

How Home Rule Would Help County Discussed at Session

How can home rule help the operation of Jackson county government?

This was the question County Judge Earl Miller and County Commissioner Ralph James attempted to answer when they spoke before the Jackson county home rule committee this week in the meeting room of the Public Library of Medford and Jackson county.

Both Miller and James thought county government

could be improved under home rule. Miller said some officers should be appointed and James did not.

"Political parties will not turn loose of their hold on government at the grass roots," James said. "If county officials are appointed you will never get them out of office."

Handle Own Problems
Judge Miller defined home rule as the transfer of control

from the state to the county so the county can handle its own problems.

James agreed wholeheartedly with Miller's recommendation for central county purchasing and personnel departments. Miller would not say whether creation of such an office or offices would place hiring and firing of all county personnel directly in the hands of the county court or the county administrative office.

The county judge pointed out that county government now is big business. The county roads department alone purchases equipment and material every year costing thousands of dollars.

Outlines Needs
Outlining needs of a county government which could be provided under home rule, the county judge set forth these points:

Establishment of a board of supervisors, commission or continuance of the present county court form of administration for coordination and focus of responsibility in county government, coordination or possible combination of some offices to save money, general purchasing and personnel departments or a combination of the two, further state legislation to assist county home rule, power of Bancrofting or levying bonds for local improvements, contract with municipalities for such services as water and sewers to outlying areas, need for a county legal counsel.

Pointing out the need for county control over its own problems and their solutions, Miller noted that over half of the county population lives outside city boundaries.

County government originally was set up to administer to agricultural residents. Now it administers to large suburban areas which require services similar to those of the cities to which they are more closely tied.

Legal Counsel
"Full time legal counsel is needed to be responsible to the county's people for county business," Miller urged. "This would be in addition to the present district attorney's office which has a full time job handling criminal and civil cases. Such a counsel should be an appointive job."

than appointed career officers could insure long range planning.

More counties have not adopted home rule because of legal technicalities, it was explained.

The Jackson county legislative delegation will be asked to make another appointment to the committee to replace Medford druggist Gordon Hudson, who has resigned due to pressure of business, Committee Chairman M. S. Thomas Rutter said.

Miller noted that the county administers to 2,817 square miles of area outside the cities and 32,772 suburban or rural residents.

James reported that the Association of Oregon Counties will release a model charter in October. James said during the recent AOC home rule committee meeting, which he attended, he learned that a few counties studying home rule favored the county manager system. Most counties making the study favored a board of supervisors.

Answering questions, Judge Miller said a home rule form of government would probably be more expensive, but that the people would receive more value per dollar spent. The county might even find itself in the streets and sewers business to help outlying areas and unincorporated cities, he said.

Long Range Planning
James said long range planning could be set up in the charter and county officials would have to follow charter stipulations regardless of different people with different ideas being elected to office. Members of the county home rule committee asked if other

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Upper Columbia Development Negotiators Said Agreed on Report; Formal Treaty Seen

Ottawa—(UPI) American and Canadian negotiators agreed Wednesday on a "progress report" to their respective governments embodying detailed recommendations on the development of the Upper Columbia River Basin.

Spokesmen said they were "very optimistic" the report would result in a formal

treaty between the two nations and a start on construction by 1961.

Announcement of agreement on the report came after a 5½ hour session Wednesday, winding up the seventh negotiating session in nine months.

Points Covered
Among the points covered

by it, the spokesmen said, were projects to be constructed, construction priorities, distribution of downstream benefits and operational administration.

Agreement on the report brought a new climax to discussions that started almost a decade ago on development of the vast Columbia system which originates in British Columbia and winds its way across the international border and through the Pacific Northwest states. It has long been agreed that such development offered tremendous power and flood control benefits to both sides.

Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

New York—A British spokesman, declining to say how tonight's meeting between British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and Soviet Premier Khrushchev was arranged: "Like Topsy, it just grew."

New York—Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, asked what he thought would be the result of the General Assembly meetings: "You know how it is with peasants. In the spring they plant seeds. In the fall they gather the harvest. It would be very primitive of you to expect results immediately."

Havana—Fidel Castro, denouncing New York City police for their handling of the crowds of demonstrators who gathered to protest or acclaim him in New York: "The real heroes of the revolution this minute are the Cubans who live up there in the brutal and violent north."

China Lake, Calif.—Amateur missileman Marshall Kriesel, 20, reacting just like a pro to the failure of his 11-foot home-made rocket because of a faulty fuel tank: "The bird's still all right. I can fix it for another try."

Rebuttal Witnesses In Dr. Finch Trial

Los Angeles—(UPI)—Final rebuttal witnesses were called today in the second Finch-Tregoff murder trial which is drawing to a close.

Testimony in the retrial of Dr. R. Bernard Finch, 43, and Carole Tregoff, 23, was expected to be concluded today with final arguments to follow.

Chances were the jury of 11 women and one man would be able to begin deliberations on the first degree murder charges by the end of next week or the week after.

The prosecution has stated that as in the first trial it would demand the death sentence for Finch and his mistress, Carole, on charges they plotted the gunshot slaying of the surgeon's wife, Barbara.

The first trial ended March 12 in a hung jury.

Many Children Found Needing Ear Attention

Portland—(UPI)—The State Board of Health said today that one out of every 25 Oregon school children tested during the past year required medical attention for loss of hearing.

Dr. Richard Wilcox, state health officer, said that hearing loss in children often is easily overlooked by parents and teachers with a danger of the loss becoming permanent.

999 Gaming Stamps Issued in Portland

Portland—(UPI)—Federal tax stamps covering 999 gaming devices were issued by the Internal Revenue Bureau here for the year ending June 30, a spokesman said today.

The stamps, which cost \$250 each, are required for any machine which will reward the player by token, cash or merchandise. Some devices, particularly slot machines, are illegal in Oregon but not under federal law.

SPORTSMAN DIES

Philadelphia—(UPI)—Walter J. Jeffords, 77, millionaire sportsman and turfman, died Wednesday.

HUNTERS

Prepare for hunting season now—flashlight batteries at Regal stations are now only 13c, regular 20c value (2LP). Limited supply so hurry. Sale begins Friday (Sept. 30) A.M.

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