

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

2nd SECTION

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1959

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## Variable Ratio Tax Bill Passes Senate After Debate; Durno Favors

Salem—UPI—Eighteen Democrats and two Republicans voted in favor of the variable ratio tax bill in the Oregon Senate after a lengthy argument.

Sens. Edwin Durno, Medford, and Francis Ziegler, Corvallis, were the two Republicans who joined the Democrats to pass the bill.

**10 Per Cent Exempt**

The bill would provide that property of utilities be assessed at 30 per cent above that of any other property. It also provides that 10 per cent of the true cash value of homes be exempt from taxation.

Sen. Boyd Overhulse (D-Madras) was absent.

The bill now goes to the House for consideration and, with the Democratic majority in the House likely to pass. If so, it will be up to Gov. Mark Hatfield to either sign it, or allow it to become law without his signature.

Senate President Walter J. Pearson placed Sen. John Hare (R-Hillsboro) in the chair so that he could take the floor in behalf of the bill.

**'Mistake' Recalled**

Pearson said he was talking in behalf of the home owners of Multnomah county and the state. He said in 1957 the legislature passed a 45 per cent surtax which shifted the tax on utilities onto the home owners.

"I want to state that this was a big mistake. I vote for it because at that time there was a vast difference in assessments between the counties and I had hoped that this could be adjusted," he said.

Pearson said this bill was one in fairness to the taxpayers.

Sen. Anthony Yturri (R-Ontario) opposed the bill as did Sen. Donald Husband (R-

Eugene). Both are members of the Tax committee who dissented from the report favoring the bill.

Yturri questioned the constitutionality of the bill on the grounds that the state constitution provides for uniform taxation on all classes of business.

**Rates Said Unsound**

"This bill, if approved, would open a Pandora's box and in future sessions we will have the farmers and other groups coming to the legislature seeking preferential treatment," Yturri said.

Yturri said that Dr. John Sly, who made a tax study in Oregon, stated in his report "that variable tax rates were not sound and in fact were indefensible."

Sen. Dan Dimick (D-Roseburg) scoffed at the idea that the variable rates would be declared unconstitutional. Back on June 4, 1917, he said, the people voted for variable rates of taxation.

"This bill doesn't add taxes to the utilities," he said. "It does stop the shift of taxes on the utilities to home owners and businesses, however," he added.

Husband said that for years the utilities in Oregon paid more than three times more taxes than other forms of taxpayers.

The Senate State and Federal Affairs committee approved a proposed constitutional amendment which would increase salaries of legislators if approved by voters. The issue was turned down by voters last November.

The committee voted to amend the bill to provide for a salary increase to \$1500 a year instead of the \$1200 originally asked.

A bill which would have prohibited trains from blocking railroad crossings for more than five minutes at a time was tabled by the Senate State and Federal Affairs committee.

## Legislators To Reenact First Session March 18

Salem—UPI—Final plans for the Oregon Legislature's participation in the reenactment of the first legislative session held in Oregon at Oregon City March 18 have been completed. Sen. Monroe Sweetland (D-Milwaukie) announced Thursday.

Members of the Senate and House will leave Salem at 2:45 p.m. next Wednesday in five buses for Oregon City. The Centennial event will take place in the Thora Gardner junior high school.

**Pearson to Preside**

George Hibbard, Oregon City attorney, will serve as master of ceremonies. The reenactment of the first legislative session will begin at 2:30 p.m. with Senate President Walter J. Pearson presiding.

The script of the event is being prepared by Thomas Vaughan of the Oregon Historical Society. It will include reenactment of the election of two United States senators and a governor by the initial Legislature. This election, Sen. Sweetland said, was held in 1858, a year before Oregon was admitted to the union.

The president of the Senate at that time was Luther Elkins of Linn county and the Speaker of the House was William G. Vault of Jackson county.

Portland—UPI—The International Woodworkers of America plans to seek a wage increase of about 12½ cents an hour in talks scheduled to open with employers here about April 10.

## Parks Division Bill Introduced

Salem—UPI—Seventeen state senators and one representative joined Thursday in introducing a bill to authorize the State Highway Commission to establish a state parks and recreation division.

Such a division would be under the jurisdiction and control of the Highway Commission. Provision is made for appointment of a recreation director who would work under the administration of the state park superintendent.

The director recreation would be authorized to investigate recreation facilities now existing and those needed in various areas of the state.

The Highway Commission could accept monies and property from any public or private source. No money in the state highway fund could be expended for the recreation division.

