

Tax Committee to Enter Bill For Ratio on Certain Property

Salem—UPI—As a beginning to a study of shift in taxes from utilities to residential property, the Senate Tax committee Friday voted to introduce a bill which would place an undetermined ratio on all property other than utilities and residential property.

Whatever this ratio is, private utilities would pay 30 per cent more and residential property would pay 10 per cent less.

Sen. Ward Cook (D-Portland), chairman of the committee, declared following the session that "we will be a long time working this problem out."

Committee members all agreed that property taxes were now at the highest peak.

Senate President Walter Pearson, who sat in on the meeting, predicted that unless some relief was accorded property owners, "you will see some property owners not paying their taxes next year."

Sen. Anthony Yturri (R-Ontario) objected to variable taxes, giving some groups special consideration. He questioned the wisdom of making the private utilities carry too large a load, saying that, after all, the consumers pay the utility taxes through the rates charged them.

Sen. Monroe Sweetland (D-Milwaukie) declared that in Clackamas county last year the taxes on utilities were decreased and the taxes on residential property increased without any bond issue.

Mrs. Humphrey Challenges
Mrs. Louise Humphrey, representing Oregon Tax Research and herself a resident of Clackamas county, challenged Sweetland's statement regarding bond elections.

"The increase in residential property taxes in Clackamas county was due entirely to the bond issue voted by the people," she said.

Chairman Cook said the discussion on ad valorem taxes would be continued at sessions to be held this week, after members had an opportunity to study the bill which was voted for introduction Friday.

State Fiscal Officer
Creation of the office of state fiscal officer to work under the direction of a legislative fiscal committee and report directly to the legislative committees and legislature was recommended by the Joint Ways and Means committee Friday.

The bill carries an appropriation of \$60,000.

Sen. Ward Cook (D-Portland) said creation of this office was no reflection on the State Department of Finance nor the division of budgets.

Airmen Complete Endurance Flight

Las Vegas, Nev.—UPI—Two weary Air Force veterans landed their small plane yesterday afternoon after spending almost 65 days in the air and bettering the former all-time endurance flight record by 15 days.

Bearded Robert Timm, 32, Las Vegas hotel executive, and John Cook, 33, an airline pilot from Los Angeles, landed at 2:10 p.m. PST after establishing a new record for sustained flight.

A crowd of 200 greeted the plane as it landed at McCarran field.

Timm and Cook broke the former record of 50 days on the afternoon of Jan. 23. But they decided to stay up for at least 10 more days to focus attention on the Damon Runyon Cancer fund drive.

The single engine Cessna 172 landed here nine weeks and two days after its departure from the same field.

Timm, who celebrated his 33rd birthday last Wednesday, and Cook, also 33, took turns at the controls. They alternated in four-hour shifts at the controls in bettering the record set only last Sept. 21 by two Texans, Jim Heth and Bill Burkhardt, who stayed aloft 1200 hours.

Timm and Cook flew a course between Las Vegas and Blythe, Calif., over the desert with occasional swoops over Los Angeles and Phoenix.

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Two Sentenced For Prostitution

Two Medford women Friday afternoon in district court were sentenced to three and four months in the county jail, respectively, on charges of vagrancy, involving prostitution.

Adalene Mae Miller, 51, of 422 South Riverside ave., pleaded guilty to charges that she engaged in prostitution after making a signed confession. She was sentenced to three months.

Lillian May Duggan, 53, of 602 North Riverside ave., pleaded guilty to the same charges after she too had made a signed confession. She received a four-month sentence.

Richard Leon Barnes, Klamath Falls, is scheduled to appear in district court again on Feb. 16 for sentencing on charges of making statement in writing to obtain benefit.

He had pleaded guilty to the charges on Jan. 30 and the case was continued until an FBI report could be received.

Barnes is charged with issuing a false check for \$18.76 to Central Market in Medford on Jan. 29.

Ex-Salem Youth Shot in Minnesota

Monticello, Minn.—UPI—Kenneth D. Pederson, 18, formerly of Salem, Ore., was shot to death by police yesterday when he aimed a gun at a posse of officers that closed in on him on an ice-covered lake after a long chase.

Pederson was killed after a chase that began when he pulled a gun on a policeman making a routine check for burglary suspects.

Shotgun pellets struck Pederson in the eye, wounding him fatally.

The youth had been living in a Monticello rooming house. Relatives in Oregon were notified and asked to come to Minnesota to identify the body.

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