

Variable Ratio Tax Bill Gets Going Over at Public Hearing

Salem — (UPI) — The variable ratio tax bill, sponsored by Sen. Walter Pearson (D-Portland), received a going over at a hearing before the House Tax Committee Tuesday night.

Pearson and Sen. Harry Boivin (D-Klamath Falls) testified for the bill and 30 witnesses appeared against it.

The bill, Senate bill 256, would assess utilities at a 30 per cent higher ratio than other classes of property and give homeowners a flat 10 per cent reduction in their taxes.

However, Pearson said that utilities were now paying about 17 per cent more than other taxpayers and the effect of this bill would be to hold them at just about their present rate.

He said there had always been at least three classes of property in Oregon: Utilities, businesses and homes.

Myron Katz, advisor to the Senate Tax Committee, said utilities were assessed at high rates during World War II and that since then the Tax Commission has been lowering their rates so that by 1961 they will be on an equal basis with other property classes.

He said this, combined with other trends in property taxation, had tended to shift the tax burden to homes. Katz testified that utilities paid 12.1 per cent of property taxes in 1958 and that if SB 256 passed they would be paying 12.7 per cent.

The bill was opposed by utilities, farm groups and both a present and former member of the State Tax Commission.

Dean Ellis, chairman, testified that any raise in utility taxes would eventually be passed along to the consumer in the form of higher charges.

Would Force Closure
Sam Stewart, Portland attorney and former tax commissioner, said that the Columbia River Basin barge line he was representing would be forced out of business if its taxes were increased due to the tight competitive situation of the barge lines.

Allen Tom, The Dalles, representing the Oregon Wheat League, said he feared the bill would result in industry, businesses and utilities all struggling against each other and with the Legislature for tax advantages.

Highlights in Tuesday's session of the Legislature included:

Loitering: The House Judiciary Committee recommended a "do pass" to a bill making it a crime to loiter about any public or private school building, community center or public park.

Parent Responsibility: A bill making parents liable up to \$250 for willful vandalism of their offspring 18 years old

Fairview Inmates Admit Setting Fire

Salem — (UPI) — Two young inmates of Fairview home here have admitted setting a fire that extensively damaged a dairy barn at the home Tuesday.

State police said they confessed they set the fire because they were mad at another boy "and wanted to get even."

It was the second barn to burn in Fairview in nine months. Last August a barn only 80 feet away was destroyed and a patient-worker confessed setting the blaze.

Crash Victim in Critical Condition

Baker — (UPI) — Marlin Black, Portland, was reported in critical condition today from injuries suffered in the crash of a light plane at the Unity air strip about 40 miles southwest of here Tuesday.

Black, an employee of Delco Lumber company of Portland, suffered chest and neck injuries.

Two others aboard the light plane suffered lesser injuries. They are Carl Dietz, Hillsboro, the pilot, and Thomas Freeman, also a Delco employee.

or younger received a favorable recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee by a 4-3 vote.

Medical Examiners: The

ILLINOIS VALLEY Altar Visits Grange

By RUTH RAUSCH

Cave Junction—The Traveling Altar came to the Illinois Valley Grange recently and was presented to Master Melvin Gray and Chaplain Minnie Mills by Fruitdale Grange Master Estelle Lewis and Mrs. Jennie Smith of Rogue River.

The third and fourth initiatory degrees were conferred on Bert Eastbrook and Mrs. Robert Rausch by Master Chester Purcell of Sunny Valley and Master Melvin Gray.

Gray reviewed progress on the Grange's project of establishing a Botanical park on Caves highway which will also be a tourist rest stop. Every Saturday has been set aside as work day on the project and Gray called for more members to participate in order to have the park completed in time for use during the Centennial.

When completed, the park will have ample running water, picnic benches, parking spaces and comfort stations. Ray Baldwin reported that to date, a total of 200 man hours of volunteer work has been done on the park.

It was voted to offer the use of the park to the Pomona Grange for their annual picnic. The Illinois Valley Grange will stage their picnic at the park.

Friendship Night was observed by the Western Star chapter, Order Eastern Star, at Kerby, with Worthy Matron Ina Yandell and Worthy Patron Henry Lloyd presiding.

Guests were Past Grand Matron Carlotta K. Wiseman, Morris Boughner, grand sentinel; George Mulvey, member of the grand endowment committee; and Agnes Berry, grand representative to Wisconsin in Oregon.

The Rev. and Mrs. Gene Denning had two of their sons home during the California school spring vacation. Arthur was home from Shasta college in Redding and Danny was home from Humboldt college in Arcata.

Mrs. Blake Miller entered Josephine hospital in Grants Pass recently for observation.

