

State Board of Tax Appeals Wins Unanimous Vote of Oregon Senate

Salem—The Senate has passed and sent to the governor a bill providing for a state board of tax appeals of three members.

The board would hear appeals from decisions of the State Tax Commission. At present appeals of Commission decisions must be taken to court.

The governor would appoint the members.

The measure was sponsored by Sen. Ben Musa and Rep.

Katherine Musa, both Democrats from The Dalles.

The vote of the Senate was unanimous.

Subject To Ratification

Appointment of the members would be subject to a two-third ratification by the Senate. A qualification provision in the bill requires that the appointees be well versed in tax matters.

The board would be the final authority, subject only to judicial review, on all

questions of law and fact arising from tax law administered by the State Tax Commission.

Musa, who first tried to have the board set up in the 1949 session, said the State Tax Commission now acts as judge, jury and prosecutor on state tax matters.

"Oregon taxpayers must either accept the decisions of the tax commission or go into court," Musa said. "The court procedure is too expensive unless the tax issue involves a large sum of money. The small taxpayer hasn't a prayer."

The board would have its headquarters here but would hold hearings in any part of the state.

The Senate passed a House-approved memorial asking Congress, the president and the Interstate Commerce Commission to do something to help ease the situation created by recurring boxcar shortage in Oregon.

A bill to prohibit real estate men from discriminating in rentals of housing was passed. Under the bill listings could not be accepted by brokers if there were any understanding the property would not be rented to anyone because of

Red China Believed Preparing Satellite

London—(UPI)—Some British space experts believe Red China is preparing a nasty propaganda shock for the West—a satellite carrying a large payload than America's Atlas.

With Russian help, the Chinese will fire this rocket into the skies in 1959—according to information received by these experts—and then claim that in this field at least its technology approaches or equals that of the United States.

The West would be unlikely to take such a claim seriously but it would have L. J. Charter, secretary of the British Inter-planetary Society, calls "fantastic propaganda value in the Far East."

Would Give Boost

"I would give the Chinese the kind of boost out there that the first Sputnik gave Russian science," he said. "The Chinese know that the less well-educated masses in the Far East will accept such a feat as implying equality

with the United States."

Charter said the Chinese plan had been deduced from the pattern of information now being sought by Chinese scientists.

"We know what their inquiries are," he said. "They are asking for some of the things Russia inquired about before her first Sputnik."

Charter said Russia would supply China with the satellite—one of about a half-dozen the Soviets are working on for their 1959 program—and

help fire it from installations it would erect in Russia.

Why then, despite this guidance and access to Russian knowhow, was China seeking some information in the outside world?

"Perhaps," Charter said, "they are not sure Russia will hand over the installations."

Atlas Payload Small

He pointed out that the actual payload of Atlas was "on the small side"—about 150 pounds—and Russia could easily help China orbit a heavier payload, as proved by its "Lunik."

Charter pointed out the International Astronautical Association will hold its annual convention here starting Aug. 31. Russia has supplied the

drama for the past three meetings with its satellite developments.

Might Russia try to send a man into space during the London meeting to capture the headlines again?

"I don't know whether they'll try it this year," Charter said, "although they will certainly try to beat the United States."

10 MEDFORD TRIBUNE
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Small Worlds Around Us
By Lynn M. Watkins

Beautiful Cuckoo-Wasp Is A Gay Deceiver

She is barely a half inch long, yet she is so very beautiful she is commonly called the "jewel wasp." Her tiny body, hardly larger than a small fly, is brilliant with flaming red, rich purple, scintillating blue and glossy, iridescent green.

It seems incongruous that this gorgeous creature could be so deceitful. She is the cuckoo-wasp, a master at fraud and trickery; dishonest, artful and cunning, spending her time hoodwinking others to provide food and shelter for her children.

This gay deceiver cares not at all for family life. Like a thief in the night she sneaks into the "home" of another and lays her eggs, leaving with the foster parent the task of building a nest and providing the food.

Spots a Nest

She selects the nursery of some unfortunate wasp colony. With diabolical intent she watches her chance to sneak in and lay her egg. She has even been observed to be rather furtive, patiently waiting until the builder of the nursery is away. Thus she avoids all the work of construction, as well as the more exacting task of securing insect-victims to store in the vault.

The wasps have several methods of nest construction. Some dig tunnels in the ground. Some make small capsulelike crypts, like the mud-daubers, while some such as the potterwasp, build tiny jugs. On completion of the nest, whatever kind it is, the wasp gathers insects, injecting her venom into each one then packing the living but helpless bodies in the nest cavity. These paralyzed insects become fresh food for the newly hatched wasp larvae. Then the mother seals the vault carefully, after the egg is laid and promptly forgets the entire episode.

