

# Wife of Speaker of House Gives Spirited Defense of Legislative Session's Record

(Editor's note: The following article, discussing the record and some of the problems faced by the 50th session of the Oregon legislature now nearing its close is by the wife and secretary of Rep. Robert Duncan of Medford, speaker of the house of representatives. It is a vigorous, spirited and intelligent reply to a recent Mail Tribune editorial entitled "Shilly Shally Session." See editorial comment on page 4.)

By MARIJANE DUNCAN  
It is impossible to ignore the recent indictment of this session of the Legislature in the Mail Tribune editorial column. When one is as closely allied as I with a working group that has been designated as "shilly-shally" by one favorite editor, it becomes a



matter for real personal concern. This is an understatement. To read such an indictment was something of a shock.  
Right here, in the middle of things, with the operation proceeding smoothly and the session progressing more rapidly and efficiently than usual—every day from the press, the members of the House, and visitors—it is difficult to detach oneself and attempt to understand how such an apparently vigorous handling of the problems facing our state can be regarded (from afar, it must be admitted) as unrealistic, uncaring and casual. Believe me, none of these descriptive terms can be fairly applied.

It is true that some of the "pet" measures of the aforesaid editor have not received the treatment he hoped for. I am sure this is also true of many another person's pet legislation. Unfortunately, everything cannot be arranged to suit everybody.  
But it is patently unfair to

compare this legislature in the state of Oregon with that which recently met in New York. The two situations are not analogous. In New York, spending has been outstripping income for some time. A real fiscal emergency existed. Taxes HAD to be raised, in New York. And, I might add, they were raised by a Governor who had NOT run on an economy platform, making impossible campaign promises—and who was elected overwhelmingly anyway!  
Here in Oregon, on the other hand, we have a governor who was elected on a strict economy platform, promising NO NEW TAXES; and at the same time the people of Oregon voted down every money measure on the ballot. Can this possibly be construed as a mandate to the Legislature to INCREASE services and taxes?

**Can't Ignore People**  
Perhaps it is feasible and even proper for editorial writers to ignore the obvious will of the people. It is not so for those elected to represent them. Besides, it is high time the people of this state were awakened to the fact that if they want Oregon to continue as a high level service state, they must be willing to pay the price! How are we to stir them to realization, except perhaps by cutting where it hurts?

This is why Rep. Grace Peck said on the floor of the House one morning recently, "Whenever I get a chance to vote for a referral to the people, I'll vote for it, no matter what the bill is. It's time the people of Oregon woke up and began to realize that good government costs money! She received quite an ovation from her fellow representatives, too!

Now that THAT is said, let's get down to specifics. The welfare question, for instance. It is true that the Legislature did not give the Welfare commission all the emergency funds asked (this was not part of the regular budget, you understand, but was over and above the amount appropriated by the 1957 Legislature). It is also true that Governor Hatfield, faced with this emergency, recommended only \$900,000 rather than the \$1,200,000 finally granted by the Ways and Means committee.

**No Casual Cut**  
There are those, indeed, who would make across-the-board cuts in welfare, as well as in many other state agencies. I can assure you that this particular cutting was not done so casually or thoughtlessly as that. Many hours were spent and many brows were furrowed before the figure of \$1,200,000 was reached. And I might explain here that ADC, far from being cut back, was the major reason for the large increase in demands on funds.

So many of these decisions must be compromised. Who is to say whether one compromise is any worse or better than another? Some can be counted in people very obviously affected—some not. This is one that can. It is not a happy thing to have to do, but it is pleasant to have to look at the waiting list for Fairview and say "We cannot meet this problem totally right now. We must solve it step by step."

As for Fairview, I categorically deny, as will anyone acquainted with the men and women who are working on this particular budget, that the desperate needs of this institution are being ignored. The planning for Fairview proposes a whittling-down of the altogether-too-large waiting list of over 500 to around

100 in the next biennium. These buildings cannot be planned and built overnight. But something IS being done in this session for the unfortunate at Fairview home.

Certainly all the needed buildings will not be built at our colleges in the next year or two. Governor Hatfield recommended some higher education building—not nearly enough. He recommended this on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. The Legislature, I am confident, will combine the "pay-as-you-go" philosophy of meeting the buildings needs of higher education with a bonding program—providing for our future students—and providing, also, that they and their generation have a share in paying for the classrooms in which they will get their college educations. This is not ideal—neither is a tremendous increase in our present burden of taxation ideal. Sometimes one must make a choice between two less than ideal solutions to any given problem.

**School Support Problem**  
In the case of Basic School Support—the choice is not so clear. There is a problem of where the money shall be gotten—from property, as has been traditionally—or from income? There is a question of distribution; it is easy to say "all agree that it should be on a flat grant basis." This is not quite accurate. Certainly, all those who are DETERMINED that the state shall NOW increase its share of school aid agree that to accept the flat grant provision is the better part of valor.

