

State Legislature Is Entering Final Weeks, Bills Increasing

By STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT DUNCAN

Salem—This will doubtless be my last newsletter for this session. I am sorry that there have not been more, but the work has left very little time, and I have had to eliminate much that I would have liked to do.

The letters from Jackson county have been very helpful. I hope they will continue, and that if they are not acknowledged from here on out, you will understand that nevertheless they are being carefully considered.

The Legislature is entering its final weeks. The many long hours of careful work in committee, taking testimony, drafting, and re-drafting the bills, is now bearing fruit; and they are coming to the floor in increasing numbers. While many of them, it is true, are of minor consequence, each is important to some group of citizens and should be carefully considered. It may seem that the session has been unduly long to some. To me, it is amazing that so much has been and will be accomplished.

Budgets Reviewed

In Ways and Means, budgets for many, many state agencies have been reviewed in detail. Agencies such as the Highway Department, the Board of Health, Industrial Accident, and Unemployment Compensation, are multi-million dollar businesses. Their budgets have been considered in detail, working for economies that will not impair their efficiency. It would be easy to make "across the board" cuts, or to approve them as submitted. The first alternative is not intelligent; the second is not what we are here for. Major decisions will soon be forthcoming. Many of these decisions will be compromises, the product of the give-and-take of a vibrant democracy.

Judiciary's work, while less spectacular, is nevertheless im-

portant, dealing as it does with the laws which regulate the settlement of disputes between citizens and the State. Many bills this session have been referred to the legal committee for the solution of legal problems connected therewith. At last count, some 90 bills had been disposed of by the committee, after detailed consideration. Eighty some odd remain, including bills from the Senate.

Taxation, of course, is a big issue. During the campaign last fall, I promised no tax reductions. I announced my hope that an equitable program could be worked out within the framework of the income tax, based as it is upon what I believe to be an equitable premise: namely, taxation according to ability to pay.

Increases in rates in the lower and middle groups cannot be avoided but will be, I think, offset by a raise in dependency exemption from \$500 to \$600, a considerable benefit to people with the expense of a family. This new income tax structure will be more equitable and less regressive than the alternative offered in the form of a sales tax. Contrary to many people's belief, a sales tax does not offer

an inexhaustible reservoir of money to which no one has to contribute. Taxes must be paid, and this Legislature is seeking the least undesirable solution. It is seeking, also, to avoid "soaking the rich," an expedient but not always wise solution; for when we discourage investment in Oregon, we lose employment which our state vitally needs.

Many have expressed fear of a collection of taxes on property by the State. If the budget can be held down, as I am confident that it can, there is no more reason to fear this now than there was in the past. Holding the budget down means that all will not get as much of an appropriation as they would like. This Legislature, nevertheless, is trying to and will make reasonable increases in support for our mental institutions, our schools, salaries for our state employees, including the academic staffs and the state police.

The decisions which we are called upon to make are difficult. They are being made sincerely. Mistakes are inevitable, but this is democracy. I am happy and proud for the small part which each of us, be he in Salem or Jackson county, can play in it.

Communications

Kindness Universal Need

To the Editor: It is true, some parents do not set a good example for children. On every hand individuals and groups are seeking to deprive others of their rights for purely selfish purposes. The proposed highway through our park is a good example of this. Since this is of such vital importance to all of us why not have a special election before it is too late?

Then in regard to combating delinquency a sports program, manual arts classes are fine. But there is an old Oregon law all but forgotten—making humane education compulsory. This was not designed just to teach children to be kind to animals and to recognize their rights as living creatures, but, while children are learning this they are developing character, responsibility, unselfishness and espe-

cially "kindness." A word of such force that its application will exert an unlimited influence in later life. Think what this would mean if all of us had a kindly attitude toward one another—so let us teach more of it in home and school.

Let us not forget this Easter time that bunnies, baby chicks and ducklings are not toys—but baby things not to be squeezed to death.

Terry Addison, 1040 Childers Ave., Medford, Oregon.

No Charge for Blood

To the Editor: The paper of Friday, April 19, carried a letter by D. W. of Central Point ament a possible solution to the blood donor problem.

I should like to say that D. W. does not have his—or her—facts straight. Hospitals in this area do not charge their patients for blood given them, since it is blood donated to the Red Cross which is used and no charge is made. The small fee collected by the hospital is for administering the blood. Time was when donors were paid \$25 for a pint of blood, and the patient was charged accordingly. But that was before the many uses of whole blood and plasma were discovered. Nowadays, many accident victims, for example, require a dozen or more transfusions. Think of the bill that patient would have to pay.

