

Herron Denies Any Measures in Oregon Legislature Intimidation of Federal Official

Washington — (U.P.) — William G. Herron Saturday denied that he "intimidated" a government official in seeking to land a contract to build grain elevators in Pakistan. He said he just threatened a congressional investigation.

Herron, chairman of the board of the Agricultural Construction Co. of Los Angeles (Tacco), told newsmen, "I have done nothing that I call political pressure."

Herron said he did warn Howard F. Morrison, project manager of the Pakistan deal for the Foreign Operations Administration. "You will find yourself subjected to inquiry by one of the interested committees of Congress" if Morrison rejected all bids.

Morrison told the Senate Investigating Subcommittee late Friday, in an explosive climax to several days of hearings, that Herron tried to "intimidate" him by talking of his congressional contacts.

He said Herron told him unless Tacco got the contract "they were likely to have to take recourse to the Capitol Hill." Morrison opposed giving Tacco the contract because it was the high bidder. He said he did not yield.

Morrison also testified that FOA Administrator Harold E. Stasser, ordered the contract awarded to Tacco Dec. 22, one day after Stasser conferred with Tacco officials and Rep. John Phillips (R-Calif.).

Testimony also disclosed that the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, for which Herron was once a Washington representative, urged Senate Republican Leader William F. Knowland, Calif., to intervene for Tacco. But Knowland merely sent the telegram along to FOA with no request for special consideration.

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Measures in Oregon Legislature

Salem — (U.P.) — Final action on a proposed building program costing nearly \$15,000,000 has been delayed by the Joint Ways and Means Committee until next Tuesday.

Sen. John Hounsell (R-Hood River), chairman of the subcommittee which presented the building program recommendations, said he thought members of the full committee should have more time to study the report item by item.

Largest Single Item
Largest single item on the program was the \$6,330,000 recommended for a new mental hospital in Portland or vicinity. The money would provide the first unit of the institution with 450 beds. Ultimate plans call for a 1500 bed hospital to augment present mental institutions at Salem and Pendleton.

Even if the money is appropriated now, the first bed would not be ready for occupancy for three years, Hounsell said. The board of control probably would not be able to spend more than \$2,500,000 of the appropriation during the next biennium.

Sen. Charles Bingner (R-La Grande) protested that the building program contained no appropriation for Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande and he said he felt it was overbalanced in favor of the Willamette valley.

Oregon Tech Building
An appropriation of \$414,360, if approved, would go for a new shop building and equipment for Oregon Technical Institute. Sen. George Ulett (R-Coquille) told the committee that the Klamath Falls school turned out tax-paying citizens faster than any other educational institution in the state.

Hounsell said the subcommittee recommended use of contract rather than convict labor on construction of the first unit of the new intermediate institution because of the greater efficiency of free labor. An item of \$1,250,000 was included for that project. It would be in addition to the \$1,000,000 still left from an appropriation in 1953.

Salem — (U.P.) — The House voted to reconsider the votes by which it had defeated three bills last week. Opponents of the moves protested that repeated votes for reconsideration would extend the length of the session but were overruled.

Brought back for new attempts at passage were bills that would deny cities the right to levy business taxes based on income; set up a state supported program of driver training in high schools, and permit counties to build and operate sewage disposal systems. The House approved a bill setting up standards for commit-

ment to the proposed intermediate penal institution. The version of the bill passed Friday eliminated the rigid age limits championed by the Oregon Prison Association. Instead of following the association's recommendation that no men be committed to the medium security prison beyond the age of 26, the House State and Federal Affairs Committee amended the bill to state that, when possible, the institution would be reserved for youths. Rep. William Eradeen (R-Burns) said the committee felt such a standard would be more flexible than the association recommendations.

A bill that would have required cities and counties to pay overtime to their employees for work beyond 40 hours was defeated by one vote when it was brought back for reconsideration. It was defeated once before by another hairline vote.

Salem — (U.P.) — Bills which tighten regulations for homes for the aged and for nursing homes have been passed by the Senate. The measures give the State Board of Health greater control over operation and licensing of operators.

