

Senator Lowry Discusses Action in Legislature

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles prepared by Jackson county legislators, discussing the 1957 legislature.

By PHILIP LOWRY
State Senator

We Oregonians need to take a long, hard look at the direction in which our executive and legislative policies and our resource limitations have our state headed. Because the legislative results of the recently adjourned 49th Session will have a very real effect on each of us and our families, it is important to know what was really done at Salem. Some passage of time will be required to fully evaluate the successes, failures and mistakes of the 49th Session.

This legislature set a good many "firsts". It was the longest session in history (128 days), and spent nearly a half million dollars more than any other session in doing its work. It passed a record budget, along with a large tax increase. Much time was often spent on bills of relatively minor consequence. Important measures sometimes received insufficient consideration, particularly in the closing days of the session. As usual, much legislation was the product of well represented minority groups. Emotion rather than reason sometimes held sway.

Partisan Politics
Partisan, and even personal politics, sometimes prevented deliberate consideration in deciding how we could give Oregon the best possible government. Progressive legislation was sometimes confused with legislation of doubtful common sense.

Some of the really important bills can only be judged after they have gone through the crucible of practical operation and effect. The lobbyists were more active than ever and some of them had a propaganda heyday.

Republicans and Democrats alike had their political headaches. Democrats were in the majority and could not fully agree on a program among themselves. The Republican minority lacked sufficient membership to mount a program of their own. A number of prominent Democrats frequently disagreed with the Governor's program.

Bipartisan Sponsorship
Probably the best legislation was produced by bipartisan sponsorship which was directed in the interest of the general public without regard to wooing the voters or embarrassing the other political party.

The mail was approximately three times heavier than in the 1955 session, indicative of a growing healthy concern of Oregonians as to the doings of the legislature. To the many hundreds of citizens of Jackson county who took the time to express themselves, I say, a grateful "Thank You."

The legislature stuck its head in the sand to ignore the cold fact that Oregon is having an economic headache. The business climate for producing jobs and income in Oregon, which was none too good before, worsened.

Our seasonal forest industry, largest supplier of housing raw materials, is the victim of a national policy to curb inflation. Logging and lumbering, here before seasonal, have become more so as timber becomes available only at higher elevations.

Other Seasonal
Agriculture and tourist trade, number two and three respectively in our basic economy, are likewise seasonal. At least a majority of the legislature seemed to ignore the important fact that undeniable statistics show that Oregon is now below the United States per capita income average.

Bank debit figures show our economy is not all we would like. Some parts of Oregon, such as Multnomah county with more diversified sources of income, were not overly sympathetic with the other parts of the state that may be confronted with a long range economic problem. High production costs, heavy taxation and unfavorable transportation rates to distant markets pose a real problem for Oregon jobs and industry.

Oregonians have always laudably taken pride in attempting to lead the nation in a good many fields. As Oregonians we do not want and must not sit by and see a situation develop where a reduction in state income can only mean a reduction in our standards of living, education and humanitarian programs.

Hard Working
Above all, this was a hard working group in the 49th Assembly. Absences in the Senate were almost unknown. Com-

mittees met on Saturdays and many nights, trying to get the job done. Taxation and education were in the spotlight most of the session. In brief, here is what was done:

A total of 1336 bills, 136 resolutions and 31 memorials were introduced, of the total, 672 bills passed both houses. Legislators referred 11 measures to the vote of the people in November 1958. All bills become law on Aug. 20 unless they carry an emergency clause or a different effective date.

Appropriations
Final appropriations for the 1957-59 budget amounted to \$272,000,000 about \$51,000,000 above the current budget.

Taxation
The Democratic tax program calls for \$149,300,000 from the personal income tax and about \$40,000,000 from the excise tax. This is about a six per cent increase in personal income tax over the present 45 per cent surtax and about a 17 per cent increase in business taxes.

Miscellaneous revenues from liquor, death taxes and insurance taxes make up the balance.

The 45 per cent surtax was repealed in name only and the equivalent of about a 51 per cent surtax was written into

Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

The names of many flowers have interesting histories. Some plants, for example, are hybrids—the word hybrid coming from the Latin hybrida which means the offspring of a tame sow and a wild boar. But now for the names:

ARROWROOT: the starch obtained from the rootstocks of



6-15-57 ASTER

this plant was used by the American Indians to take the poison out of wounds from arrows. Hence, arrowroot.

