

Two Cases Heard In Circuit Court Friday, Saturday

One man was given a suspended sentence and the case against another was dismissed Saturday morning in Jackson county circuit court.

Larry William Irvin, 23, general delivery, Medford, was sentenced to one year in jail on a petty larceny charge. Judge E. H. Howell suspended the sentence and placed Irvin on probation for three years.

The case involved theft of \$28 from Weter and Olson Shell service station, 1238 South Riverside avenue on Feb. 14, according to city police records. Irvin earlier had entered a guilty plea, district attorney records showed.

Waives Extradition

Charles Edwin Joy, 22, Spokane, Wash., has waived extradition to Spokane, according to court reports, and charges of attempted burglary against him were dismissed. Sheriff's deputies said Joy is wanted in Spokane on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Charges against Joy here involved entry of the Bullock's Orthopedic Appliances quarters at 902 East Main st. last month, according to police information.

Merrifield Submits Blood Test Measure

Salem—(U.P.)—Sen. John Merrifield of Portland introduced a bill Friday which would require motorists suspected of drunken driving to take blood tests to keep their drivers' licenses.

The proposal would make preconsent to a blood test a condition of issuance or renewal of a driver's license.

It would not prohibit a drunk driver from refusing to take a test. However, if he did so and was convicted the trial court would be required to notify the secretary of state which in turn would be required to suspend the driver's license for at least 90 days but not more than a year.

The measure was advocated by Oregon Highway Lifesavers.

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Seven Taxation Package Bills Survive Senate Floor Debates

By WILLIAM WARREN United Press Correspondent

Salem — (U.P.) — The Senate tackled a dozen bills Saturday at its first Saturday meeting to clear the way for a running start Monday into the ninth week of the session.

But the House adjourned until Monday after a strenuous Friday struggle both morning and afternoon that saw seven out of eight bills in the taxation package survive floor debate.

One Rejected

Members rejected only one of the bills presented by the Interim Tax Study Committee to revise and modernize Oregon's property assessment and appraisal system. The defeated bill

would have continued the present reappraisal program in the 36 counties, making a new appraisal every four years mandatory and requiring that only appraisers qualified by examination be used in the program.

That proposal was defeated 31 to 25 by members who said it would relegate county assessors to the position of record clerks and give a disproportionate amount of authority to the State Tax Commission.

Serious Challenge

Only one other bill in the package was seriously but unsuccessfully challenged. It would, if passed by the Senate and signed by the governor, re-define the term true cash value on the basis of market value. That is defined in the bill as passed as "the highest price in terms of money which a property will bring when exposed for sale in the open market, with a reasonable time allowed to find a purchaser, buying with a full knowledge of all the uses and purposes for which it is capable of being used."

Values determined on that definition would be the basis on

which county assessors would levy and collect property taxes. The definition was adopted by a vote of 34 to 24.

Fine Discussed

In other floor action Friday, the House passed a bill giving Justice Courts the same authority now enjoyed by District Courts and Circuit Courts in suspending fines and sentences where such leniency appears to be in the public interest.

Another bill would exempt district attorneys from the law which requires vacancies to be filled by appointment from the same party as the vacating official.

Rep. Harvey DeArmond (R-Bend) asked for approval of the measure with the emergency because of a situation in Crook county where the Democratic district attorney wishes to resign and there are no Democratic attorneys to replace him.

Referred To Committee

On motion of Sen. John P. Hounsell (R-Hood River), chairman of the Senate Committee on Alcoholic Traffic, the Senate Saturday referred to its judiciary committee a measure to permit private clubs, not serving the general public, to serve liquor by the drink, whether they serve food or not. Language of the measure had been questioned, and it lost by a tie vote Friday.

But Sen. Hounsell changed his vote from aye to no which gave him the opportunity to move to reconsider yesterday.

Another measure which was retrieved, at least temporarily, was one to permit the Oregon Development Commission to do limited advertising to promote industry in this state. It, also, had lost by a tie vote. Sen. John C. F. Merrifield (R-Portland) changed his vote to no, and Saturday moved to reconsider. The Senate so voted, and the measure will be up for final action Monday.

Anna Louise Strong Pleased by Russian Decision on Charge

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Anna Louise Strong said Friday night she was "awfully glad" she had been cleared by Russia of spy charges and would be "delighted" to return to the Soviet Union.

