witnesses under oath."

First witnesses will be sworn at the committee's meeting next Tuesday. Liquor industry representatives said they welcomed the policy.

The Senate Committee on Roads and Highways unanimously voted favorably on a House approved bill which would enable Oregon to rebuild the damaged bridge over the Snake river at Nyssa.

Educators Heard

The senate committee on education headed by Sen. John C. F. Merrifield (R-Portland) heard several educators and parent-teacher representatives argue against a senate bill to repeal an act providing that physical education and health be taught in the public schools. Advocates of the measure said they believe such provision should be at the local level.

Briefly, here's what happened on the House and Senate floors yesterday:

In the house, Rep. Katherine Musa (D-The Dalles) failed in an attempt to take three bills embodying her tax program away from the house taxation committee where she said they had been killed without her knowledge. Rep. Lorán L. Stewart (R-Cottage Grove) chairman of the House Taxation Committee, apologized on the floor, if his remarks to Mrs. Musa had been misunderstood. He said the committee agreed on the merits of Mrs. Musa's program, but felt it should be incorporated with other planned changes in the same law. Her measures would repeal the so-called skyscraper clause, eliminate the property tax offset in the corporation excise law and remove the utility exemption from the excise law.

The House also approved measures authorizing a fireman to use a flashing amber light on their vehicles, with permission of their chiefs; and increase the bond limit of higher education to build self-supporting housing units for married students.

The Senate passed a measure to increase from three to five the number of alumni of state colleges and universities eligible to be members of the State Board of Higher Education, with a limit at two instead of one graduate from any one institution.

The Senate also passed a measure to abolish certain wildlife game refuges after hearing Sen. Charles W. Binger (R-La Grande) explain that the deer population had increased to the point that the state game commission is better able to regulate conservation at an administrative level rather than under rigid law. Sen. Binger said the commission now has the authority to make temporary closures in the interests of conservation.

Court Records

POLICE COURT
Doris Evelyn Nicholson, James Ellis Henderson and Amy Luella Martin, violations of basic rule, \$10 each.
Richard Edward Walker, failure to stop at stop sign, \$5.
Fred Francis Milledge, failure to stop at red light, \$5.
Harney L. Ragland, overtime parking, fine and warrant, \$6.
Arnold J. Rogers, parked more than 12 inches from curb, \$2.50.

DISTRICT COURT
Roy A. McLaughlin, overload, \$30.
Vernon R. Oden, no operator's license, \$10.
Ann M. Despain, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10.
Richard J. Meister, failure to display motor vehicle license, \$15.
James V. Johnson, Roland L. Breedlove and Arthur J. Churchman, failure to stop at stop sign, \$10 each.
CIRCUIT COURT
Fred N. McPherson vs. Winona G. McPherson, divorce decree.
Opal V. Note vs. Harry S. Note, divorce complaint.
Ruth Miller Sowden vs. Irwin Thomas Sowden, divorce complaint.
MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION
William Duncan Keddie, 53. Ashland and Irene May Kolb Rooks, 54, Ashland.

Resolution OK'd for Vote on Emergency Clause for Revenue Measures

Salem — (U.P.)—A resolution that would let the people vote on a proposal to end Oregon's traditional prohibition of the emergency clause for revenue measures was approved by the House Taxation Committee late yesterday by a 4 to 3 vote of the members present.

The Democratic minority on the committee opposed the action and announced they will submit a minority report recommending that the resolution do not pass.

Approved by Senate

The Senate already has approved the resolution which, if approved by the people, would make it possible for the Legislature to enact tax laws safe from referendum action for one biennium.

At a hearing on the resolution, farm and labor groups joined forces in opposition, declaring that the people should have the final word in tax matters.

Sen. Lee Ohmart (R-Salem), sponsor of the resolution, said Oregon's present financial dilemma stems from the inability of the Legislature to pass revenue measures that are certain to stand up in law and be given a fair trial. He said the present fear of a referendum on any necessary but unpopular tax measure has led to "expediency" legislation rather than sound legislation.

Demands for Services

He said there have been demands for services by the people without provision for paying for them and that there has been in the background the "blank check of the state property tax."

Opponents said the people of Oregon would support any taxation they were convinced were necessary.

Rep. Roderick McKenzie (R-Sixes) said the lack of the emergency clause on tax measures gave a minority, as few as 20,000 persons, the chance to challenge a tax program and make it inoperative until the next election. He cited the challenge of the weight mile tax as an example. Though the people eventually affirmed that tax, the state lost more than \$2,000,000 while the question was decided at the polls.

Farmers Oppose

Manton Carl, a Marion county farmer who said he spoke for a group of farmers who were not affiliated with farm organizations, told the committee that no group could less afford to have state finances thrown onto a state property tax than farmers.

Ohmart said his resolution still would leave the people with several safeguards against legislative irresponsibility. They would still have the initiative and the governor could still veto the emergency clause on a tax measure.