ASTER: the white and pink and purple blossoms look like stars, don't they? And aster is a Latin word meaning just that.

CAMELLIA: the great Swedish naturalist Linnaeus christened this lovely flower in honor of a Jesuit traveler, George Joseph Kamel, who brought back the first specimens from the Orient.

CANTERBURY BELLS: because these dainty flowers resemble the bells that jangled on the horses of the Canterbury pilgrims whom the poet Chaucer wrote about.

DAHLIA: this flower, a native of Mexico and Central America, was named after Dahl, a Swedish botanist.

GERANIUM: the seed pod of the geranium is thought to look like the bill of a crane and so the name of this flower traces back to the Greek word, geranos, meaning crane.

GADIOLUS: because the brilliant spikes of its flowers were supposed to resemble the Roman sword, gladius, which the gladiators carried in the arena.

HELIOPTROPE: the flower has the trick of turning with the sun. Observing this the Greeks called it heliotropion made up of helios, meaning sun; and tropos, turning to go with it.

LARKSPUR: our bird the lark is noted for its long, straight, hind claw. Look at the spur-shaped flowers and you'll see the resemblance at once.

MAGNOLIA: this plant, whose bark and flowers are both fragrant, was once used in China to season rice, states Dr. Wilfred Funk, in his new book, Word Origins (Funk, N.Y.). It was named after Pierre Magnol, a French professor of botany.

NASTURTIUM: the Latin word means, "nose-twisters." If you chew one of the seeds the bitter taste will make the meaning of the name more obvious.

PANSY: some poetic-minded person fancied that this dainty flower had a thoughtful face, and so named it pensee—the French word for thoughtful, from which our word pansy.

RHODODENDRON: simply a rose tree, from the Greek, rhodon, meaning rose, and dendron meaning tree.

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the permanent rate structure.

The dependency credit was raised from \$500 to \$600. Complete withholding, designed to soften the blow, will go into effect in September. A few tax payers get a break under this program. Widows and single wage earners will suffer most.

Business subject to the excise tax lost the right to pay in installments. This tax program leaves us with the highest overall rate in the nation. The personal income tax measure was dubbed the "Rotten Apple Bill" after Democratic Senator Musa called it and the 45 per cent surtax "a small choice between rotten apples." I opposed the 45 per cent surtax in 1955 and, likewise, voted against the 1957 bill.

The Interim Tax committee program designed to broaden the tax base, provided local property tax relief and greater state aid to local education was killed in the House weeks before the amount of the budget was known. Senate Bill 92, preventing the state from taxing local property passed the Senate easily but was killed in the House. Rumblings of a referendum on the personal income tax bill have been heard. Referendum could produce financial crisis in Oregon and a special session.

This, I hope, will prove to be a bright spot. The basic fund was increased and a better formula provided for dividing it among local districts. A school reorganization bill was passed after a bitter struggle in the House. Saturday bank closing was soundly defeated in the Senate and the bill to regulate trading stamps was tabled.

Two sessions of representing Jackson county at the Legislature have convinced me that our problems are fundamentally non-partisan and must be treated that way. We can, and will solve our problems if we all pull together and recognize that we must act positively and constructively. A legislator is estimated to cast about 3,000 votes during a session, in committee and on the floor.

Honest mistakes, and sometimes, bad ones, are bound to be made and I am sure that I have made them right along with others. My interim assignments include the Senate Investigating committee and the Taxation Interim committee.

No senator could have had finer bi-partisan support than that given me by our people of Jackson county. It has been a great privilege to work for you and represent you.

Government Reorganization
The Governor's program to abolish the three-man Board of Control, create the office of Lieutenant-governor, to call an annual session of the Legislature, to abolish the Liquor Control commission and to create a full time paid Parole Board to replace the present voluntary, unpaid board were all defeated.

Senate Republicans defeated the Parole Board bill but all the others were killed in Democratic controlled committees. A Planning and Development department was set up to replace the Oregon Development commission which was abolished.

Veterans
Veteran loan authorizations were increased to 85 per cent of valuation with a maximum of \$13,500 for homes and \$30,000 for farms.

Elections
The election bill streamlining our election procedure passed easily. It provides for a single poll book and \$1 an hour for election clerks.

