

# School Board Considers Many Factors in Changes

The Medford school board, in reviewing the recent defeat by district voters of a proposal to exceed the 8 per cent limitation, took into consideration several factors governing increasing school costs and possible objections factors in the proposed budget before reaching its decision to reduce the budget and call another election.

District patrons will vote May 26 on a new proposal — a proposal which, if approved, will reduce the amount of increase estimated in the first proposal from 3.35 mills to 2.9 mills.

Voters, however, still will vote on the amount of the budget exceeding the 8 per cent limitation. The estimated increase in taxes over the amount paid during the present year is about \$130,000, distributed over an estimated assessed valuation of \$45 million.

**Express Opinion**

In discussing the budget following the proposal's defeat at the polls May 2, the school board, budget committee and advisory committee expressed the opinion that the citizens of the district did not want to reduce in any way the quality

of education or the "pursuit of excellence in any phase of the academic program."

With this in mind, they reviewed the problems of increasing school costs, which are:

- (1) Increasing number of students.
- (2) Rising costs of supplies, equipment, and other capital outlay items.
- (3) Rising costs of social security and retirement benefits.
- (4) Teachers and staff salaries.
- (5) Decrease in percentage of state financial aid.

Of the items causing major increases, only the fourth, salaries, can be controlled by the budget committee or the school board.

However, the board expressed the belief that, after reviewing salary schedules of other school districts in the state with which Medford must compete, the proposed schedule for Medford teachers and staff members is justifiable, and is needed to obtain and hold capable teachers, staff members and employees.

**Other Possible Decreases**

Budget decreases could have been made by the board

by such drastic actions as complete elimination of transportation, music, art, school lunch, student counseling, and special education programs.

However, these aspects of the program are now considered a part of a comprehensive public school program, and the board believed it desirable to keep on a realistic economic basis.

The board reviewed all services provided by the district. They included transportation, the lunch program, activities such as speech, dramatics, athletics, intra-mural athletics in the elementary schools, music, summer school, special education classes for the retarded, physically handicapped and the gifted, and inservice program for teachers and other staff members.

These services have been developed over several years by request of district patrons, and the board felt that eliminating or reducing these services would have a detrimental effect on the overall school program.

Costs in these areas, the board noted, had previously been analyzed and tax-costing items reduced or eliminated where it could be done without crippling the academic program or handicapping students in areas of the district.

**Planning Renovations**

The board noted that the district has followed a policy of planning renovations, repairs and maintenance on a long-range basis with a proportionate amount done each year. This includes replacement of equipment such as desks and machinery.

In reducing the budget Saturday, the board did postpone some purchases and renovation which would not greatly jeopardize the program and which would not increase their cost next year except for price increases.

The reductions in the budget were made after a careful review and analysis of the district's philosophy and total school program, as well as goals and achievements. But the majority of the reductions were achieved only by deferring certain phases of next year's program without adversely affecting the instructional program.

The reductions from the proposed budget made Saturday total \$21,279, which is a comparatively small amount of a large budget. However, before the first proposal was approved by the board and submitted to the voters, the budget committee and board had eliminated more than \$85,000 worth of items which it felt could be deferred until some date in the near future.

**Overall Reductions**

Taking the \$21,279 reduced from the budget, and adding the \$85,000 which the committee and board removed from the budget before it first went to the voters, reductions from the start of the budget consideration total more than \$106,000.

Despite the fact that the \$21,279 reduction may be considered small or a "token" amount of the total expenditures of the district, the board believed that it could not reduce the budget more without adversely affecting the instructional program.

One of the items included in the reduction last Saturday was a reduction of the superintendent's salary from \$18,000 to \$16,500, a reduction which was made after many hours of discussion and consideration.

Frank Bash, who was chairman of the school board in the 1958-59 school year, pointed out that Dr. Leonard B. Mayfield, superintendent, has been sought by one of the largest districts in Oregon as superintendent of schools at a salary of \$17,000. This offer was made by the other district early last year.

Bash said that although Dr. Mayfield's salary at that time was \$1,500 less, he preferred to remain in Medford, and a superintendent was obtained by the other district from the Mid-West.

Previous to that, Spokane, Wash., school officials had asked if Dr. Mayfield was available.

**Aware of Consideration**

In preparing this year's budget, the budget committee was aware that Dr. Mayfield was considered one of the outstanding superintendents in the state, and the committee felt that Medford schools need him.

As a result, over Dr. Mayfield's protest, the board insisted that his salary be set at \$18,000. The committee and board felt that, with the high regard held for Dr. Mayfield by educational leaders in the northwest, an increase in salary would afford some assurance of retaining him.

Bash stressed that Dr. Mayfield had nothing to do personally with the proposed increase in his salary. The increase was one of the focal points of objection from some district patrons prior to the election May 2.



**SPRING WEATHER**—The end of the rains and the advent of spring weather brought out beautiful flowers and beautiful young ladies to admire them. Margaret Faveulke, left, and Liza Jones, both of Portland, make the most of the weather and flowers in an eye-appealing manner. —(UPI Telephoto)

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**GARDEN STAKES**—Redwood 3" x 4" 6' solid. BIG PINES LUMBER CO. 6th & Fir. SP 2-5233.

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**Meatcutters Vote For Wage Increase**

Portland — (UPI) — A contract calling for \$3-a-week wage increase this year and in 1961 was approved by a 2-1 margin in a vote by meatcutters here Monday.

