

Capitol Memo

Legislative Heads Have Some Ideas On Streamlining

By DOUGLAS GRIPP

Salem—The midnight oil is burning over proposals aimed at improving Oregon's government by consolidating various agencies. But legislative leaders also have some ideas about streamlining the operation of their own branch of government.

The Legislative Council Committee, composed of experienced legislators, including the presiding officer of each house, is hatching the plans.

The proposals are designed to make the 1961 Oregon Legislature operate more efficiently, and might have the effect of cutting the length of the session.

Oregon has no constitutional limit on the length of its legislative sessions, and they have been getting longer.

The 1955 session lasted 115 days; there was a record 128-day meeting in 1957 and the 1959 session also was 115 days.

Orientation Planned
An orientation program for legislators, particularly newly-elected ones, is planned for the second day of the session. The emphasis will be on procedures of the legislature. It will be the first time such a briefing has been conducted on a large scale.

The committee is recommending a revised procedure for cutting down paperwork in movement of a bill through the legislature. Involved is a system whereby original bills and their amendments would be kept in one special folder. Previously, parts of a bill have been kept in various files.

Another proposal, with the public in mind, is advanced sheets.

These are pamphlets containing acts passed so far during the session to be distributed periodically to cue businesses, agencies, private groups and others in on progress of various new laws. Heretofore the public has had to wait until the session laws, or final printed acts, are published 90 days after the session.

In this way the public will get a look at acts with emergency clauses, some of which could be effective before the official printed laws are out.

Space Problem
Enough space for legislators to do their work has been a problem in the past. A large room on the main floor of the Capitol, now housing the State Welfare Recovery Division, will be converted into a conference room where legislators can talk with constituents, or do research and correspondence in semi-privacy.

Many states provide regular office space for their legislators, but Oregon does not. Sam Haley, legislative counsel, said the proposals are a team-effort by the committee plus other legislators and legislative personnel.

Fall Enrollment To Be 2 Million Over Last Year

By LOUIS CASSELS

Washington—More than 48 million students—the largest number any nation has ever attempted to educate—will enroll in U.S. schools and colleges this coming term.

Enrollment for the fall term is expected to be about 2 million higher than last year.

The increase will largely offset gains in teacher supply and new classroom construction, leaving most school districts faced with the same old shortages of everything except children.

Fourth of Population
The total enrollment figure includes a prospective 24,850,000 in public elementary schools, 12,350,000 in public high schools, 6,800,000 in private and parochial schools, and 4,000,000 in colleges and universities.

This adds up to more than one-fourth of the entire U.S. population. It is nearly 20 million students more than were enrolled in America's educational system just 30 years ago.

The steady rise in enrollment—which will continue and even accelerate in the years ahead—is in part due to population growth. But it also reflects a growing awareness among Americans that education has become indispensable to getting a good job or to performing adequately as a citizen in this complex technological age. The proportion of school age children who attend high school and go on to college has been increasing annually for many years.

Holding Ground
In the herculean task of building and staffing enough schools for the ever-growing wave of students, the nation is just about holding its ground. But it is not making any notable progress toward easing chronic shortages of teachers and classrooms.

Last spring's college graduating class provided 129,295 newly-eligible teachers, an increase of 8 per cent over the previous year. But experience indicates that only about three-fourths of them will actually take teaching positions in public schools.

Balancing this supply of new teachers against the number necessary to handle increased enrollment, to replace those leaving the profession and to relieve existing overcrowding, the National Education Association (NEA) calculates that the nation will have a net shortage of 135,000 qualified teachers this fall.

That doesn't mean that 135,000 classrooms will stand empty. The slack will be taken up by hiring temporary teachers holding sub-standard credentials, or by crowding more children into each class.

65,000 Classrooms Yearly
The nation has been building new classrooms at a rate of about 65,000 a year. But this fabulous construction feat—which no other country on earth has ever approached—is just barely sufficient, according to the U.S. Office of Education, to take care of enrollment increases and to replace buildings which have become dangerously obsolescent.

The "backlog" shortage stood at 130,000 classrooms last fall, and there is no evidence that it has been dramatically improved since then.

The net effect of the teacher and classroom shortages is apparent in a recent NEA survey of urban school districts. It showed that more than 50 per cent of this fall's students will be enrolled in classes larger than 30 students each.

People Weary of Prestige Decline, Kennedy Asserts

St. Louis, Mo.—Sen. John F. Kennedy told a wildly cheering crowd of union members and Missouri Democrats Wednesday that the American people "are weary of the continual decline in our national prestige."

"I think it is time to start to move again," he said. "I think it is time that the Democratic Party reasserted its full vigor and vitality."

