

People May Again Get Chance To Vote Legislative Pay Hike

Salem—(UPI)—Voters of Oregon again will be given an opportunity of increasing the pay of state legislators if a Senate joint resolution amending the state constitution is adopted by the Legislature.

Two Republicans and two Democrats introduced the bill Wednesday. It would increase legislative pay from \$600 to \$1,200 a year. Authority also would be granted for legislators to collect 10 cents a mile to and from their homes from the state capital once each week during the legislative session. Oregon voters have refused on numerous occasions in recent years to increase legislative pay, the last time at the November elections.

Duncan Favors Bill on Lobbyists

Salem—(UPI)—House Speaker Robert Duncan (D-Medford) Wednesday came out in favor of a bill introduced in the Senate to prevent state chairmen and national committee members of political parties from lobbying.

The bill was introduced on the information of some senators that Republican Chairman Peter Gunnar was a lobbyist for insurance interests.

Whether or not Gov. Mark Hatfield should demand the resignation of Gunnar is a matter for them to decide, Duncan said.

"I have known Peter Gunnar for some time as an honorable member of the Oregon State Bar, and I know that the sponsors of the bill intended no personal reflection on his character," the speaker added.

"It has been no secret that he is a lobbyist and there is nothing dishonorable in being either a lobbyist or a Republican state chairman," Duncan said. "The sole question is whether or not the public interest will be served by combining the jobs."

City Driving Can Be Pleasant, Chief Notes

Traffic congestion would be alleviated and city driving made more pleasant if drivers would pay closer heed to traffic signs, signals and pavement markings, Medford Police Chief Charles P. Champlin said today.

Champlin said obeying signs is just as important in rural areas as inside a city, but that failure to obey inside a city more often results in accidents because of traffic volume.

Housing Regulations For Migrant Groups Debated in House

Salem—(UPI)—Arguments both for and against a bill proposing regulations of better housing for migrant laborers and their families marked a day-long hearing before the House Labor and Industries Committee Wednesday.

A group of growers of agricultural products from eastern Oregon and the Willamette valley opposed the bill, contending that because of varying conditions in different sections of the state, a universal law was impossible.

On the other hand, members of the Oregon Council of Migrant Labor and the Unemployment Compensation Commission urged passage of the bill.

R. W. Ahrens, representing the Oregon Farm Bureau, also opposed passage of the bill in its present form. Ahrens had a long list of proposed amendments, but the hearing time was so brief, he did not have a chance to present them.

Unanimous approval has been given by a measure calling for establishment of Oct. 31 as "Youth Honor Day" in Oregon by the House Planning and Development Committee.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Francis Ziegler (R-Corvallis), now goes to the House for final vote.

NO COWBOY MOOD

San Diego, Calif. —(UPI)—Mrs. Earl Rhodes, 65, who grabbed a gun and chased two would-be robbers from her store Wednesday told police they were wearing Western-style bandanas as masks.

"I just wasn't in the mood to play cowboy," she said.

Porter Highly Regarded in Venezuela, Reporter Finds on So. American Trip

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune
Washington Correspondent

Editor's Note: Our Washington correspondent went to Caracas just after a visit there by Rep. Charles O. Porter (D-Ore.) to assess the effect of Porter's Latin American political views on U.S.-Latin American relations.

Caracas, Venezuela (Special). As this leading South American country struggles back upon the road to democratic self-government, often blocked in the past by military coups, many of its political leaders are looking for moral support from friends throughout the hemisphere.

One of their valued friends, one quickly finds, is Rep. Charles O. Porter, who has for two years been conducting almost a one-man campaign in Congress against the sort of Latin dictator Venezuela has only so recently been rid of. Gen. Perez Jimenez was ousted a year ago, and last week Venezuela inaugurated its newly elected president, Romulo Betancourt.

Congressman Porter came down here last week to wish the new government well. Venezuela invited Congress to send the customary delegation to the inauguration. Porter was the only congressman who went. To conclude, after many interviews, that Porter has had a beneficial effect on the attitude of Venezuelans toward the United States since Vice President Nixon was stoned here last summer seems undisputed.

Few "Good Americans" An American newspaperman who has been here 25 years told me that Venezuelans tend to regard U.S. public figures as either "good" or "bad" Americans. He said about the only "good Americans" in their minds today are Porter, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York and Herbert Mathews, a veteran New York Times writer who was given a "Good Neighbor" trophy here last week end by President Betancourt.

"That's an improvement," the newspaperman said, "because not long ago they thought all Americans were bad."

A Venezuelan born here, educated at Columbia University and a longtime resident of New York before returning here, said substantially the same thing.

"There is a great man," he said of Porter.

Porter became such a figure in the minds of Venezuelans starting with his crusade against Dominican Republic Gen. Rafael Trujillo, who is despised here; his criticism of the U.S. giving military aid to Latin dictators, including Perez Jimenez; his coming here after the Nixon incident last summer and again last week to bolster democratic elements and assure Venezuelans that Americans are friendly toward them and are pro-democracy and anti-dictatorship, whatever the State Department policy might indicate to the contrary.