About 1,000 members of Local 143, Meat Cutters Union, in this area were affected by the agreement.

Charles Mentrin, international vice president of the union, said the first wage increase is retroactive to March 14. The second will come July 1, 1961.

A pension plan to be financed by employer contributions of 10 cents an hour per employe, starting July 1, also was established by the contract.

The number of students enrolled in high school physics classes has gone up about 200 per cent since 1960.

**A-Too Late To Classify**

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From your authorized factory representative, Southern Oregon Northern Calif.  
VERE G. WALKER CO.  
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**Valley Residents Attend Conference**

Mrs. Frank Christian, Talent, recently attended the conference of the Institute for Visually Handicapped Children in Salem.

Mrs. Christian, state vice president of the Lions auxiliary, was accompanied by Mrs. Dan Dwyer, Medford district director.

Attending the session were 16 families with children suffering from blindness. Twenty auxiliary groups also attended. Nightly sessions were held in neighboring cities during the conference.

**Wall Street Chatter**

New York — (UPI) — Probably the single factor which is bothering investors the most is the pressure on profit margins indicated in many of the first quarter earnings reports, according to Amoit, Baker & Co.

This firm, however, does not believe that pressure on profit margins will be a serious earnings deterrent in the remaining quarters of 1960.

Standard & Poor's "stock of the month" is Johns-Manville Corp., a company that appears to be moving to a higher profit level. Earnings are expected to run between \$4 million and \$4.25 million this year, up from \$3.73 million in 1959 with a hike in the dividend a good prospect. S&P recommends the issue for its fair return and price appreciation possibilities.

Palne, Webber, Jackson & Curtis notes that Pepsi-Cola Co. is selling at only about 17 times estimated earnings, which represents a substantial discount from potential valuation. In time, the firm thinks, Pepsi should become more widely accepted as a good quality growth issue.

The International Statistical Bureau says that while Georgia-Pacific does not appear to be an outstanding bargain, the stock has disappointed few of its holders over the past several years. ISB continues to regard it as an excellent long term capital gains play.

**RETIRED OFFICIAL DIES**

Short Hills, N.J. — (UPI) — Arthur Roeder, 75, retired president of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., died Monday.

# Quotes From the News

**BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL**

Washington — A Census Bureau spokesman, disclosing that the bureau expects a number of cities to complain that they have a higher population than census figures show: "The Census Bureau wants to present honest and accurate figures but we are going to collide with local pride if they are not up to the usual optimistic expectations."

Independence, Mo. — Former President Truman, asked what office President Eisenhower will get in the "former presidents' club" of which Herbert Hoover is president and Truman is secretary: "He'll have to be the treasurer. He's the richest one among us."

Los Angeles — Deputy District Attorney Fred N. Whitchello, a prosecutor at the murder trial of Dr. R. Bernard Finch and Carole Tregoff, filling out a state accident compensation form for a callous he developed on a vocal cord when delivering final arguments: "How accident happened: talked too long and too loud, forcing voice, causing damage to vocal cords."

London — A woman guest, when it rained at a Buckingham Palace garden party, speaking to her escort: "Oh really, Charles. Let's go home."

# Four Appear in Circuit Court

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered on Howard R. Brooks, 35, of Central Point, after he pleaded guilty in circuit court Monday to charges of larceny by embezzlement.

Brooks is charged with converting \$14,256.48 in Cascade Wood Products, Inc., funds to his own use while being employed there from Jan. 1, 1955, to Nov. 30, 1959, according to court records.

Ronald Glenn Clemence, 27, of route 1, box 890, Grants Pass, had his 18 months probation revoked after he pleaded guilty to charges in circuit to taking and using a car without authority of the owner.

Medford attorney Robert Boyer was appointed counsel for Junior Lee Hammond, 22, of route 2, box 655, Central Point, who is charged with burglary not in a dwelling. Hammond waived a grand jury hearing, and was arraigned on district attorney's information.

Hammond was charged with breaking into and entering the Olympic Petroleum and Equipment company, Inc., 1050 South Riverside ave., May 5, and taking five fifths of bourbon whiskey.

Arraigned on a similar charge was Paul James Stewart, 18, of 19 Jeanette st., Medford. Ed Branchfield was appointed his attorney.

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**SNOW ON SMOKIES**

Gatlingburg, Tenn. — (UPI) — The tops of the Smokies were covered with snow yesterday when temperatures dropped to the freezing mark in high elevations of the great Smoky Mountains National Park.

persons who applied for membership in 1952 will receive details of the dissolution from him.

Lotwin, president of the cooperative, announced that

# Electric Coop in Area Dissolved

The Twin Counties Electric Cooperative, formed in April, 1952, was dissolved last week at a meeting of the directors and members in Medford.

The decision was reached, it was reported, because the objective of cooperative had been largely attained. It was formed to further the cause of rural electrification in Jackson and Josephine counties.

The members agreed that everything possible had been done to bring electric power into the rural areas of the two counties.

The rural areas were represented by Helen Brown, Ramsey Canyon; Ozie Burrell, Lake Creek; O. L. Dewey, Jacksonville; Natalie Hall, Evans Creek; Minnie Huson, Grants Pass; George Loftin, Beagle; Michael Loftus, Applegate; John C. Porter, Wolf Creek and Ernest Woodcock, Selma. George Rode was attorney for the cooperative.

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