Mrs. V. Kirk of O'Brien was honored on her birthday recently when the Illinois Valley Civic Women's league met for their political dinner social meeting at the home of Mrs. Jim Hanson.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Stava and family spent the spring vacation in Long Beach, Calif. They brought Mrs. Stava's mother, Mrs. Alex Wagie, home with them to visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bottel went on a trip to San Francisco this week, leaving the Medford airport Tuesday and expect to return Friday.

Guests at the John C. Smith home recently were Mrs. Smith's sisters, Pauline and Pita Sandoval, and their friend, Miss Lucy Garcia, of Los Alamos, N.M.

Miss Leslie Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Smith of Grants Pass, spent the recent school holiday with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Smith.

At a meeting of the Blue Star Mothers club last week, delegates were chosen to attend the state convention which will be held in Napa, Calif. Delegate is Nila McKinnon. Also slated to attend the convention are Mrs. Clay Ramsey, Mrs. Hugh Foster and Mrs. Grace Kubli. Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Kubli hold state offices.

It has been reported that Miss Diane Savage who entered a Portland hospital recently will be there for some time.

Senate passed a bill allowing the state board of Medical Examiners to appoint its own attorney. The bill now goes to the House.

Pickin' Pears

By SID HOLLINGSWORTH

Johnny Bush, veteran member, wonders if any of the "old timers" here remember "Bud" Anderson, of Medford, who made an outstanding record as a fighter in the lightweight division up and down the coast before he was stopped by the cagy Leach Cross, of Los Angeles.

"Bud" Anderson fought Abe Attel, Joe Rivers and Ad Wolgast before he became champion. The only fight fan at Camp White who remembers Anderson is Cliff Barry, whose interest in sports dates from his early days in Pacific Coast athletics.

Clifford Hyde, American Legion service officer, reports that the Medford post is giving considerable thought to the problem of filling the gap made in the program of helping teen age boys in town, now that the police athletic club (PAL) has suspended the boxing shows and other features of commendable work. The PAL boys were dependent upon to supply "live" boxing matches in the new ring donated by the Legion, and in the absence of talent, it has been impossible to continue this sports feature.

John F. Larson, who held the fort for a while in physiotherapy, as a member aide, has returned from Portland hospital, where he underwent an eye operation. He will remain on the convalescent list for a while getting adjusted before returning to the job.

From the description of the removal of growth pressing against the optic nerve, an other marvel of surgery is reported, adding to the list of cases successfully treated at this outstanding medical center under VA supervision.

Visual defects account for an increasing number of cases handled by the medical division, what with age as well as neglect, among the veterans. A case in point comes to mind.

A veteran from the southland was before the Planning Board and Dr. Earhart noticed that he was wearing glasses. "Where did you get those glasses?" he asked.

The applicant for admission answered: "I bought 'em at a store."

"These glasses won't help you," said Dr. Earhart. "Why did you get them?"

The man paused and then replied: "Y'see, doctor, it's like this. With these glasses I can see a little bit, and I'd rather see a little bit o'something than a whole lot of nothin'."

He got his new glasses.

The Camp White domiciliary is developing a tradition and a standard which is recognized by the number of veterans who return after a period of absence. Some of them go home, while others live for a while in other homes. They come back because this place has more of the attributes of a home than any other point of the compass.

Frank Lacey is one of the men who finds Camp White more desirable than other places. Although he comes from New England originally, he has lived in California long enough to be entitled to stay at the state home in Yonville. He has tried it several times but is back and intends to stay here.

Alaska today is about where Oregon was when it became a state, so far as development is concerned. This is the view of one of the members who has lived there.

He believes that Alaska, with something of a dislocated economy and needing federal assistance, is gambling on votes in congress to gain support for numerous needed projects, including highways.

The major industries, such as fishing, gold mining, canning, lumbering and furs, are hard hit by conditions prevailing in competition and in markets. The government is furnishing the backlog, but with the high cost of living and high wages, no new work is being planned.

The mines are shut down because they can't pay the wages asked by the miners. Then there is a floating population and labor is unstable.

Alaskans of the old school were not in favor of statehood. They fear high taxes. But they needed representation with votes in congress and this may turn the tide. Notwithstanding this pessimistic report, this member said he would like nothing better than to return to watch what takes place in Alaska as a state.

The annual Easter egg hunt for children living on the station will be held on Saturday afternoon, March 28. It is being sponsored by the Women's Relief Corps, Mrs. O. T. Wilson, Central Point, chairman.

Children of volunteers have been invited to participate this year.