Addressee Convention
The Democratic presidential candidate spoke before nearly 14,000 persons jamming Kiel Auditorium here. He addressed the convention of the International Association of Machinists (AFL-CIO).

Vice President Richard M. Nixon, Kennedy's GOP rival, was scheduled to address the convention today. After Kennedy spoke, the hall broke into a tumultuous demonstration like those at political conventions. Several hundred IAM delegates paraded on the floor carrying placards with Kennedy's picture above cards denoting their union locals. They clustered in front of the stage while a resounding chant went up of "We Want Kennedy."

Charge Renewed
In an attack on the Eisenhower administration's economic and social policies, Kennedy renewed his charge that the GOP is a "party which, for half a century, has opposed every single progressive measure designed to improve human welfare and reduce human misery."

Kennedy spoke before moving to the vital political hunting grounds of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Buffalo Judge Rates Trees 'High'
Buffalo, N.Y.—Trees in Buffalo really come "high," Richard Dejac discovered in city court.

Judge Michael E. Zimmer gave Dejac a suspended fine of \$250, put him on six months' probation and ordered him to make restitution to the city for the tree he admitted cutting down in front of his home. The city forestry division estimated it would cost \$175 to replace the tree.

Dejac said he cut it down because "neighbors had parties under it all day and half the night."

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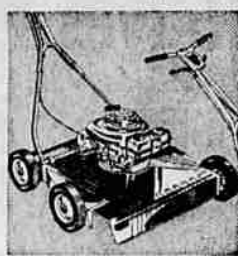
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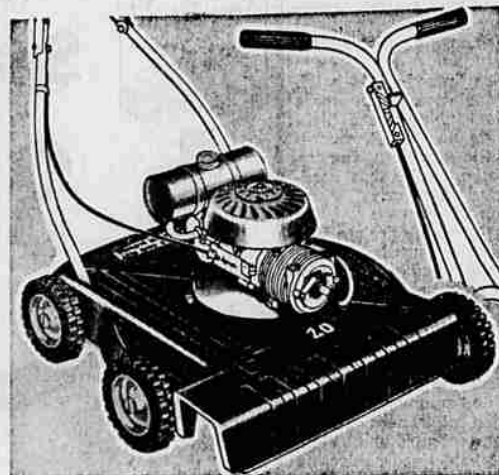
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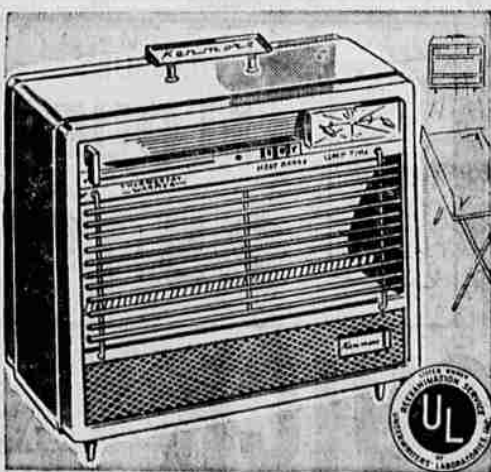


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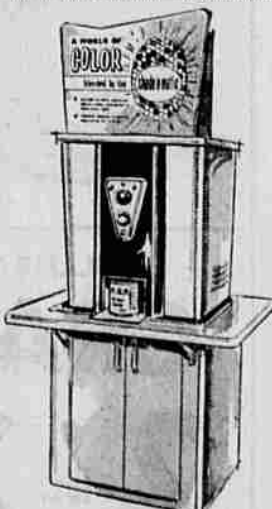
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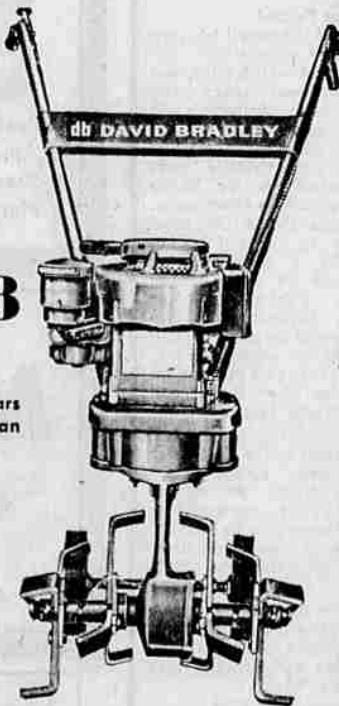
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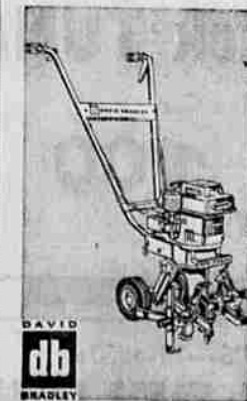


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