

Special Legislative Session Looms As Battle on How To Cut State Taxes

By DICK HUMPHREY
United Press Correspondent
Salem — Some critics of state government — mostly taxpayers who have possibly been embittered by experience — maintain that there is no such thing as real tax reduction.

But a special session of the Oregon Legislature meets here Oct. 28 to do just that — reduce taxes.

The majority of Democrats and Republicans believe taxes should be reduced in view of the state's anticipated \$70 million surplus. The majority of both parties also believes that the special session should be confined to tax relief and closely allied subjects to make it as short as possible.

The parties differ on how much money should be returned to the people and the manner of its returning. A few legislators feel there should be no special session at all.

Big Surplus Found

It started when State Treasurer Sig Unander suggested at a Board of Control meeting several months ago that there was quite a bit of money stacked in the state treasury and that part of it might be returned to the people. He asked the governor to investigate.

Gov. Robert D. Holmes did.

And his new tax commission chief, S. W. (John) Horn, and new finance director, John Richardson, came up with a prediction of a startling \$70 million in surplus.

Thereupon, the governor called a special session of the Legislature to provide \$5 million in annual property tax relief by increasing basic school aid from \$95 to \$105 per census child and \$6 million a year in income tax relief by reducing tax rates 6 to 7 per cent.

That was the basic Democratic plan. Republicans drew battle lines by countering with a plan of their own through Sen. Warren Gill, Lebanon.

Holmes Defends Plan

Gill's plan, recently approved by most Republican legislators, calls for reduction of tax rates to eliminate all surplus except a \$10 million to \$20 million cushion. It also calls for no new expenditures, repeal of the automatic state property tax and consideration of more basic school support only if it provides direct property tax relief in the counties.

Some Republican legislators like Rep. Allen Tom, Rufus, contend that raising basic school support \$10 a child will not provide any permanent tax relief in the counties because the de-

mands of the schools will keep rising.

Gov. Holmes defended his plan and charged the Republicans with "making love" to the taxpayers by promising them more money.

The governor contended that the state needed a cushion of about \$50 million to deal with the postponed building program for higher education and state institutions and to face increased needs of almost every agency anticipated for 1959.

\$332 Million Budget Seen

Finance Director Richardson has suggested that the state's 1959 budget may be as high as \$332 million and, in view of this, Republican Sen. Rudie Wilhelm Jr., Portland, wondered why the governor called a special session at all.

That's not the end of the problem. The Democrats may be able to get their tax reduction program through the House which they control, but they

may face trouble in the equally divided Senate. For instance, Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukie Democrat, thinks some of the surplus should be used to relieve unemployment which he predicts will be heavy this winter. Republican Sens. Wilhelm and Lee Ohmart, Salem, also want to be heard.

Democrats have indicated they plan to fight the proposed repeal of the automatic state property tax which got through the Senate in the regular legislative session but was killed in the house.

A strong whip hand will be required to keep the lid on the special session in view of demands from school people and state agencies for more money.

This will probably be accomplished by beefing up the House and Senate Rules committee to prohibit introduction of unwanted legislation. That's if Republicans and Democrats can agree on what's unwanted.

U. S. Must Meet Soviet Challenge, Air Force Man Says

Phoenix — A retiring Air Force general said Wednesday night the United States must meet the challenge presented by the Russian satellite or "be at the mercy of the Soviet Union."

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Scott, a decorated World War II pilot who currently is commander of Luke Air Force Base, was speaker at a banquet of the Phoenix Executives Club. He retires Oct. 31.

He said the Russians have been able to achieve something that the U.S. has been unable to achieve—to start a new era on earth. And he said he feared the future unless this country recaptures the initiative.

More Than Hunk of Iron

Scott said "if necessary, let's get rid of all three branches of the service. Let's pull out from each of the branches enough forward looking men to form a missile corps."

Scott said the Russian satellite was a "Helluva lot more than a hunk of iron. It showed us we're being beaten in the

Change in Service Is Granted Freight Firm

Oregon Nevada California mission ruling will permit the Fast Freight company recently was granted authority to change its operation to give the Medford area overnight service from San Jose, Calif., according to Carrol J. Roush, president.

The Interstate Commerce commission field of science."

He referred to a statement attributed to a Navy spokesman that the satellite was "just a hunk of iron."

Scott said the satellite Sputnik foretells future devices which can control the world.

Scott is author of the book, "God Is My Co-Pilot."

REDS SENTENCE FIVE
Vienna — A Czech Communist court has sentenced five alleged "American spies" to prison terms ranging from seven to 15 years at Prague, Radio Prague said today. The broadcast heard here said the condemned persons were members of an "American spy ring" which was smashed by the Czech police last May.

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End of Polio Seen If Public Makes Use Of Available Vaccine

Washington — Marion B. Folsom, secretary of health, education, and welfare, said today Americans can deal paralytic polio a "knockout" blow within the year by using the Salk vaccine now on hand.

He warned that millions of persons under 40 who have not been vaccinated "are needlessly risking disability or even death."

Folsom and Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney reported a "dramatic" reduction — 80 per cent — in the number of paralytic polio cases during the past two years.

Fewer Cases This Year

They said there were 1,576 cases of paralytic polio so far this year, compared with 5,241 in the same period last year and 7,886 during the corresponding 1955 period.

Only 63 cases were reported among the 28 million persons who received all three polio shots, and not all of these have been confirmed.

Folsom said in a statement that Salk vaccine, while not the sole cause of the sharp decline in the incidence rate, played a "major part" in the accomplishment.

He said those who have not been vaccinated should arrange to get together their shot now when supplies are plentiful so they will get the triple-dose protection before the next polio season begins next spring.

"For many years, this country anxiously sought the means to avert the suffering and anguish caused by polio," he said. "Today, with steadily increasing supplies of Salk vaccine, the means are at hand."

Knockout Blow Possible

If supplies on hand are used, he added, "it is possible to give paralytic polio a knockout blow within the next year."

Folsom said more than 37 million Americans under 40 have received no vaccine protection at all while another 44 million have taken only one or two shots of the necessary three.

It would be a "tragedy," he said, if the vaccine remains unused because of public apathy.

He said the Public Health Service, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the American Medical association, state and territorial health officers, and the advertising council will pool their resources this fall in a big "get-vaccinated" campaign.

Reports Given at
Red Cross Meeting

Service reports were given at a business meeting of volunteer chairmen of the Jackson county chapter of the American Red Cross this week.

Giving reports were Mrs. Marie Rehling, motor service; Mrs. Harry P. Poston, gray ladies to community; Mrs. Clarence Spatz, staff aides; Mrs. R. Bardwell, Gray ladies to Camp White; Mrs. Frances Flinn, hospital service; Mrs. Aimee Deuel, recruitment; Mrs. Helen A. Wilson, United Medford Crusade county fund raising; and Mrs. Grace Fierro, canteen.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Bardwell, 1002 South Oakdale ave., with Mrs. Deuel as cohostess. Mrs. E. A. Littrell, general chairman, conducted the meeting.

Five IV Students Are
Selected for Tests

Cave Junction — Selected to compete for National Merit Scholarships at the Illinois Valley High school are Rick Rauber, Gary Meredith, Linda Marshall, Norma Martin and Bill Young.

The five will take their tests Oct. 22.

Each year top students from high schools throughout the United States are chosen to take the examinations. Winners will be awarded four-year scholarships to the colleges of their choice.

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