Other measures passed by the Senate strengthen the law relating to support of dependent children. They make payment to the court clerk mandatory and citation for contempt of court mandatory if payment is more than 10 days overdue.

Accidental Libel Bill Approved by Senate

Salem — (U.P.) — The Oregon Senate voted 20 to 8 late Friday in favor of House Bill 434 which limits liability of inadvertent or accidental libel in suits filed against newspapers, radio and television stations. The bill now goes to the governor.

Sen. Lowell Steen said he was a farmer, not a lawyer, but he had seen the effects of some of these libel suits following unintentional errors and urged passage of the bill to give the courts an opportunity to rule on it. **Holmes Defends It**
The bill was carried on the floor by Sen. Robert D. Holmes, himself an operator of a radio station. He stressed that if the bill became law, persons injured by intentional libel or defamation would have the same rights he has now to recover damages. It would only prevent, he said, collection of special damages in case of inadvertent error. Any actual or general damages caused by the unintentional libel could be recovered.

Sen. Holmes expressed resentment against an implication he said came from some of the opposing senator-lawyers that the committee on state and federal affairs had not properly considered the bill. He said hearings had been held and attorneys appearing before the committee had disagreed in their opinions as to whether it was constitutional or not.

Senators voting for the bill were Allen, Belton, Bingner, Boivin, Chase, Geddes, Hardie, Hatfield, Holmes, Hounsell, Johnson, Leth, Lonergan, McMinn, Merrifield, Ohmart, Steen, Ulett, Ziegler and Smith. Senators voting against it were Brady, Brown, Carson, Francis, Gill, Husband, Lowry and Sweetland. Sens. George and Wilhelm were excused.

Gold Hill Councilmen Slate Budget Work

Gold Hill — The Gold Hill city council will start work on the city's budget for the 1955-1956 fiscal year at a meeting scheduled for Monday, according to Recorder Ferd Jones.

Items being studied for possible inclusion in the budget are street projects, including widening and paving jobs, work on the city reservoirs, and improved street lighting. It is expected that, as in the past, a city election on the budget will be necessary. The matter depends on clarification of the state's law on tax bases.

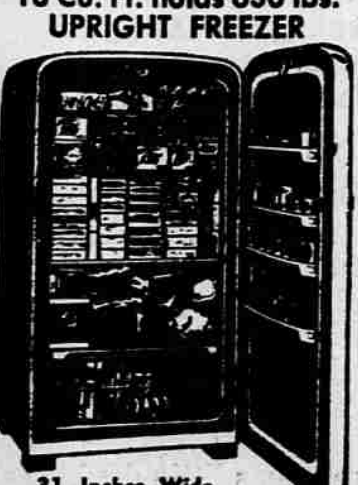
Foresters, SOCTFA To Mark Anniversary

A program in observance of the 50th anniversary of the U. S. Forest Service will be held Friday at a joint meeting of the Siskiyou chapter of the Society of American Foresters and the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, it was reported Saturday.

J. Herbert Stone, Portland, regional forester, will be the principal speaker, and there will be other events on the program. The meeting will be at the Jackson hotel starting with a social hour at 7:30 p.m. with dinner at 8 p.m.

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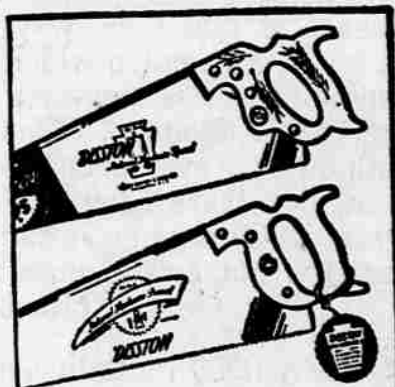
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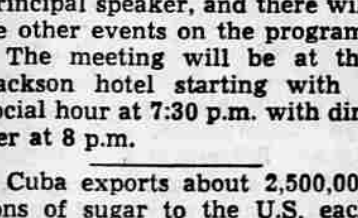
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