

# Capital Punishment Subject at Recent Meeting of WCTU

Capital punishment, laws against obscene publications and use of sobriety tests were discussed by Medford Attorney Frank Van Dyke at a recent meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union here.

Van Dyke predicted legislation to modify the statutes providing capital punishment in Oregon for first degree murder probably will be on the ballot during the next election.

The question is whether the present law is morally right, he said. Under the present law every person convicted of murder in the first degree shall be punished with death except when the trial jury recommends imprisonment.

Some people believe that capital punishment is an effective deterrent to those who might commit murder, he said. Others believe a person has no right to take a life under the social order, especially when coupled with life imprisonment or a system where the individual faces loss of freedom for a substantial period of time. The latter is considered by a number of people just as effective a deterrent to murder as a death penalty.

Van Dyke quoted Walter D. Nunley, former Jackson county district attorney, and James Alger Fee, U. S. district court judge, who both believe capital punishment effectively calls a halt to possible crimes of murder.

Speaking on what to do

## Practices Queried In Fund Drives For Vet Charities

Washington — House investigators said Saturday they had discovered "very questionable practices" in some veterans charity drives — including high salaries, big expense accounts and plush offices for fund-raising officials.

Chairman Olin E. Teague (D-Tex.) of the House Veterans Committee said Americans would be "shocked" at the inside story of some fund raising drives, both in the veterans field and for other charity causes.

His committee will meet in closed session Monday to study evidence gathered by staff members and to consider how to proceed with the investigation. Among the committee's problems is how to expose irregularities where they exist without jeopardizing the many valid and worthy charitable drives in and out of the veterans field.

It also must wrestle eventually with a determination of what is and is not proper in a fund-raising enterprise.

Teague said the staff study showed that in some fund-raising drives conducted in the name of veterans charities only five to 10 per cent of the gross actually was devoted to aiding veterans. Other sources said the committee knows of one big campaign that was run at a net loss to the veterans group involved.

## Six Inches Of Snow At Timberline

Salem — Six inches of new snowfall made chains a necessity for travel to Timberline, the State Highway Department reported Saturday.

Chains were also required at Santiam Pass with 2 inches of new snow and Meacham, also with 2 inches.

Motorists were advised to carry chains at Siskiyou, 3 inches of snow; Green Springs, 4 inches; Ochoco Summit, 5 inches; Willamette pass, 4 inches; Chemult, 5 inches; Bly, 2 inches; Lakeview, 1/2 inch; Seneca 2 inches; Burns, 3 inches; and Basque 3 inches.

Spots of ice were reported on highways at Warm Springs junction, Bend, Brothers, Lapine, Klamath Falls and Baker.

Coldest spot in the state was Burns with 18 degrees.

## Allocations Given On Air Base Work

Portland — The Air Force Friday announced details of a \$12,368,000 allocation for construction at Larson air force base near Moses Lake, Wash., and \$2,900,000 at Klamath Falls air base, Klamath Falls, Ore.

The Portland office of the Air Force installation representative said advertising for construction bids was scheduled for March. Construction was expected to begin this spring at both sites.

Construction at Klamath Falls would include a lighting system for an 11,000 foot runway, a 15,000 gallon aviation fuel storage, and a 133-man airman's dormitory.

about indecent or obscene material, Van Dyke mentioned a recent Loretta Young TV show which showed what two mothers could do to campaign against sale of indecent literature. As mentioned in that show, such literature is inclined to "trigger off violence" in people whose minds easily receive such suggestions.

Plants Seeds  
"Such literature quickly

plants seeds of violence as surely as a farmer plants seeds for wheat and other crops," Van Dyke said.

Van Dyke suggested vigorous prosecution of all offenders distributing this literature. Such offenders should be given trial by jury, coupled with a law similar to the habitual criminal law or laws on drunk driving which provide for severe penalties for additional offenses.

"To invoke such processes of the law an alert public and alert law enforcement will be required," the attorney said. "The recent trial involving Confidential magazine in California is probably the first of its kind. We should also strengthen application of statutes applying to conspiracy against the law. This would regulate operations under the same management or ownership but which use different

names," the attorney suggested. Speaking on sobriety tests, the attorney advocated laws similar to those in force in New York state. These require all applicants for driver's licenses to sign statements saying they will submit to blood tests if they are suspected of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. "After all, operating a vehicle on a public highway is

a privilege not a right," the attorney insisted.

As a footnote, the attorney mentioned a recent ruling of the attorney general which stated the Liquor Control commission could not prohibit sale of alcoholic beverages on property within 500 feet or less of a church or school. Of course, local authorities must approve such sales of alcoholic beverages, the attorney pointed out.

## Applications Being Taken for Civil Jobs

The civil service commission has announced that applications are being accepted for shorthand reporters, accountants and auditors.

Additional information may be obtained from Chester W. Silliman in the Medford post office or write to the commission at Washington 25, D.C.

## CHAPTER MEETS

Ashland — The local chapter of the American Association of University Professors met last week in the Britt center at Southern Oregon college to discuss a report of the December Federation meeting, committee appointments for the year, budget appropriation and the national campaign to make economic welfare a major objective of AAUP.

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