

# Introduction of Education Bills Suggested

Regional Edition

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### UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWS RISE

#### 4.5 Million Out Of December Jobs For 20-Year High

Washington - UPI - Unemployment shot up to 4,540,000 last month, the highest December jobless level in 20 years, the government reported today.

From November to December, the number of persons out of work jumped by 509,000, which was three times more than the normal.

The Labor Department also disclosed in its monthly report on the job situation that in the last week of December about three million persons were collecting unemployment insurance, the greatest number ever for a Christmas week.

The big December rise lifted the national jobless rate to 6.8 per cent compared to 6.3 per cent in November. This meant that 68 out of every 1,000 men, women and teenagers in the labor force were looking for jobs last month.

**Kennedy Faces Problem**  
The December jobless figure made it virtually certain that when President-elect John F. Kennedy takes office Jan. 20, there will be about 5.5 million Americans unemployed.

Economists consider an unemployment rate above 5 per cent a symptom of weakness in the economy, January usually sees unemployment go up by about one million.

The total number of job holders dropped by 1,173,000 in December, a greater than seasonal decline.

The report showed that the number of jobs declined in December in all 21 manufacturing industry groups tabulated by the Labor Department.

Manufacturing employment last month totaled 15,846,000. This was 288,000 less than in November and 638,000 jobs less than December, 1959.

Commenting on the upward trend of joblessness since last May, Seymour Wolfbein, deputy assistant secretary of labor, said: "The real brunt of this is being taken by the factory production worker."

He said that from a peak last February, the number of jobs in steel, one of the weakest industries in the latter part of 1960, dropped by 200,000.

More recently, auto workers have been laid off following a high rate of production early in the autumn. Further cutbacks and probably layoffs are scheduled for January.

**Price Says Agriculture Hurt by Surpluses**  
Salem - UPI - Dean F. E. Price of the Oregon State college school of agriculture said Thursday that all of agriculture has been hurt by farm surpluses "but we must move into the problem of agricultural adjustments intelligently."

Price, director of OSC's agricultural extension service, addressed Oregon dairymen.



#### Indian Woman, 105, Is Now in Ashland

Amanda Cowen, 105, of Chiloquin, Ore., attributes her long life to being a Christian, never drinking or smoking, and praying before each meal and at bedtime. At 105, Mrs. Cowen is one of the oldest living persons on the earth. She is a full-blooded Klamath Indian.

She is currently confined to bed, seriously ill. Mrs. Edna Boyd, 105 Bush st., Ashland, her granddaughter, says Mrs. Cowen doesn't recognize members of her own family now.

Mrs. Cowen has witnessed much of the history of Oregon. She has outlived most of her children and has played an important role in helping preserve the Klamath Indian language and legends.

Mrs. Cowen's age is verified by the U. S. government. The Indian affairs branch of the department of the interior in Portland has records of Klamath births and they show Amanda was born in 1855, on what is now the Klamath Indian reservation near Beatty, Ore. Her name then was Amanda Jim.

#### Shooting Sends Man To Hospital

Harold Charles Burnette, 28, Gold Hill, is in critical condition at Medford's Sacred Heart hospital after being shot in the neck at about 2 o'clock this morning in Gold Hill.

Jackson county sheriff's deputies said Burnette, Nellie Leona Donwody, 37, and Ralph Littlefield, all of Gold Hill, were examining a rifle when it discharged. The shooting occurred at Miss Donwody's home on 10th st., outside the city limits. The home is situated on a hill above the Hanby school.

Sheriff's deputies said Miss Donwody was holding the weapon when it went off, striking Burnette in the neck. He was rushed to the hospital and was still undergoing surgery shortly before noon today.

The woman has been taken into custody by the sheriff's department for questioning about the shooting. She has been charged with pointing a weapon at another person, deputies said. Littlefield is also being questioned, they said.

#### Indoor Activities Program Scheduled

Indoor recreation programs will start tomorrow at five schools in Medford. City Recreation Supervisor Ken Lyons said today.

Schools participating in the program are Howard, McLoughlin Junior High, Wilson, Washington and Hoover.