It is not true that those who must find the money, here at the state level, then determine the most equitable method of distribution, agree that flat grants are the right approach. Some feel that, in the light of the rather substantial increase in state aid made during the 1959 regular and special sessions, and in the light of the subsequent distribution formula, it is best that the state take it slowly right now and study the whole problem of school financing during the interim before the next legislative session. Perhaps they are wrong. They do not think so.

**Legislators Human**  
It is a kind of sophistry to accuse this session of frittering away time in such pursuits as subpoenaing editorial writers, in personal vendettas, and such nonsense. True, each session sees some foolish waste of time on the part of some members. The Representatives and Senators up here are only human beings, with all the frailties thereof.

But any newspaper man ought to be cognizant of the over emphasis of the press on such "sensational" stuff. The amount of time spent on these things that make such engrossing front-page reading is negligible. But who wants to read long-winded accounts of long and tiresome committee hearings that go on for hour after hour, sometimes until midnight (of what has been, for the members of that committee, a terribly arduous day)? Who, indeed? ANYBODY would rather read of a Senator's diatribe (which may have taken all of ten minutes of the morning session) on the possible inefficiency and corruption of the Oregon State police. (That this particular accusation was disproven and dropped was a relief to all of us.)

**Day in Court**  
True, such personal "gripes" often find their way into bill form and then necessarily take up valuable committee time, before being mercifully

laid to rest. But who can deny the citizen, be he representative, or just "Joe Doakes," his day in court? Besides, some day there might be something "REALLY" wrong in some state agency. Someday it may not be a case of somebody crying "wolf." Now and then an investigation by our lawmakers really is in order.

Finally, let us discuss partisanship in the 50th Legislative Assembly. Certainly there has been some. After all, these people were elected on the ticket of one or the other major parties. They, again being human, cannot entirely put this aside and become magically objective and non-partisan upon taking a seat in the House or Senate. Most of them are quite proud of their party affiliation. I am not at all convinced that this is a reprehensible thing.

The members of each party gather together, under their particular banner, regularly. These meetings are popularly termed "caucuses." I am aware that this term received very unfavorable connotation during the last campaign in Jackson county; nevertheless, both major parties so meet, both on the state and national level, and have been so meeting for years.

**Sometimes Differ**  
Sometimes, during these meetings, agreement is reached on a more or less unanimous basis. The result is a more or less "party line" vote on some issues. Other time, some members find they must go their separate ways—they cannot accept the view of the majority of their party on this particular issue. This, I suppose, might be termed by some unthinking person as "intra-party" strife. Perhaps it is, technically. But it seems to me a vitally important principle in the democratic conduct of any organized or unorganized group that members express their ideas freely and make up their minds independently.

It is true, however, that when there is a very close split between the parties, such as presently exists in the House of Representatives, such a democratic concept sometimes looks very much like indecisiveness and inaction, when translated into votes on the floor. This is unfortunate. It is to be hoped that, in the future, whichever party controls the House will have what is known as a "working majority." The Democrats do not have one in this session.

**Tax Problem**  
It must be admitted that one of the stated aims of this session of the Legislature was to "keep taxes down." Many people think this is absolutely essential—in Oregon our taxes are excessively right now. I am not sure this is so. I think it is, rather, a question of "for what shall be spent our hard-earned dollars?"

Personally, I would rather spend mine on an excellent educational system and buildings for higher education than almost anything.

Not everybody feels the same way, I am sure. There are farmers who feel that more money should be spent in the field of agriculture. There are doctors who feel that more money should go to public health programs and medical research. There are lots of people who are terribly concerned that we are not keeping up with our institutional programs. And there are other people who just want to put away a dollar or two for a rainy day.

**People Should Decide**  
The Legislature can, I suppose, force these citizens into coughing up more taxes for schools or whatever. I think it would be better if people decided for themselves just what is the best possible investment they can make, both for themselves, and for coming generations. An idealistic view, certainly. I think it is

not unattainable. I think people can be convinced and should be convinced that it might hurt them a lot more NOT to pay taxes, over the long haul. But—how?

Would it not be helpful for some editorial writers, instead of giving legislators' "what-for" for reflecting in their conduct the obvious will of their constituents, to attempt to change public opinion to a more constructive view of taxation and the many vital needs that MUST BE MET BY THEM through their representatives? There are truly too many people who are unaware—and too many who are uninformed—and, unfortunately, too many who do not care. We know. We get letters from all of them.

I believe many constructive and worthwhile things will come out of this session of the Legislature. Just the other day the House passed a complete revision of Oregon's juvenile code, something that is long overdue. Congress has been memorialized to provide

more federal aid to education. Great steps forward have been made in the hitherto untouched field of migratory workers' living and working conditions. A bill is proposed which will be submitted to the people to give Oregon the ability, so long lacking, to buy public power at low rates for resale within our state, thus insuring that Washington will not gobble up Oregon's share of Bonneville power in the years ahead.