Criminal Procedure
The vice probe in Multnomah county caused a number of bills to be introduced but little action was taken. The Multnomah county delegation killed all efforts to legislate anything sub-

OFFICE CHANGED
Starting Tuesday, June 18, a representative of the Medford Social Security office will maintain office hours in the First Christian church, 311 S. W. H. St., Grants Pass, from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. In the past, the social security representative has maintained office hours in the council chamber of the Grants Pass city hall. The change in location will provide ground floor space, making the representative accessible to a greater number of callers.

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On The Side

By E. V. Durling
(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

I think true love is never blind. But rather brings an added light. An inner vision quick to find. The beauties hid from common eyes. No soul can ever clearly see. Another's highest, noblest part: Save through the sweet philosophy. And loving wisdom of the heart. —Phoebe Cary

Any woman who has proven herself a clever home manager has what it takes to succeed as a business executive. So says Mrs. Charles Ulrick Bay, one of this country's most successful business executives. At the present time over a million women in the United States hold executive jobs. In many cases these feminine executives tell men what to do. There are even forewomen for construction gangs I have never seen such a forewoman in action. I would like to. Must be an interesting spectacle.

Natural Resources
No action was taken on the Columbia River Compact but the Klamath River Compact was acted on favorably. A study of the potential water uses of the Rogue river was authorized. The fishing laws were tightened up and several soil conservation measures were enacted.

Welfare
The Relative Responsibility law was greatly modified. No support payments will be required where income is less than \$6,000. The welfare budget was increased and a council on the aging was created.

Institutions, Public Health
The state building program was one place where economy prevailed but it may prove more expensive in the long run as costs increase.

Compulsory statewide meat inspection was enacted together with a comprehensive program of brucellosis control.

Business Regulation
Senate Bills 274 and 275 to give the Public Utilities commissioner authority to reasonably regulate railroads, passed after a bitter struggle in the House. Saturday bank closing was soundly defeated in the Senate and the bill to regulate trading stamps was tabled.

Divorcees Preferred
In this country divorcees in the 20 to 38 year age group continue to be preferred matrimonial material. Even the fact a divorcee has two or three children does not decrease her chances of acquiring a husband. In fact, divorcees with a couple of children seem to have a strong attraction for some men seeking spouses. The divorcees appear to have a preference for bachelors, that is young men who have never been married. This is making the husband hunting situation very tough for bachelorettes.

Do you consider yourself a well-informed sports fan? If so, state what celebrated boxer fought in the bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight, middleweight, welterweight, light-heavyweight and heavyweight classes at different times in his career.

When a person yawns it is not always a sign of boredom. Excitement can make you yawn. So says a scientist. Keep that

in mind, young lady. If the fellow calling on you cuts loose with a yawn, don't immediately conclude he is bored. He may be getting ready to propose.

What is the dumbest or least intelligent of all animals? That's what a Philadelphian asks. I have no authoritative information on this matter. Nor have I any definite ideas. However, it might be the pigeon. I heard of a pigeon that spent five weeks trying to hatch an electric light bulb.

Among recent interesting grounds for divorce are those offered by a California woman seeking separation from her 83-year-old husband. She said he is "a woman chaser" . . . De Wolf Hopper had eight wives, only two less than Tommy Manville. So I note it said, That's wrong. De Wolf Hopper had only six wives. They were as follows: 1. Ella Gardner. 2. Ida Mosher. 3. Edna Wallace. 4. Nellie Bergen. 5. Ella Furry (now known as Hedda Hopper). 6. Lillian Glaser.

Get It Right
Among recent interesting grounds for divorce are those offered by a California woman seeking separation from her 83-year-old husband. She said he is "a woman chaser" . . . De Wolf Hopper had eight wives, only two less than Tommy Manville. So I note it said, That's wrong. De Wolf Hopper had only six wives. They were as follows: 1. Ella Gardner. 2. Ida Mosher. 3. Edna Wallace. 4. Nellie Bergen. 5. Ella Furry (now known as Hedda Hopper). 6. Lillian Glaser.



SPEAKER — Mrs. C. J. (Louise) Humphrey, Portland, will discuss "Omissions and Commissions of the 1957 Legislature" at several meetings in Medford this week. She will meet with the governmental operations committee of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce at a 7:30 a.m. breakfast Wednesday, and speak at meetings of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. A television and radio interviews have been planned. For the past 16 years she has been associated with the Oregon Tax research, a state taxpayer group, and has served on four interim tax study committees. She is a member of the National Tax association and various service and business organizations.

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