Portland—UPI—William W. Banks, 82, an attorney and a former state legislator, died Wednesday.



AT THE FENCE—President Eisenhower, returning from a news conference, pauses at the White House fence to greet Heidi, his pet weimaraner.

## The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

**Harriet N.**—My mother-in-law visits early in the morning.

**Harold N.**—She shouldn't be made to feel unwelcome.

**Harriet N.**—My husband and I have been married eight years and have four youngsters. We live right near my mother-in-law and this causes a lot of trouble.

My mother-in-law has a habit of coming over whenever she pleases. This is usually quite early in the morning when she goes out shopping. At this time of the day the house is in a mess and the kids are yelling and carrying on all over the place. It is very upsetting to me to have her at such an hour, but my husband won't say anything to her about it.

On the other hand, my mother-in-law has her own daughter and her children over to dinner at least once a week. But she only invites us for special occasions like Thanksgiving or Christmas. The least she can do is to treat me as if she does her daughter, since she is so intimate.

**Harold N.**—I don't think my mother should be made to feel unwelcome in our home at any time. She doesn't criticize my wife or anything like that. She just likes to poke her head in and see that everything is all right.

As far as my mother's having my sister over so often, I don't see anything so bad about that. After all, a mother and daughter are closer than a mother and daughter-in-law. My sister lives too far for my mother to see her every day as she would like to, so she has her over to dinner once a week. It's too much for Mom to feed my sister and

## Oregon Timber Taxation Changes Receive Support

Salem—UPI—A bill calling for changes in Oregon timber taxation has received support from the Forestry Department and the Oregon Grange.

The House Taxation Committee, headed by Rep. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille) held a hearing on the measure, which is aimed at getting tax money earlier from owners cutting more rapidly than others. It also would allow lower annual payments by those holding timber for longer periods.

Barton is principal sponsor of the bill, (HB14) which has been supported by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and opposed by Georgia-Pacific, two large lumber corporations.

**Helps to Stabilize Economy**

State Forester Dwight Phipps said he believed the bill would help stabilize the state's forest economy. He said the main objective was to get continuous growth of timber. Phipps suggested that public hearings be held before the Tax Commission sets timber valuations.

Elmer McClure, master of the State Grange, said he approved the principle of the bill. An amendment was added which would make concession to taxation of immature timber. McClure said he concurred with this idea.

Opposition came from those who believe older trees should be cut to make room for a new crop.

The bill provides for setting of cutting cycles by individual owners in a county rather than the present countywide average in application of the discount on ad valorem taxation granted for timber which is held a number of years.

**To Reconsider Bill**

The House voted to reconsider a bill it passed earlier which would allow the state forester to take over private land for a forest access road and then have the price determined in court.

The Senate has passed the bill.

Rep. Carlton Fisher (R-Eugene) won a 36-23 vote for reconsideration after he said the bill would give too much power to the state forester.

Barton said the bill would eliminate possibility of a private owner denying the state access to state-owned timber in the hope of advantage to himself. At present Forestry Department cannot use the land until condemnation procedures have been completed.

The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee, where it faced the prospect of the substantial vote for another look.

**Budget Publication**

The House voted to require the governor to complete publication of the proposed budget by Dec. 1 of even-numbered years. The present deadline is Dec. 20.

Barton said the earlier date would better assure that a defeated governor cannot change his budget after election because it will have to be sent to the printer sooner.

The deadline date was a House amendment to a Senate-passed bill which provided for distribution of the budget to libraries and public agencies. The bill returns to the Senate.

If liquor prices increase so will bootlegging, the House Alcohol Control Committee was told.

T. T. Turner, executive secretary of the Oregon Non-Profit Organizations, made the

prediction in testimony before the Committee.

**Second on Coast**

State Liquor Administrator George van Bergen said Oregon was second on the Pacific Coast in number of liquor stills discovered in 1958. There were 24 such discoveries in Oregon, 25 in California and 16 in Washington, he said.

The House decided to give the \$1-a-day fishing license for out-of-state persons a try for another two years. The law was passed in 1957, mostly for the benefit of tourists who wanted to stop for a day's fishing in Oregon.



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Peter Townsend, then courting Princess Margaret, once tried to duck him by racing in a sports car from Brussels onto a waiting air freighter for England. Cavendish roared up the ramp right after him.

Passports to Poland couldn't be had when rioting broke out in Poznan. Cavendish got one—and got there.

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