Perhaps these do not seem as important to many as raising Basic School Support this session—to others, they seem overwhelmingly important to the whole future well-being of our state. Values are relative. One person gets all fired up about one thing, another something else. We cannot all see with the same eyes. But it is well to remember, especially when considering the myriad and complex decisions facing your legislators every two years, that there is another side to every coin.

**LEFT AT THE POST**  
Hartsville, Ind. (UPI)—Fire Chief William Riley complained Friday that emergency volunteer firemen assigned to assist the regular fire department are altogether too eager in their work. On occasion, Riley said, the "irregulars" have taken off on the fire truck before the regulars arrived, and haven't even left word where the fire is.

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**Buried Treasure**  
by Pinkney Gage

## Dewdrops Glass Highly Prized by Victorians

An early type of the pressed glass patterns that is among the more valuable to collectors is what is known as the dewdrop with star design.  
Though use of the so-called dewdrop—the name for a small, pointed, diamond-shaped protuberance that also looks somewhat like a hobnail head—occurs in a wide variety of patterns, it is found in only one, so far as I know, where the obvious motif is a star.  
The type of star used is generally a six-pointed one. Only once have I seen a five-pointed star in the dewdrop design, and in that case there was little question that the piece had been made on special order.  
Usually the star occupies a conspicuous and central place. In a plate, for example, it is found in the center. On the side of a pitcher, or other large vessel, it is generally in the center of the largest face.  
What firm first produced it is not known, but it seems fairly well established that it was manufactured over the two decades from 1860 to 1880, and maybe longer. It is known to have been both popular and copied widely. That can be told by the variation of the star's size in various pieces.  
The plates on which it is found range in size from a little better than four inches to 11 and more.  
As for the colors in which it is found—I have seen it in clear glass, amber yellow, green and blue. It has also been reported in amethyst.  
The value is substantial in most forms, being fair even in what seems to be a late 19th century copy. An 11-inch plate, with cover, and merely in clear glass, brings from \$35 to \$45. In color, the price for the same piece ranges up to \$65.

## OLD FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES MAY BRING WINDFALL

The number of five- and ten-dollar Federal Reserve notes that pass through the hands of the average American in the course of a year must run into the hundreds. Nonetheless, since most of them are not easily come by and also keep on running, it is a shame not to get whatever extra value there may be in them.  
It can be done, and the easy way to do it is to watch your bills for what it says on them, as well as how they are spent.  
For example, if you come across any \$10 bills with a light green seal—you find it on the face—look at the series number. If it is of the 1934 series, and has the signatures of W. A. Julian, Treasurer of the U. S. and Henry Morganthau Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, then it is worth considerably more than the face value—but from a collector, not from the Treasury.  
If it is a bill by the Federal Reserve of Chicago or New York, it will be worth up to \$25. If the issuing bank was Dallas, Minneapolis or one of the smaller of the Federal Reserve Districts, the value ranges up to better than \$35, depending on condition.  
Even if the seal is of a dark green instead of a light green, there is still a premium on the bill even though it may amount to nearly \$10 less.  
As for the \$5 Federal Reserve note, while the premium is usually still less, you might as well have it.  
Whether the series number is 1934-A, -B, -C or -D, there is still a premium, and even if the signatures happen to be those of Georgia Neese Clarke, as Treasurer, and John W. Snyder as Secretary.  
It may be as little as \$5, but that premium on a \$5 bill represents exactly 100 per cent profit.

## DUELING PISTOLS MUST BE PERFECTLY ALIKE

Traditionally dueling pistols have always come in pairs and are as nearly matched as the gun-maker could get them. They had to be, otherwise the affair would be held up pending an equalization of the weapons.  
So, since the pair of flintlocks I was looking at appeared perfectly matched in every respect, I naturally assumed that they were dueling pistols. "Not so," said the owner, "They would do, of course, but to be dueling pistols they would have to have a case, and these never had."  
He was quite right. Another distinguishing point about dueling pistols is that they were kept in a case specially made for that purpose. There was no point in allowing them to be exposed to settling dust while they lay around waiting for the morning when it would be pistols for two and coffee for one—so there was no need for a box, not for holsters.  
How the owner knew the pistols had never been cased was that they had been in his family since their manufacture in the late 1770's. They had been made to carry in holsters. The order had been executed by a Pennsylvania maker of the so-called Kentucky rifles.  
Because they were made for a Revolutionary officer and the maker justly feared reprisals by the British, he did not place his maker's mark on the weapons. Except for that, they were made with all the care and skill that went into the rifles of the time.  
They were .42 caliber, single shot (there were flintlock revolvers, by the way), silver-mounted weapons with eight-inch rifled barrels. The lock plates were engraved, and in addition to a monogrammed silver plate in the butt, there was also a silver reversed swastika which then ranked high as a good luck charm.  
The value of the pair, according to an appraisal for insurance purposes, was \$1,400—a higher valuation than would be generally placed on two Kentucky rifles—and justly so since the Kentucky pistols are rarer.  
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