Lee S. Turner, Grants Pass, deputy inspector, District 7, VFW and District Commander George Perry, with Col. Ted Hopkins, chief of staff, Rogue River, were here last week, attending a specially called meeting of Post 6412, at Camp White, at which time a report was presented. Newly elected officers are to be installed at the meeting April 7. The post, composed of members, has been providing volunteer entertainment in the theater, the latest offering being a variety show Friday night, from Central Point.

Mrs. Arthur M. Cusick, of Austin, Nev., national vice president of the American Legion auxiliary, western division, was guest of honor at the VA domiciliary Tuesday, Mar. 24. A special gift, made by members, was presented to Mrs. Cusick.

Arrangements were made likewise to feature her visit with musical selections in the auxiliary sponsored musical quiz preceding the afternoon movie. Past President Maxine Bigelow, of Medford, accompanied her together with others in the auxiliaries, in her tour of the station.

A reception was held at the Rogue Valley country club in the evening, attended by auxiliary representatives from the department of Oregon.

The overseas possessions of France are 4.5 larger than the mother country.

Pickin' Pears

News and Notes From Camp White

By SID HOLLINGSWORTH

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Regulation Requiring Forest Closure Revised

Salem — The regulation requiring closure of forest operations when humidities reach a low of 30 per cent in western Oregon as the closed season gets under way next April 1, has been modified to the extent that it will be more flexible in its application, according to Assistant State Forester James H. Walker.

Previously, the regulation required the 30 per cent humidity closures immediately the closed season became effective, regardless of the moisture conditions in the forest, Walker said. In many cases it would have still been safe to operate under low humidity conditions due to the excessive moisture in the forest debris, he added.

Revised Regulations
"Under the revised regulations, forest officials will make closure recommendations on the basis of hazard as indicated by the moisture content of the forest fuel. The state forester will then issue the order making the regulation effective. It can mean closure of shorter duration and hence far less interference with the industrial activities of the state."

Walker pointed out that April 1 marks the date when

burning permits will be required throughout the state whenever burning is to be undertaken in or near forest lands. Permits may be secured from the nearest forest official, he added.

He also pointed out that the loggers will have to install the necessary fire prevention equipment in the operations, have tool boxes on hand with the required number of tools and take such other precautionary measures as the law requires and the state inspectors direct.

RED MEMBERSHIP DROPS
Tokyo — (UPI) — Akiyoshi Miyashita, a high government security official, said today that active membership in the Japanese Communist party had dropped more than 60 per cent in the past nine years.

SEND Easter Greetings

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Assorted candy filled Easter novelties 49c
Foil wrapped hollow mould chocolates 49c
Cello wrapped chocolate mould animal novelties 25c
Foil eggs packaged in pretty hat box 69c

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candy filled sand truck 1.59

Realistic truck model of high impact plastic. Complete with shovel and a truckload of candy.

candy filled novelties 10c to 98c ea.

Surprise is for Easter Sunday. Plastic Twirler 10c
Parasol filled with sugar drops 29c
Easter Egg filled with goodies 19c
Thrifty Chick Bank 98c

Easter toy sand truck 98c

Realistic combination sand truck-pail and sifter. Made of polyethylene to take real wear. An outstanding "fun" toy.

candy filled sand pail 59c

A big assortment of tasty Easter candies and goodies to delight all children. Pail can be used as toy.

unbreakable sand plane 98c

Large sand cargo plane complete with shovel and carrying handle. Moveable wheels and prop. Attractive colors.

jelly bird Easter eggs 39c lb.

Creamy smooth filling covered with a glazed sugar coating. Wide assortment of flavors. An Easter favorite.

surprise easter eggs 59c box of 12

Large plastic Easter eggs. Non-toxic. Ready for filling with candy surprises for children.

gay easter baskets 10c 19c 29c

Round, square—5 sizes, all with handles. Fill them with our toys and candies! Buy and Fill Them Here!

filled baskets - ready to give Easter morning pleasure

Exciting, wonderful values! Choose different sizes for all the family and friends! Colorful baskets, gift wrapped in cellophane, ribbon rosette trims. Grass nests filled with Easter candy goodies!

39c to 2.98

Schrafft's easter eggs 5c and 10c

Chocolate covered assorted fruit and nut or coconut cream eggs. Foil wrapped. Large — 10c. Small — 5c.

imported Easter chocolates 19c each and 1.39 lb.

Fine hollow mould milk chocolate. Novelty figures 19c ea. Lilliput Easter eggs 1.39 lb.

Easter toy rabbit 1.98

Large 20 1/2" plush rabbit, dressed in a pretty plaid outfit with a large ribbon bow.

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- Swing Needle, auto. 409.50 80.00
- Slant Needle ... 249.50 50.00

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