D. W. would do well to read an article in the April issue of RED BOOK, entitled "Every Day Someone Saves My Life." Jim Garner, a hemophiliac, leads a normal, productive life because—and only so long as—he receives a daily transfusion of blood plasma. He has already had some 1500 transfusions. This is arranged for through a privately-run blood bank in California, on the basis of replacing the blood used at the rate of two donated pints for each transfusion given. Friends of Jim, and their friends, and other citizens with a pint of blood and an hour every two or three months to spare, are donors, and are paid no fee, so that Jim can have the blood he needs at no cost. One donor is to replace the blood used, and one to offset the \$8.50 cost of processing the blood. Just stop and figure up, D. W., what the cost of these daily transfusions would be to Jim—at \$10 or even \$5 each. He's 27 now. I know Jim, and I know what this plasma is doing for him and his family.

I agree that the idea of a local permanent blood bank, with donors paid \$5 or \$10, might supply the needed blood. But if the patient couldn't pay for it, who would? The only pay for the blood itself that is now expected of the patient or his family is that the blood be replaced. But even if it is not, the patient gets the blood.

The Red Cross Blood Program has never included a payment for blood nor a charge for blood, which all ties in with the fundamental purpose of the organization, "People Helping Peo-

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

SOME IMPRESSIONS

Rome — One of the things that has impressed me in Great Britain and again in Italy is



Walter Lippmann

that in foreign affairs there are no clear and sharp issues. There was, of course, a deep division of feeling over the Suez affair. But that the intervention has failed and has been liquidated, there does not seem to be anywhere a definite difference of view as to what the Western world or the United States should do next.

My impression is that here in Italy there is a feeling of solidarity with the British and the French but that this feeling is checked by a strong practical sense that it is the national interest of Italy to go along with the United States.

IN MOVING and talking to a variety of people from the countries of Western Europe I have found a remarkable amount of agreement, almost a consensus, about the Soviet Union, about the Middle East, and about the United States.

I have seen no one who thinks the Soviet Union is planning and is preparing for a general war. For that reason the resounding declarations of the so-called Eisenhower Doctrine are received with puzzled incredulity. Some think that the President and Mr. Dulles are living in an unreal world, emphasizing dangers that will probably not come and not dealing with dangers that do in fact exist. Others think that they must mean something deep, so deep that nobody understands it.

I have seen no one who thinks that the Soviet Union is at present willing or able to negotiate a general German or European settlement. The commonly accepted view is that the Soviet Union cannot afford to withdraw the Red Army from Eastern Germany and from Poland. This means the fall of the East German Communist Regime, and along with that a turning of Poland and Hungary against Russia.

Some whom I have seen think that there is nothing for the West to do but to back up Dr. Adenauer and accept the fact that Europe is partitioned. Others, who are, I believe, offering the Soviet Union terms which Moscow, were it less frightened and suspicious, could find reasonable.

There is a general view, I found, that in the rivalry for the so-called uncommitted nations of Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, the Soviet Union has an easier hand to play than has the United States. There is a feeling that the Soviet Union has won the game in Nasser's Egypt. Certainly it would be a pleasant surprise in Europe if Eisenhower and Dulles are able to hold their own in the game.

ALTHOUGH I have not encountered it myself, there is obviously wide anti-American feeling. There is, on the other hand, a big distaste for the manners and the bearing of Americans traveling abroad or talking to the outer world. The comforts and the conveniences of the American way of life are popular.

I don't know the answer to keeping the program going here, but I do know that we will all be the losers if it is not.

Ruth H. Kilbourn, 235 No. Ivy, Medford, Ore.

But the talk that goes with them, be it from tourists, itinerant Congressmen, or other officials is definitely unpopular.

There is in the anti-American feeling a general disillusionment with President Eisenhower himself. There is an extraordinary lack of confidence in Secretary Dulles. There is a general underlying anxiety that the fate of Europe should so much depend upon them. The feeling seems to be unanimous as one learns not only in private conversation but also in blunt correspondence in the responsible European press, that the President is a tired man living in a kind of semi-retirement.

ALL this tends to strengthen the feeling in favor of projects, like the common market, of European solidarity. I have no doubt that the brilliant reception of Queen Elizabeth in Paris reflects in some considerable measure this new feeling of European solidarity.

Yet I am unable to judge, nor is anyone I have talked with, whether the general feeling of European solidarity is strong enough to overcome the national feelings and the vested interests which keep Europe divided.

It will be years before we know. But in the meantime the common effort to work at these common projects is in itself a

Sunday, April 21, 1957

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE



VO-AG BANQUET—Guest speaker at the annual Vocational-Agriculture parent-son banquet in Eagle Point Thursday was state FFA President Roy Chapin, left. He is shown above talking with Nat Etzel, center, Eagle Point Vo-Ag advisor, and Eagle Point FFA President Robert Hayes. About 200 persons attended the banquet. Adults receiving honorary degrees for their work in the FFA program during the year were Bill Bigham and John Ousterhout.