Hatches Sooner

The cuckoo-wasp doesn't know it but her egg hatches sooner than that of the host in many instances. Should this

happen the cuckoo-wasp larva will as readily eat the rightful baby wasp as the food the host so carefully gathered. Peculiarly enough, the host-wasp never seems to realize she has been the victim of double-dealing.

Should she catch the beautiful deceiver in the act she would attack her and drive her away, but the little jewel-wasp is not discouraged. She willingly waits, alert and ready to sneak in whenever the way is left open to her.

Hers is a solitary nature. She lives alone and imposes on others the task of family raising; this sly, cunning but very beautiful deceiver.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Medco Engine Is Selected by Group

Medford corporation's Engine No. 4, a 70-ton veteran Shay logging locomotive, has been selected as the official donation from that firm to the City of Medford.

Medco offered last February to give Medford a locomotive for recreational purposes.

A special committee from the city's parks and recreation commission looked at the engine in the logging country beyond Butte Falls yesterday. Bud Nutting, Medco general manager, accompanied them.

A committee comprised of Verl G. Walker, chairman, Commission President Russ Jamison and Mrs. Owen Kunkel picked No. 4 over the alternative, No. 7, as being in better condition, with a bell, and having greater historical significance.

Jamison said today there is a possibility that No. 4 would make the trip down to Medford as a special exhibition run for the particular benefit of ferroquinophiles (iron horse enthusiasts).

He said the manner of conveying the locomotive from Medco's rail head here to its proposed destination, the West Jackson st. park site, is still under study.

Biegel Suggests Sewer Rate Rise

Ashland-City Superintendent Elmer Biegel this week recommended to the Ashland council that the city sewer rate be increased from \$1 to \$1.50 to help finance anticipated costs of increasing main line sewer in the eastern and south-eastern section, construction of a pumping station and expansion of the disposal plant.

Because of expansion in those areas, Biegel said a pumping station would be necessary to raise the sewage to the sewer disposal plant.

Sufficient funds are available for construction of the trunk line sewer, he said, as well as the pumping station.

He pointed out, however, that federal funds are not available for the work because of low priority.

Estimated cost of the disposal plant expansion is \$350,000, and cost of the trunk line is estimated at more than that. Cost of the latter will depend on rights of way, he said.

"To help finance these costs, I recommend that the cost of sewage disposal be raised from its present \$1 per residence and that business rates be increased likewise."

He pointed out that each year construction costs increase, and the city would be making a saving should the work be done now rather than wait until it is essential to correct a bad situation.

Ashland Council Asks Federal Aid

Ashland-The Ashland city council this week voted to apply for federal aid in financing construction of a new 34-bed hospital, which, if approved by the council, would cost an estimated \$471,520.

Hospital committeemen Ed Singmaster said the city was not committing itself to build a hospital nor for any specific amount by making the application. He said the city was "merely getting in line" for the funds if and when the city decided to proceed with the project.

Raold, Schmeer and Harrington, Portland architectural firm, said the 34-bed hospital would cost about \$13,868 per bed. In their report, the architects said the present 16-bed hospital could not economically be remodeled.

Architects estimates were based on utilizing equipment already owned by the city which they said was in good condition.

Harrington said remodeling the present hospital would cost an estimated \$323,248, which would bring costs to about \$20,248 per bed, and it would still be a 16-bed structure.

The council indicated it believed a new hospital should be built with room for expansion.

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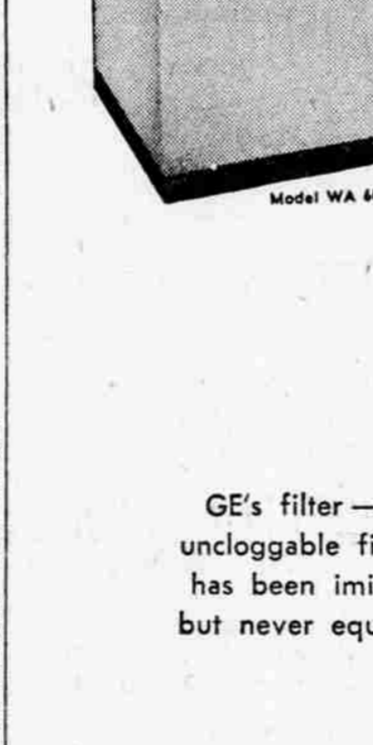
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