

Interim Committee on Welfare Still in Fact-Finding Stage

The philosophy of public welfare is to give financial aid to those people who are eligible and to provide services to help people to help themselves.

It is the aim of the legislative interim committee on welfare to see that this philosophy is carried out in the most efficient, economical way possible.

At last week's public hearing here, Mrs. Grace Oliver Peck, Democratic state representative from Portland and legislative interim committee chairman, remarked, "We are not trying to condemn anybody, but to find out what to do with the laws which govern welfare; either recommend new ones or change the old ones."

Committee investigations have covered aid to dependent children, old age medical service and how to make the budget stretch. The committee and its subcommittees are still in the fact-finding stage, Mrs. Peck said.

To Submit Report

The subcommittee on the welfare program's medical phase will submit its report soon to the state legislature.

Dr. Norman David, professor of pharmacology, University of Oregon, not long ago met with the charitable care committee of the Oregon Medical Society. It made a list of effective low-cost drugs which could be used in the welfare medical care program instead of the more expensive ones.

In Multnomah county, the interim committee and the subcommittee have recommended that medical attendants be maintained in nursing homes.

The subcommittee on administration has recommended a central computer system which could be used for all state agencies. This could save a half million dollars a year in rental fees on these electronic computing devices, Mrs. Peck said. The machines must be rented or leased. They cannot be bought.

Initial Application

The interim committee is also concerned with the initial application for welfare patients. It has recommended careful screening of all resources applicants have. The committee believes that legally responsible relatives should be notified when applications for old age assistance are made. Such procedure has been more carefully followed since the committee was formed, the chairman noted.

Same state welfare problems tie in with national ones. Aid to Dependent Children program is one of these. If current charges are true, the program founded under the Social Security Act of 1935 to keep fatherless families intact, has become a national game of fraud. In 1959, for the first time, its stakes would surpass \$1 billion, according to reports.

The interim committee has not made any definite recommendations to help cure this social sore yet. However, Lane county officials have recommended federal and state participation in tracking down and convicting men charged with non-support. Lane coun-

ty already has an outstanding record by recovering an estimated \$300,000 from non-supporters and perpetrators of fraud in 1959.

National Concern

"There is considerable national concern with illegitimate children," Mrs. Peck said. "Several judges have talked of sterilization, but this is very unpopular with the general public. These illegitimate are not necessarily on welfare. Lane County Circuit Judge William S. Fort has suggested that all illegitimate children be made wards of the court automatically just as children of divorced couples are now for their own protection."

Frank Ganong, Klamath county commissioner, and Martha Smith, chairman of the Klamath County Welfare commission, both protested that the local commission was not given enough money to carry out an adequate medical care program.

Local physicians have resented the red tape and shortage of funds for medical care, Ganong pointed out.

Present Memorandum

Ganong presented a memorandum of proposed changes the Klamath group would like to see in state laws relating to welfare. The changes were adopted as a recommendation to the interim committee on welfare by the Klamath County Welfare commission in a special meeting in March.

The proposed changes are all designed to allow a measure of control of welfare policies and procedures at the local level. Under existing state law this type of increased local control is not possible, the report stated.

Recommended state law changes are:

A county judge and chairman of a county welfare commission should be on the state welfare commission.

Uniform state-wide procedures should not be required.

Program Reviewed

Proposed allocation of funds for each county welfare program should be reviewed by each county welfare commission and certification required by each county, but subject to quarterly revisions.

No county welfare commission member should serve for more than two successive terms.

The state should establish state-wide standards and make periodic audits, but the local commission should hire the local staff and have them answerable to the local body.

When welfare recipients are buying articles on time, the fact they are on welfare should be made known to credit associations for the information of merchants.

In a resolution passed March 18 by the Klamath County Welfare commission, it was requested that the state public welfare commission transfer unexpended balances of non-medical funds to the medical budget beginning immediately so the county could provide state-wide standards of medical care for the balance of the fiscal year within the total welfare funds available.

Nursing Home Operator

A nursing home operator from Grants Pass, who said he represented southern Oregon nursing home operators, said

it also requested that any unexpended balances remaining at the end of the fiscal year be used to pay hospital costs incurred since January which have not been paid previously.

Reason for the resolution is that Klamath county has been unable to pay welfare hospital costs since January, 1960, within the allocated funds for hospital payments. The daily reimbursable costs of Klamath county hospitals compare favorably with other hospitals in the state, it was pointed out.

Placing local representatives on the state welfare commission would provide practical advice from the local level, the report explained.

"The attitude of the state administration seems to be that the budget certified to the county is merely for allowing that county to calculate and collect property taxes for its share of the budget," the report stated.

Not Committed

"The state department is not committed to making these funds available within that certified budget. This is their state policy in not allowing transfers of surplus funds from one category to the other."

The Klamath Welfare commission also noted that it has handled a number of cases where the welfare recipient's income is hopelessly involved in payments for non-essential items purchased on credit. There is no discrimination against a welfare recipient by making such a law since any private citizen is subject to similar disclosure of financial rating.

James Pullman, Jackson county welfare administrator, testified that without controlled administration Jackson county medical expenses would have increased a great deal. Some cases recommended for hospitalization by the doctor do not need hospitalization, he noted.