Ohmart denied repeated opposition charges that his resolution was a back door approach to the sales tax. He said use of the emergency clause was needed on other forms of needed tax legislation.

The tax committee reached agreement on a proposal to retain the personal property offset provision in the corporation excise tax law in a draft bill to be drawn up by committee counsel. It also agreed to start night sessions this week, giving that committee one of the heaviest working schedules in the Legislature.

Medford Girl Wins \$100 National Prize

Teresa Lee Thomas, 12, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Thomas, 580 Lozier lane, recently won a \$100 prize in a Billy and Ruth contest, it has been announced by Dunhams store, 1951 North Pacific highway, local agents for the contest.

The award, a grand prize in a nationwide contest, was based on judging of an unprecedented number of contest entries by a Philadelphia firm. The contest was to name a picture of eight youngsters posed against a background of the American flag, Statue of Liberty, Independence hall and the Liberty Bell.

Teresa obtained the Billy and Ruth book and entry blank at Dunhams, and received her award from Jack Swaryck, manager. She is in the seventh grade at Oak Grove school, and has also won essay contests at the school on Americanism.

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RELEASED BY REDS — Malcolm Bersohn (above), 29, of New York, is one of two Americans released by Chinese Reds after 3½ years imprisonment on spy charges. A long with Mrs. Adele Ricketts of Yonkers, N. Y., they turned down offers of hospitality from U. S. consular officials in Hongkong, and denounced U. S. as "imperialistic."

Mining Council Slates Meeting

A meeting of the Northwestern Mining Council, Inc., has been scheduled for Thursday, March 3, in the county court-house auditorium, starting at 8 p.m., it was announced today.

Plans for formation of a state mining association, and for a class in prospecting for such minerals as uranium, manganese and chrome, will be discussed.

A. C. Van Galder will speak on the Colorado plateau and on uranium deposits in that area in which several local people are interested.

Medford Attorney Bruce Manley will discuss manganese, and Leland A. Mentzer, of the Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral club, will outline plans for a meeting here this summer at which the Northwestern Mining Council plans to enter an exhibit.

It is expected that scintillators and geiger counters will be on display at Thursday's meeting, according to Frank DeSouza, who will preside.

Since 1940 the number of dwelling units using natural gas for central heating has increased by more than 400 per cent.

Beverly Little

4-H Club News

Central Point Club

On February 25, the Central Point Button and Bows 4-H Clothing club met at the home of Mrs. Paul Snook. Hostesses were Wanda Davis and Pat Sowden. Miss Brooks was at the meeting.

Next meeting will be in the Homemaking room in the Central Point Junior High on March 11.

Smart Northwest Field Mice May Live Longer Through Reseeding Experiment

Washington—(U.P.)—If a government experiment works out, smart field mice in the Pacific Northwest will live to a ripe old age. The dumb ones will die of a tummy ache.

It's a matter of diet, plus a valiant attempt by the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service to help the lumber industry find a better, faster and cheaper way of replanting valuable Douglas fir trees.

The fir can be planted with seedlings but it takes a heap of doing in time and money. So the wildlife service hit upon the plan of sowing seeds by helicopter.

It was a good idea, except that every time the seeds were dropped voracious field mice, better known as the whitefoot deer mouse, assembled for tasty banquets.

It would have been simple to kill them off with poisons, said Dr. Joseph H. Linduska of the game management bureau, but that also would have decimated the game and songbird population.

And it didn't do any good to thin out the mice. They multiply too rapidly. Besides, they aren't bad guys. They eat millions of

Smart Northwest Field Mice May Live Longer Through Reseeding Experiment

harmful insects.

So, in another version of "if you can't lick 'em, jine 'em," the wildlife experts decide to experiment with something called "tetramethylene disulpho tetramine" and maybe spare the mouse.

It was found, in a Denver experiment station, that fir seeds soaked in the substance will kill the mice, or give them a violent stomachache. This puts it up to the mouse whether he's going to swear off the stuff, or

risk death. More than two doses is fatal.

What about the birds? Dr. Linduska says they pick their food by sight and find two colors—green and yellow—unappetizing. If things work out as hoped, the seeds will be colored before they are sowed.

The wildlife service's biggest problem is getting enough tetramine. It is controlled by a German firm and is expensive. The service may have to find a cheaper substitute.

Professor To Speak At Foresters' Meeting

Robert F. Keniston, associate professor of forest management at Oregon State college, will be the featured speaker Friday evening at a meeting of Siskiyou chapter, Society of American Foresters, it was announced.

The dinner meeting, to start at 7:30 p.m., will be held in the Pioneer room of the Jackson hotel. It will be preceded by a social hour starting at 7 p.m.

Keniston will discuss recommendations on forest taxation which were drawn up by the Willamette chapter of SAF. A copy of these recommendations has been mailed to all local members of the society.

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