

Senate Planning Overhaul of House Sales Tax Measure

Mrs. Smith Weeps At Arraignment

Portland —(U.P.)— Mrs. Marjorie Smith cried softly yesterday as she was arraigned with Victor Laurence Wolf on a first degree murder charge in connection with the bomb death of her attorney husband last week.

Judge James W. Crawford set next Thursday afternoon for entering of pleas after naming a former prosecutor as one of Wolf's defense attorneys. He is Charles E. Raymond, who has

helped prosecute several murder cases while working for the district attorney's office here. Judge Crawford also named Nicholas Granet to help defend Wolf.

Mrs. Smith continues to deny any part in the death of her husband, Attorney Kermit Smith. She was implicated by Wolf.

Meanwhile, authorities said they had learned Wolf did not have a police record in Ohio as indicated possible by a report yesterday. Wolf had denied being in any previous trouble with the law.

Water Control Board Approved by Senate

Salem —(U.P.)— A seven-man board with comprehensive control over all uses of water in Oregon was approved by the Senate yesterday with only five dissenting votes.

The measure, which Sens. Paul Geddes (R-Roseburg) and Walter Leth (R-Monmouth) said might well be one of the most important adopted by the 1955 Legislature, now goes to a conference committee to iron out differences between House and Senate amendments.

The water resources bill, a companion to a bill passed two days ago setting up a statewide ground water code, was the result of a two-year interim study conducted throughout the state. The board would take over all the functions of the Upper Columbia Basin Commission and the Willamette Basin Commission, and part of the functions of the State Hydroelectric Commission and the State Fish and Game Commissions.

The Homestead gold mine at Lead, S. D., gets less than a half-ounce of gold from a ton of ore.

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Revenue Felt To Be Inadequate; Charts Ordered

By BILL FORCE
United Press Correspondent

Salem —(U.P.)— An overhaul of the sales tax bill passed yesterday by the House was indicated here today when the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee went to work in earnest on the measure.

There were signs that the House Taxation committee had been too liberal with exemptions that would be granted to the tax, and that the revenue it would raise would be inadequate.

Charts Ordered

After a preliminary look at the sales tax last night, the Senate committee ordered researchers to prepare a half-dozen charts showing where the richest sources of revenue lay, and how the House version could be adapted to estimated needs.

In companion measures to the sales tax bill, the House had granted double exemptions to ease the income tax burden at the lower pay levels, and had provided that the sales tax would not become effective until Jan. 1, 1956, if it were approved at the Nov. 8 special election. That delay of the effective date would result in loss of several million dollars revenue.

Would Void Fag Tax

The House has also provided that if the sales tax should go into effect, the proposed cigarette tax would automatically be voided. The cigarette tax was up for final action in the Senate today.

The Senate committee last night ordered a bill drafted that would call a special election some time this fall on the increased income tax rate already passed, provided the measure is referred by the voters.

The Senate's plan was to resolve the income tax issue as soon as possible, so that lost revenue would not force the bulk of state finances onto a state property tax.

The building program that cleared the House yesterday was referred late in the day to the Senate Tax Committee instead of to the Ways and Means Committee which originated the program.

Eye To Finances
Sen. Rudie Wilhelm (R-Portland), chairman of the Senate tax group, promised that his committee would not judge the merits of the building projects themselves, but instead would view them with an eye to finances.

The committee agreed tentatively last night that it would amend the building program bill to tie them to available revenue. Presumably the bulk of the program would be held in abeyance if voters attack left the state without an adequate income tax or sales tax system to finance state operations.

Excepted would be the outpatient clinic at state hospital and Fairview Home construction.

Portland State college and Oregon Technical Institute projects already contain the emergency clause for immediate start.

Gresham Fun Center Damaged by Flames

Gresham, Ore. —(U.P.)— Fire swept through the Fun Center here early today causing damage estimated at more than \$50,000 to the two-story brick building.

Four firemen were overcome by smoke.

The blaze broke out shortly after 1 a.m., apparently in the basement. It burned through the floor of the skating rink on the main floor and destroyed the Elks club bar and lounge in the sub-basement. A bowling alley in the basement also was damaged.

The half-block building also houses a number of other offices and activities.

More Extortion Threats Made; School Threats Being Studied

By UNITED PRESS
Two more extortion notes were reported in Oregon today while authorities tried to halt a wave of telephone threats to schools.

Jacob Stalder, 63, Cottage Grove, told police he found a note in his mailbox Wednesday demanding \$10,000 with a threat his house would be blown up. The note did not contain directions for turning over the money and Stalder turned it over to police, saying he believed it was a prank.

Thomas Binford, of the Binfords & Mort printing and pub-

lishing firm of Portland, said he received a note yesterday de-



Hornbrook

Hornbrook, Calif. — Monday, April 25, friends and neighbors gathered at the Methodist Community church honoring the Rev. and Mrs. Louis Hart with a farewell dinner. Rev. Hart has wretired from the ministry and is moving to Lakeport, Calif., where they will reside.

The Knitting club met April 26 at the home of Mrs. Harry Chapman. Members present were Mesdames Marshall Horn, L. C. Walsh, Rush Greive, Lawrence Breceda and the hostess, Mrs. Louis Hart was a guest for the afternoon.

Mrs. Frank Taggart returned last week from the southern part of the state, having spent the winter months visiting friends and relatives.

On April 27, as the Rev. and Mrs. Louis Hart were leaving for Lakeport, Calif., their car went out of control and landed upright in the ditch one mile south of Hornbrook. They received no injuries but the car was badly damaged. They were taken to Yreka by the Hayes family who happened along shortly after the accident, and proceeded on by bus the following day.

COMMERCIAL SEASON OPEN

Portland —(U.P.)— The Oregon Fish Commission said today that the spring commercial fishing season on the Columbia river will open at noon April 30 and extend to May 27. Week end commercial closures, which go into effect the following week end, will be from noon Saturday until 6 p.m. Sunday. Commercial restrictions have been placed on a 15-mile area above Bonneville Dam and a five-mile area below the dam.

manding \$200 under threat of harm to his son. Binford was told to place the money in a package and drop it at NE 14th ave. and Tillamook street at 10 p.m. It was understood he did as the note said but returned two hours later to find the package still there.

The new Jason Lee grade school in Portland was evacuated yesterday after a telephone threat and a policeman checked Roosevelt high school after some girl students said two men in a car warned of a bomb. Employees of the Sperry-Hutchison Company in Portland were evacuated yesterday after a telephone threat.

Three teen-age boys, held in connection with a telephone threat to Jefferson high school in Portland Monday, were ordered into solitary confinement in the juvenile home yesterday. Judge Virgil Langtry said he had not determined what disposition to make of the case as yet.

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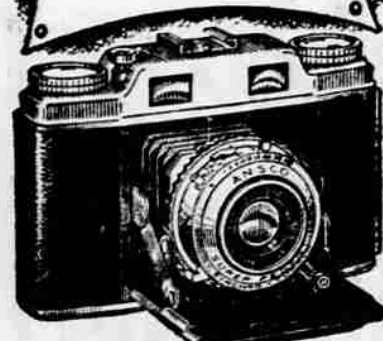
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