The 69-year-old American writer was arrested as a spy and expelled from Russia in 1949. Radio Moscow announced Friday that she had been framed by the late former Soviet Police Chief, Lavrenti Beria.

Can't Understand It

"I'm awfully glad this happened," Miss Strong said of the exoneration. "I never met Beria and I can't understand why he was blamed."

The Nebraska-born Miss Strong said the charges had "wrecked my career."

"I was on my way to China and had requests from 40 different countries for articles," she said, "but all that stopped when they said I was a spy."

"Of course, I will go back to Russia, if any newspaper, news agency or publishing house would like to send me to do a series of articles. I always knew this would come out in the open some day."

General Motors Sets New Record For Car Deliveries

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Harlow H. Curtice, president of General Motors, announced Saturday the corporation's five divisions set a new record for car deliveries in February for the second straight month.

Curtice said GM's Cadillac, Buick, Oldsmobile, Chevrolet and Pontiac divisions recorded 280,824 new car retail deliveries last month, an all time company high for February. A record 261,393 in retail deliveries was set during January.

Deliveries for the two months totaled 542,078 and represented a 128.7 per cent of the previous two months high set in 1950 and 152.4 per cent of last year's figure, Curtice said.

Curtice, who recently predicted a record 7,500,000 unit production for the industry in 1955 said "despite our current high rate of production, our dealers' stocks of cars continue to be abnormally low in relation to the rate of sales."

First Six Months Were Toughest for State Sen. Hardie

Salem — (U.P.) — The Senate got the best laugh of the season when Sen. Eugene Allen (R-Portland) had a bill read Friday afternoon making it a matter of constitutional law to treat other people like farmers and "so-called agriculturists."

Sen. Lowell Steen (R-Milton-Freewater), himself in agriculture, arose to say that if all people were to be treated like farmers, they would have to sell everything at wholesale and buy everything at retail.

Sen. Stewart Hardie (R-Condon) arose to say with a serious face that farmers were hard-working people. He knew, because he worked on a farm from the time he was born until he was 20 years old.

Sen. Allen asked him: "You say you worked from the day you were born: Tell me, Senator, what did you do the first day?"

Sen. Hardie hesitated a moment, then brought the house down with: "Well, for the first six months, I did the milking!"

Pickford Planning Finish Fight on Studio Ownership

HOLLYWOOD—(U.P.)—Retired film star Mary Pickford says she fully intends to finish her court battle with Samuel Goldwyn over ownership of a motion picture studio.

"I always finish a fight, but I have never started one," Miss Pickford told a press conference Friday.

Miss Pickford owns slightly more than half interest in the Samuel Goldwyn Studios and has been involved in a drawn out court battle over operation and ownership of the property.

Up For Auction

The studio, by court order, goes up for public auction April 2 and the actress indicated she intends to submit a sealed bid which will top all others. She has also asked Goldwyn for an accounting of studio finances during his operation of the property. A hearing on her request is scheduled March 21.

Miss Pickford also increased her ownership in United Artists Corp., last week to 33 1/3 per cent when comedian Charlie Chaplin sold his share of the studio. The actress said she and her husband, Buddy Rogers, plan to go into production of television and motion pictures.

Services Planned for Portland Businessman

Portland — (U.P.) — Funeral services will be held here Monday for Simon Gevurtz, prominent Portland businessman and philanthropist who died in a local hospital Friday after a prolonged illness.

Gevurtz, who was a Polish immigrant, founded the Gevurtz Furniture store here. He was president of the store until his death.

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Two Oppose Change In Primary Dates

Salem—(U.P.)—A Democrat and a Republican spoke out Friday against a proposed measure to change Oregon's primary election from May to August at a hearing of the Senate Elections Committee.

Sen. Monroe Sweetland (D-Milwaukie) said he was against any change in the primary date. Sweetland is Democratic national committeeman for Oregon. Mrs. Olive B. Cornett (R-Klamath Falls), who is Republican national committeewoman, said she favored advancing the date 30 to 45 days but didn't

want the primary held less than 30 days before the major political conventions.

Sweetland said the change would threaten Oregon's preferential primary system by which voters in each party state their choice for a presidential candidate.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Pat Lonergan, Portland.

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By United Press
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