Porter, in a word, is one of the only American officials, among numerous other leaders in this hemisphere (such

as Jose Figueras of Costa Rica and Gov. Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico), who has lent open support to democratic forces in this rich oil producing country where military dictatorships have been the rule and not the exception. Betancourt in only the second freely elected president of Venezuela.

"Sore About Medal" Venezuelans have been sore at the U.S. because of a medal awarded their dictator by President Eisenhower in 1955, along with a laudatory citation. They suspect the State Department was playing footsie with Perez Jimenez, but, after the medal, in behalf of large U.S. corporations seeking new oil and iron ore concessions from him. Whether there was any connection or not, Venezuelans believe there was. Anti-American feeling ran high, even months after Perez Jimenez fled, one official said. This feeling was exploited by Communists and other agitators in the demonstrations against Nixon.

America's image in this country of sharp contrasts between luxurious oil wealth and stark poverty is not improved any by the fact that most of the entrenched U.S. business interests here would prefer a dictatorship to a democracy, the American newspaperman said.

"When Porter's name is mentioned, they shudder," he observed, recalling his many contacts with the business community here.

U.S. businessmen found Perez Jimenez not difficult to do business with. He abolished a decree of the previous president against granting further concessions to U.S. firms for resource exploitation. Businessmen feel uneasy about a democracy which may be less profitable to deal with. The new government has already raised income taxes to tap more oil revenue for public improvements such as schools, thus permitting less oil money to flow into hands of foreign investors.

Porter has opposition from still another group, the Communist Party, which now numbers about 50,000 persons in this country of six million population. In the December election, the CP elected nine

men to Congress, one of whom is Gustav Machado, their leader.

"Porter is interfering in the internal affairs of Venezuela," Machado told me resentfully when asked what he thought of Porter's remarks here a few days before.

The Oregon congressman had criticized local Communists for trying to represent their party as just a nationalistic movement without ties with Russia. The Caracas Daily Journal reported Porter told a press conference:

"If a man is a Communist, unless he doesn't know better, he must put the Soviet Union first. I don't see how anyone who believes in liberty can believe in Communism when he sees how the satellites such as Hungary are treated."

In his inaugural address, President Betancourt, who himself was a youth some 30 years ago, said much the same thing as Porter and reiterated that his new coalition government had no room for Communists. He was roundly applauded by the new Congress, whose members jammed into the Senate chamber with other dignitaries to hear him.

This offered a strong rebuttal to those U.S. congressmen who have in recent years claimed the U.S. should back Latin dictators, such as Trujillo and Perez Jimenez, on grounds they were needed as bastions of anti-Communism.

Porter also suggested in public statements here that he thinks the tide is running against dictatorship throughout the hemisphere. He predicted Trujillo will fall before the year is out. He said Dominican rebels are obtaining arms and are organizing within and outside Santo Domingo.

In contrast to Porter's statements here, Thomas E. Dewey, head of the delegation sent to the inauguration by President Eisenhower, ducked all political questions. In a real way, Dewey personified the administration's oft-expressed Latin American policy of showing no partiality for either democracies or dictatorships.

The latest administration expression of Latin American

policy, by Milton Eisenhower after a trip through Central America, reiterated what Porter, first, and Nixon, second, had said—that we ought to give Latin democracies an embrace and give dictators only a cold, formal handshake, thus leaving no doubt in this hemisphere which form of government our sympathies lie with.

A Venezuelan said his people can see little sign that this new policy is being implemented. He said they think only a change of administration in Washington will do it.

This helps to explain Porter's hero status in Latin America. He stands almost alone among Washington officials in embracing popular Latin democratic leaders, offering them verbal and moral support, shunning the dictators and consulting with exiled foes of the dictators about ways and means of undermining the despots' political strength.

There are several skilled diplomats on the U.S. embassy staff here who are well received by Venezuelans and display their preference for democratic processes. But one stumbles easily across an example of harmful, bumbling staffing, as depicted in the best-seller, "The Ugly American." At a reception at Ambassador Edward Spangler's home on inauguration night, one U.S. military attaché was sounding off loudly that Venezuela would be better off under a dictatorship. Some guests were shocked to find this sort of "military mind" assigned to any diplomatic post, much less in a country where military officers have often needed little encouragement to grab the reins of power.

As long as the State Department doesn't implement Milton Eisenhower's policy proposals more vividly, Congressman Porter will undoubtedly continue to be regarded as a big man and much-needed friend in this part of the hemisphere where Latins are sensitive to the impression that most North Americans haven't much cared whether their struggle for liberty succeeded or not.

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CLIMAXING years of bickering, Mrs. Lydia Tarasidis, 54, admits strangling her mother, Mrs. Marie Sarr, 85, with scarf in Milwaukee, Wis., home during row.

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