

# Oregon House Takes Breather After Completing Tax Action; Program Sent to State Senate

By BILL FORCE  
United Press Correspondent  
Salem — (U.P.) — The House took a vacation Saturday, skipping a Saturday morning session after completing action Friday on its full tax revenue program and sending it to the Senate.

The upper house must now consider whether it will accept without change the program which originated in the House. The state constitution requires that revenue measures must originate in the House. The Senate may amend and change House revenue bills but may not write substitute revenue measures of its own.

Now in Senate committee is the controversial income tax measure that passed the House Friday with the minimum number of votes required for passage. Opposition to the bill came principally from Democrats in the House and led some observers here to predict it would have smoother sailing in the Senate where Republicans hold a more solid majority.

**Special Election Talked**  
Also in the lap of the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee is a bill to impose a tax on Oregon cigarette smokers. That and the income tax bill were the only revenue tax measures seriously challenged in the House.

Farm and labor groups have promised they will immediately circulate petitions in an effort to put the two measures on the ballot for voter attack. That threat has prompted the House Taxation committee to consider a bill that would automatically call for a special election as soon as referral petitions are certified with the secretary of state.

Democrat opposition to the income tax bill stemmed from what they said would be its impact on the incomes of small wage earners. Rep. Pat Dooley (D-Portland) called it a "rich man's bill" and said the House had allowed itself to be frightened by catch phrases. He said he found it amusing that Rep. C. Allen Tom (R-Rufus) had said the bill would broaden the tax base while Rep. Loran Stewart (R-Cottage Grove) had said there would be no serious addition to

the tax burden of lower income groups.

Dooley asserted the two statements were contradictory. He predicted the tax "won't last 60 days after we leave here." Tom and Stewart, principal proponents of the bill in floor debate, had both urged on members the advisability of bringing into the tax rolls at least part of the one-third of the state's families that now pay no tax at all. By cutting the exemption from \$600 to \$500, they said they had achieved a broader base but that the total tax would be levied against lower income groups would be negligible.

The three-cent cigarette tax passed the House with less difficulty than the income tax bill

but several members pointed out they had voted for it with serious misgivings. Voters have repeatedly turned down such tax, but Rep. Roderick McKenzie (R-Sixes) pointed out that never before has the state been in such serious financial straits. All states bordering on Oregon have such a tax. California which has both a sales tax and income tax will have a cigarette tax in July.

The House Taxation committee has not offered an alternative revenue program to the one now before the Senate. It will barely balance the state's books and, if it is rendered inoperative by a referendum petition, the only recourse will be collection of a state tax on property, according to Stewart.

# Dog Race Foe Takes Case to Legislators

Salem — (U.P.) — Vincent J. Farina, who hopes to keep Lane county free of a dog racing track, Friday appealed to the House State and Federal Affairs Committee for favorable action on a bill that would allow voters in his county to pass on the issues.

Representing a citizens' committee opposed to dog racing and its accompanying pari-mutuel betting, Farina said a local option provision in the racing law would free the State Racing Commission from the sole responsibility of passing on applications for race operations.

An expression of public opinion would ease the burden of the commission which is already charged with policing of present racing plants, he said. Farina expressed confidence that anti-racing groups could successfully combat the campaign that racing groups might bring to bear in such an election.

**"Deal" Charged**  
Archie Weinstein, representing Greyhound Park of Eugene, said he agreed with Farina—there should be local option. But he declared that privilege should be statewide and he accused Farina's group of "making a deal" with Portland dog racing

interests to restrict the bill's effects to Lane county. The charge was immediately denied by Farina and Rep. Edwin Cone (R-Eugene).

Weinstein said the "vested interests want the status quo." And he added that Cone's local option bill would tend to perpetuate a monopoly. Portland is the only Oregon city which now has a dog racing plant.

A racing commission bill now is before the House Judiciary Committee. It would give the commission a set of nine bases for rejecting applications for a racing operation. Rep. Loran Stewart (R-Cottage Grove) said he believed that bill would be adequate to protect Lane county if it did not want racing. The racing commission has twice turned down Greyhound park applications for Lane county.

**Portland Man Killed In Washington Mishap**

Chehalis, Wash. — (U.P.) — Carl M. Wood, 41, Portland, was killed Friday night in a two-car collision about a mile and a half south of Toledo, Wash., the state patrol reported. Wood, who was a welder, was thrown from the car. No other injuries were reported.

# Woman Bound Over on Fatal Shooting Charge

Portland — (U.P.) — A 55-year-old Portland woman was bound over to the grand jury here Friday in connection with the fatal shooting Thursday of a tenant in the rooming house she managed. Mrs. Ethel L. Edwards, held in connection with the death of Gerald Edward Holt, 39, a partially disabled Navy veteran, waived preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge John J. Murchison.