3 Brothers Held On Burglary Charge

Salem—(UP)—Marion county day from Fresno, Calif., with day from Fresno, Calif., with three young brothers charged in a warrant in Salem for burglary not in a dwelling.

Held in the Marion county jail were George L. Spicer, 27, and his two younger brothers, Earl Robert, 18, and James Paul, 24.

He cited one case in which a welfare patient was in the hospital for 28 days and could have been in the Jackson County Farm Home.

Pullman said sterilization was authorized on the medical care program only to preserve life or health. Yet a female welfare recipient was sterilized in a Jackson county hospital "merely for social reasons." This brought a startled exclamation from Mrs. Peck. Dr. Ennis Kelzer, committee member from North Bend, disputed Pullman's statement.

"All such cases must be referred to a local hospital sterilization committee," Dr. Kizer stated. "A patient must have a good reason for sterilization or it will not be allowed. Any physician who performs a sterilization operation without approval of such a committee would lose his hospital staff privileges." However, Pullman insisted it was done.

Physicians Agree

"Do you make a profit off welfare patients?" Dr. Kizer asked. Foster said he did. Since 1935, when the social security law was passed, Oregon physicians have agreed not to seek a profit from such patients and in many cases have been paying them out of pocket costs themselves, Dr. Kizer said. "So don't feel unique or that you are making any great concession."

"We all have to give a little to do a little," Mrs. Peck added.

The Jackson county welfare administrator said after the hearing, "All I want in behalf of the commission is a uniform price schedule (on drugs), a discount in line with the Veterans Administration or surrounding states and assurance that unethical practices will be stopped."

Allotment Not Enough

Mrs. Eldred Charley, Central Point, said the \$50 a month allotted by the state welfare commission for teenager foster children is not enough. She said she and her husband have six such children whom they treat like their own.

Food costs alone per teenager exceeds \$50 a month. Since she and her husband run a dairy farm that helps some, she added. However, teenagers need extra money for various items, including haircuts. She testified that they operate their foster home at \$200 a month loss.

Pullman noted that the Charleys run one of the finest foster homes in southern Oregon.

Near the end of the hearing, the interim committee stated it was interested in better trained staff and salaries that could attract and keep well qualified personnel.

Stereotyper Held On Second Charge

Portland—(UP)—Stereotyper Levi McDonald, who is under indictment on a charge of destruction of property by explosives in the Jan. 31 news-truck bombings, was arrested again Friday afternoon. The new charge involved throwing of a "stink bomb" into the Oregonian Drug store the night of Jan. 12.

McDonald was implicated in the incident by Carl Forbish, 24, who told Multnomah county police McDonald hired him to toss the jar of liquid in to the store.

Forbish appeared Friday afternoon without an attorney and the arraignment was carried over for two weeks by Circuit Court Judge Herbert Schwab to enable Forbish to obtain counsel.

McDonald was arrested at his home, in the same block in which Forbish lives, by city and county police. Officers said McDonald refused to admit them and they had to force their way into his home to make the arrest. McDonald was lodged in the Rocky Butte jail in lieu of \$5,000 bond.

Filing Not Valid If Check Bounces

Salem—(UP)—If a person who files for a state office pays his filing fee by check and the check bounces the filing is incomplete.

In announcing this opinion Friday, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said a check cannot be considered payment but rather "conditional payment." Therefore the filing is completed when the secretary of state actually gets the cash.

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Band Assured of Portland Trip

Asland—The Asland High school band is almost assured of representing this area in the Portland Rose Festival parade, but Asland Band Boosters still are seeking a sponsor for a float for the parade, according to Mrs. Thelma Tabor, president of the Boosters.

A smorgasbord at Lincoln school Thursday was considered a success, and brought the total in the Band Boosters fund for sending the band to Portland to within about \$400, Mrs. Tabor said.

An estimated \$1,800 is needed for expenses for the band to participate in the Rose parade, Mrs. Tabor said.

About 700 people were served during the smorgasbord, 500 of them adults, she said.

At the smorgasbord, the Band Boosters selected a king and queen to participate in the Rogue Valley Pear Blossom Festival in Medford the week end of April 23.

King is Bobby Cady, 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Cady, 1554 Webster st., and queen is Debbie Tichhauser,

5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Tichhauser, 1530 Windsor ave.

The Asland High school band also will participate in the Pear Blossom Festival parade, and will present a band concert in downtown Medford Saturday morning, April 23, to raise funds for the band benefit program.

FISH LEAD

Miami—Fish are the most numerous of the vertebrates with about 20,000 species.

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Group Wants To Help Small Schools

Salem—(UP)—The Interim Committee on Education Saturday gave its support to a proposed study to improve the quality of small high schools in Oregon.

After a discussion of the problem by Dr. Keith Goldhammer of the University of Oregon, the committee voted to write a letter to the Ford Foundation's fund for the Advancement of Education seeking a grant to experiment in small state high schools.

Salem—(UP)—Although the state capitol building will not be open on Sundays to visitors on a regular basis until Memorial Day, the building will be open today in connection with Salem's annual Blossom Day. Members of the Salem Cherrians will serve as guides from noon to 4 p.m.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Sunday, April 10, 1960 A 9

Salem—(UP)—Clyde Ronald Zamzra, 17, Asland, one of a group of youths who staged a riot last May at MacLaren School for Boys, was booked Friday by Marion county authorities on a charge of violation of his probation.

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