N.Y. COYOTES INCREASING

Ithaca, N.Y.—(U.P.)—Prof. W. J. Hamilton Jr., Cornell University zoologist, says the coyote, in time, will become established throughout the farmlands of New York State. The animal, common in the Adirondacks, has now invaded many of the western and southern tier counties," he said.

healthy manifestation of European solidarity. Copyright 1957 New York Herald Tribune Inc.



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Editorial Comment

PARTY LABEL DOESN'T COUNT

Labor in Oregon is wondering whether it really makes any difference which political party is in power in the state government.

For more than 80 days now the legislature has been in session. The total of its accomplishments as far as the working men and women of the state are concerned is exactly nothing.

Labor did not expect that just because the Democrats swept Oregon in the last election that labor was entitled to a blank check. All labor wanted and asked was that the welfare of the working people receive consideration.

For the many years that the GOP controlled the state and the governor's mansion workers got very little consideration. A change for the better was expected with the shift to Democratic control.

That change hasn't been very noticeable. As a matter of fact, it's non-existent.

The Democratic administration has refused to repeal the anti-labor ban on picketing. And there has been no action on many other labor-backed proposals having to do with workmen's compensation and other labor bills.

It's proof again of the wisdom of the advice to "vote the man and not the party." Some of labor's strongest supporters in this session of the legislature are Republicans. Some of its strongest opponents are Democrats.

No party in Oregon deserves to think that it is the "working-man's friend" because the evidence just isn't there.

Party labels mean nothing these days. It's the individual who counts and labor should remember this: the next time political parties come to it for blanket endorsements and support—"Oregon Teamster."

EXCESS OF PARTISANSHIP

Elections to county offices are not just an endorsement of party. They are also a sorting of the candidates. We don't believe the people of a county want a poorly qualified person to be named to succeed another simply because he wears the same party label.

There may be some justification for the law in the case of legislators where party affiliation is of greater significance, but as far as district attorneys are concerned the main thing is to get a good man to take the job. There are counties where it isn't easy to do that—the salary is too low to attract and hold a competent lawyer. The governor should not be restricted to a party replacement.

This law represents an excess of partisanship. It should be amended or repealed to give a wider latitude in filling vacancies in district attorneyships.—Oregon Statesman, Salem.

SCENIC WONDERLAND

Is Oregon a "scenic wonderland?" Of course it is. But it is not necessarily THE "scenic wonderland." Many states can join us in this claim, a claim that likely will be made by Oregon motorists who visit other states. The words "scenic wonderland" will be added to Oregon license plates, if a recommendation of the House highway committee passes the rest of the way through the Legislature.

We've always taken a dim view of these license plates that tout the spuds or the wheat or the rutabagas that grow back home. But if Oregon must adopt this lame method of getting publicity, we wish the state would think of something more original to advertise.—Eugene Register-Guard.

WHAT PRICE COMPETENCE?

Oregon legislators want to increase their salaries from \$600 to \$1000 per year and would like authority to regulate their salaries as the Congress does, without referring the matter to the people. You will have an opportunity at the next general election to express your opinion on the proposal.

It is not right that men and women should serve their state as legislators for as little as \$600 a year. The cost of living in Salem through a legislative session is far more than that. A legislator must have other income or must borrow money in order to get through a session.

People who think \$600 is sufficient will argue that nobody is required to be a candidate for the legislature; that a man seeks the job with his eyes wide open. They disregard the important point that a financial bar keeps many competent people out of a field of public service where competence is sorely needed.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

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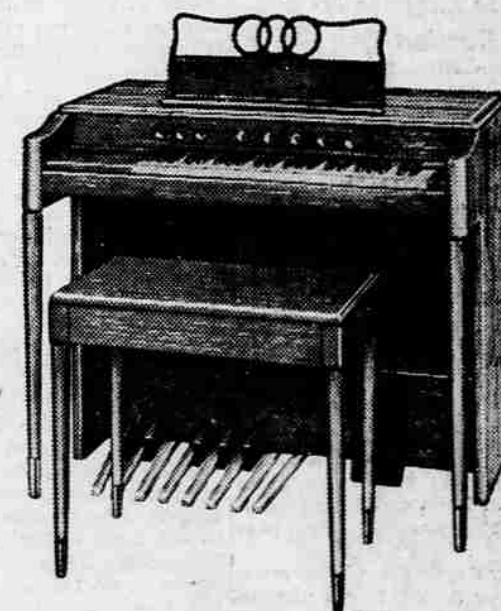
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