# Yemen King Ahmed Driven From Throne

Aden — (U.P.) — King Ahmed of Yemen has been swept from the throne of his isolated desert country in a bloodless Army coup, authoritative reports said Saturday.

These reports, reaching this Indian ocean port city from the Arab kingdom, said the crown was given to Prince Saif Al-Islam Abdullah, brother of Ahmed and his former foreign minister.

(A dispatch from Cairo said Yemen Premier Seifal Islam el Hassan, who is in Cairo, confirmed that the coup had taken place.)

Abdullah, a well-traveled diplomat of 48, is one of the few Yemenites known to the West. He represented his country at many Arab nation meetings and took part in the Palestine conference of 1948 in London. He also has visited the United States as chief delegate to the United Nations.

Reports from Yemen said the coup was carried out by the Army. They said Ahmed left his palace to meet Army leaders but refused during the abdication negotiations to give up his Elurdi fortress at Taz southern Yemen's major armed post.

# West Coast Lines Buys Liberty Freighter

Portland — (U.P.) — West Coast Steamship Line announced Friday the purchase of a Liberty freighter to be added to its Pacific fleet.

The vessel, the North Light, will be renamed the Willamette Trader, according to Kit C. Conyers, general manager. Conyers said the vessel was purchased through Columbia Steamship Company, a wholly-owned West Coast subsidiary formed recently. West Coast's Portland fleet now numbers four vessels.

# Politician in Chicago Keeps Promises; Buys New Street Sweeper

Chicago — (U.P.) — Charlie Weber was born on Southport Street. The other day he bought a \$600 street sweep and cleaned up his old neighborhood.

A colorful character, Charlie Weber, a politician of the old school who believes in doing "little favors" for his people.

As newly-elected alderman of the 45th ward, he decided to keep his campaign promise and clean up the streets even if he had to buy a street sweeper to do it.

"I bought it with my pay as a state representative," said Weber, a veteran of more than 20 years in the state Legislature. "Last summer, on the hottest day of the year, I bought a snow-plow, and believe me it came in handy this past winter." He said the plow, a sidewalk type, cost \$1900.

# Spare Time Work

Weber contends the City Bureau of Sanitation can't do a good job of street cleaning because of parked cars. With his own sweeper, he said he can have his 70-odd precinct captains take turns cleaning the streets "in their spare time."

Weber's flair for showmanship turned the sweeper's shakedown cruise into a big thing. He showed up in a Bavarian costume—short pants, gulluses, knee-length socks and a green Tyrolean hat with a big, white feather. The outfit was given him by the late Mayor Reuter of Berlin.

Most of the 70,000 people in Weber's ward are, like him, of German extraction, so it wasn't bad politics to wear the outfit. Bare knees and all, Weber climbed aboard the bright red sweeper and posed for photographers in front of St. Adolphus Church.

Directly across the street is a bench Weber installed on the

corner for constituents waiting for buses. A sign on it says: "Courtesy of Charlie Weber."

# Joe Weber House

Down the street is the house where Weber was born. He has converted it into a hall for public meetings, and has named it for his father, "Joe Weber Hall."

Next door a sign says, "Charlie Weber, real estate office."

Across the street is a lot Weber donated as a playground, equipped with swings and a jungle gym. A huge sign says:

"Charlie Weber independent play lot."

"Charlie Weber says: 'Have fun but be careful. 'Good kids always have good luck.'"

Some of Weber's tactics don't set too well with his opposition Charles J. Fleck, Republican committeeman in Weber's ward, charged that Weber spent \$40,000 on his campaign.

Weber says he spent between \$3000 and \$4000.

Fleck charged Weber left \$50 bills on the bars of saloons to buy drinks for voters. Weber denied it, but said of Fleck: "He never bought a drink for anybody."

# Larry Smyth Resigns As Interior Assistant

Washington — (U.P.) — Larry Smyth, assistant to Interior Secretary Douglas McKay and information director of the department, has announced his resignation effective May 1.

Smyth will return to the staff of the Oregon Journal at Portland where he was a political writer before taking his present post in February, 1953.


McKay said he was accepting Smyth's resignation "with keen regret." He said he would announce Smyth's successor later this month.

# Northwest Power Plant In Action Week Early

Seattle — (U.P.) — Another Pacific Northwest power plant went into action a week early to meet the power needs of the region's rapidly expanding economy, the Army Engineers announced Saturday.

Col. N. A. Mathias, Seattle district engineer, said generator No.1 at Albeni Falls dam on the Pend Oreille river was on schedule one week in advance. He said the first power unit was scheduled to begin producing power on the line Friday. But

the unit passed its test so well it was ready March 24 and began actual production on the line that date.



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