

Bills in Legislature

Salem — (U.P.) — The House Livestock Committee, defeated at every turn in its attempt to get a compulsory state meat inspection bill passed, walked out of its last meeting and left the bill lying on the desk, ready for a try at the next legislature.

Rep. Robert Steward (D-Keating), chairman of the committee, admitted defeat after the joint ways and means committee refused to appropriate even sufficient funds for a pilot program

in meat inspection. But he hoped to take the bill to the floor of the House to give members a chance to vote on it publicly.

But Rep. V. T. Jackson (D-Roseburg), who fought for the bill in Ways and Means Committee, said "it doesn't do a bill any good to get defeated."

As the committee sought an appropriate burial place for the bill, wanted mainly in southern Oregon, Jackson suggested that the committee neither table the bill nor act on it but simply adjourn and leave it to die with the end of the session. He said it would then stand a better chance of enactment in 1957.

Salem — (U.P.) — A Senate bill to raise the salaries of State Supreme Court judges from \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year has been sent back to an unsympathetic Ways and Means Committee by House Speaker Edward A. Geary.

Rep. Pat Dooley (D-Portland) was defeated in his attempt to have the bill referred by the full House to the judiciary committee.

The measure, signed by 36 members of the House, was reported out of Ways and Means with a recommendation that it be defeated. The Senate overruled that report and passed the bill.

As the measure came on for second reading in the House, Geary announced his intention of sending the bill back to Ways and Means but he recognized Dooley who put his motion for referral to judiciary where the bill would have a better chance of approval.

Salem — (U.P.) — A measure to increase the compensation rate for workmen suffering permanent disability to a \$100 minimum has been approved by the Senate. The present minimum is \$80.

The House had provided a \$110 so the Senate bill must go to the House for concurrence.

Salem — (U.P.) — The House has approved a bill that would provide for automatic review by the State Supreme Court of death sentences from circuit courts.

Salem — (U.P.) — An interim committee to supervise a study of education problems in every



STRICKEN — Four-year-old Ronald Fitzgerald (above) of Oakland, Cal., is in Children's Hospital in San Francisco with polio after being vaccinated with Salk shots. He was given the inoculation by his mother, a registered nurse, who obtained it from her doctor.

Hearing Checks Due for County School Children

Miss Patricia Beaudoin, auditor for the state department of education, will be in Jackson county during the coming week to conduct hearing checks for first grade pupils in various Jackson county schools.

Her schedule will be: May 2, Jacksonville. May 3, Howard, West Side and Oak Grove. May 4 and 5, Ashland.

Miss Beaudoin conducted hearing checks for first grade students in other Jackson schools during January and February.

county in Oregon has been approved by the House. Members of the committee would be lay persons not connected with teaching or school administration. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Martin Predicts Military Reserve Plan Will Succeed

Washington — (U.P.) — House GOP Leader Joseph W. Martin Jr., said Saturday President Eisenhower's compulsory military reserve training plan will pass the House next week "without any trouble."

"Universal Military Training (UMT) isn't involved enough for a fight," he said, "in for the bill and it will pass."

Voluntary Program
The administration program, aimed at building up a 2,900,000 ready reserve by 1960, includes a new six months military training plan mostly for pre-draft age youths on a voluntary basis.

Rep. Dewey Short (R-Mo.), long time foe of UMT and ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, has said he fears it may be a step toward getting UMT "by the back door." He did not vote either way when the committee approved the bill 31 to 5 on Wednesday.

Rep. James E. Van Zandt (R-Pa.), who is for the bill "100 percent," said he expected some "noise" about UMT when it comes up probably Thursday. But he said he didn't expect any firm opposition.

Not Enough Volunteers
"Its only weakness is the fact that it depends on volunteers for the six months training plan," Van Zandt told a reporter. "In a year we're going to find that there aren't enough volunteers and Congress will have to approve drafting men of 19 or older for it."

The administration originally asked for drafting authority but ran into strong opposition in the House committee which eliminated the draft authority in a move to fend off charges that it was UMT.

Battle mountain state park is the site of the last Indian battle to be fought in Oregon territory. It occurred in 1878.

Is That So?

Perhaps you have thought of birds as being mild, meek, defenseless creatures. Don't believe it: They can fight, and fight with courage, routing foes many times their own size, occasionally even killing them.

Their arsenal is varied. Some have a powerful foot, others nail-like spurs; some have strong wings, others rapier-like beaks; and yet others have claw-like talons which, when backed with speed, are strong enough to break an antagonist's back.

Among the most formidable fighting birds are the runners—those which have had to contend with mammals, or whose flight at best is limited. In this group, by dint of the power in its great preet, the 300-pound ostrich is pre-eminent. So powerful is this bird, that any mammal up to the size of a hyena zealously avoids provoking its wrath. And well that it does—the single claw on the longer of its two toes can rupture corrugated iron. His kick has broken a man's leg.

Other members of this flightless family, cassowaries and rheas, are outstanding fighters. In fact the hard straight inner claw of the cassowary is so long and strong that natives use it as a head for their spears. As for the rhea, it's a great in-fighter, holding on like a bulldog with its bill while kick-ripping the be-jabbers out of its foe.

As a weapon, the long sharp spur of the game birds is the most terrible. Normally, this spur occurs only on the male as in most game fowl, and common peacock.

Spring Gives Advantage

With these spurred birds, bill-and-foot fighting is the rule. Many fighting cocks, for example, strive to catch hold with the bill and once they have gotten this purchase, they go on to deliver a death blow with their spurred legs.

In birds which fight with both feet at once, as do the game cocks, a strong wiry, springing bird usually has the advantage. These spurred game cocks are killers, not only among their own kind, but also among such professionals as rats and hawks.

Besides using beak and claw, the grouse will use its wings as well. Among the most notable of these wing-fighters are pigeons, members of the duck clan, plovers, snipes, and penguins—more of the strength of the latter, presently. To assist some of these wing-fighters, a few are armed with brass knuckles as are the sheldrakes, spur-winged geese, spur-winged lapwings and lily-pad trotting jacanas. The "knuckles" being spurs on the pinion-joint, not the tips. Again, formidable weapons.

A few birds such as gulls, shrikes and parrots rely almost entirely on biting—and of these, the parrot can inflict great punishment with his powerful, hooked mandibles—being the only bird capable of moving both uppers and lowers. Another type of fighting bill is the bayonet-like weapon of the stork and crane, which can be thrust forward swiftly. In the scavenger storks it is particularly effective.

In the hair-pulling class, the tooth-and-claw performers, grappling is quite common. But, unlike mammals, these grapplers do not aim for the throat—mostly, it's the back of the head for them.

Not to be overlooked are birds whose daily food often depends upon a fight. These are the birds of prey which use their terrible stroke or the vise-like grip of their talons. With these, beaks are used but little—yet, the falcon who captured his quarry in the air may come to earth and is quite capable of breaking the neck of its victim with his bill. And when cornered on the ground, he may roll over and fight from his back like a cougar—thus giving his terrible talons free play.

Feathers Fry
When two such killers—hawk and eagle—meet in mid-air, feathers fly. They will grapple with their tough-shod claws, clasp each other, spinning round and round as they come down, often hitting the earth to

By Eugene Burns
Ranger-Naturalist

continue their struggle. Which, then, is the most formidable bird fighter? Because of his superior weight and powerful legs, quite likely the ostrich. For size, the game-



cock with his terrible sharp spurs would be hard to beat. There is a record of one killing a fox. But when sheer strength is involved, that normally benign emperor penguin, who stands chest-high to a man, perhaps takes the palm. One Antarctic account tells of five seamen from the whaler Baleana—no sissies—who caught one of these great birds and when they tried to hold it down they were scattered like ninepins. When at last they managed to strap two leather belts around its body and stood back to take a deep breath, the Emperor did likewise—and burst the two belts. (Copyright, by Eugene Burns) (Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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Two-thirds of all California farms are irrigated.

Conditions Better For Much Delayed Atomic Test Blast

Las Vegas, Nev. — (U.P.) — The strong-willed but empty-wallet-ed survivors of Operation Cue were teased with another bit of hope Saturday. The Atomic Energy commission said weather conditions might be favorable to finally get off the oft-delayed atomic blast at the Nevada test site today.

The Saturday morning weather briefing flashed the green light for all hands to again begin preparations for the pre-dawn detonation. However, two more weather briefings were to be held before 5:10 a.m. PDT today, in the event either the 9:30 p.m. briefing last night or the 3:45 a.m. session today showed a change for the worse, the shot was to again be postponed—for the sixth irritating time.

The weatherman said Saturday morning that the forecast was favorable for firing today except for cloud conditions that were "marginal" and could interfere with air observations work connected with the blast.

The AEC announced that if the same favorable conditions hang over into Monday the 14th and last shot of the 1955 series will be fired. This will be in the pre-dawn, apparently, and will not hamper the tour of the blasted make-believe city by all the observers. Apparently the shot will take place in a section of Yucca Flat far enough removed from disaster town to preclude any radiation danger.

ORIGINAL ENOUGH
St. Louis — (U.P.) Highway Patrolman Robert Beck added a new one to his list of excuses for speeding. Beck stopped an elderly man driving an ancient auto on the highway west of here. The driver told Beck: "The highway is so darned dangerous I was hurrying to get off it."

HOW TRUE!
Grand Rapids, Mich. — (U.P.) — A Grand Rapids office supply firm displayed a \$2.95 file in its window which it labeled as "guaranteed to hold the yearly bills of the average man." Next to it was a larger and more expensive file with a sign saying, "not guaranteed to hold the yearly bills of the average woman."

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

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