### Sharp Protest Fails as House OKs Measure

Salem - UPI - A measure to repay legislators for out-of-pocket expenses passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 42-18 this morning - but only after Rep. George Layman, R-Newberg, labeled the proposal a "subterfuge" in a sharp speech of protest on the House floor.

Rep. Clarence Barton, D-Corvallis, led the supporters of the measure, and denied that it was an indirect method of increasing salaries, a plan that voters defeated last May.

Layman conceded present legislators' pay was "grossly inadequate, as everyone knows."

"But we are bound, if not legally, at least morally to the vote of the people," he told the House, "we must not play games with the voter and play with words."

**Transient Pleads Guilty To Charge Of Armed Robbery**  
Thomas Ernest Smoot, 57-year-old transient charged with the armed robbery of a Safeway store here, pleaded guilty in circuit court yesterday afternoon. His case was continued pending receipt of an FBI report.

An FBI report said he did not desire a pre-sentence investigation, Circuit Judge Edward C. Kelly said armed robbery could bring a life sentence in the state penitentiary. A thorough pre-sentence investigation is warranted in such a case, he said.

Smoot is charged with the robbery of the former Safeway store at 130 North Bartlett st. on Dec. 2. He was apprehended by Medford police near the store a few minutes after the crime. He had a revolver and a sack stuffed with \$599 in currency when arrested.

Imposition of sentence was suspended for three years on Francis Brown, 20, Gold Hill, charged with burglary not in a dwelling.

He was charged specifically with the burglary of 18 when \$5 was taken. He had also admitted to other burglaries and thefts in Jackson county and the state. Judge Kelly ordered Brown to make restitution and pay any damages.

#### New High Recorded In Employment

Salem - UPI - General employment in Oregon set a new high record in 1960 and employers subject to unemployment tax payments reached an all-time high, the Oregon Employment Department said Thursday.

Employment Director David Cameron said in a year-end summary that 737,900 jobs in Oregon last August shattered the old peak of 724,000 in August, 1959.

#### Four Vessels Lost, One Man Dead, Six Missing in Heavy Seas Off River Mouth

Astoria, Ore. - UPI - Mountainous seas off the mouth of the Columbia river today smashed a rescue attempt that left one man dead, six missing and feared drowned and four missing vessels lost.

Four of the missing men were coast guardsmen. One man washed ashore on the beach alive.



QUESTIONED—Robert Kennedy, brother of President-elect John F. Kennedy, appeared before the Senate judiciary committee this morning to be questioned on his nomination to be attorney general in the new administration. At left is Sen. Benjamin Smith, D-Mass., who has taken over John Kennedy's seat in the Senate. The committee approved without objection the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy as attorney general. (UPI Telephoto)

### 60 Appropriation Bills Introduced Into House Today

Salem - UPI - More than 60 appropriation bills, at least half of the measures needed to carry out Gov. Mark Hatfield's \$359 million two-year budget, hit the floor of the House today.

At the same time, a resolution was introduced to lower the voting age in Oregon from 21 to 18. It is sponsored by Rep. Katherine Musa, D-The Dalles, and others. A similar measure last session failed to reach the floor. The change would require a constitutional amendment.

The 62 budget bills were introduced by the ways and means committee, where they will return for extensive committee probe into Hatfield's budget requests.

Another set of bills, calling for tax revisions, was introduced at the request of the state tax commission. One of these would permit taxation of plants and crops growing on agricultural land.

**Other Tax Measures**  
Other tax measures would authorize taxation of both intrastate and interstate business carried on by the same corporation, authorize action by the attorney general in net income tax recovery cases, define employers for withholding purposes, and require patrons of cooperatives to include such earnings and savings in income reports.

Six measures drafted by the interim committee on highways were introduced. Among them were proposals to set a \$25 fee for common and contract carrier permits, a \$25 fee for special mobile equipment, and a 25-cent service charge for vehicle registration.

The student driver training fund would be increased from \$30,000 to \$40,000 under a bill introduced by Rep. W. O. Kelsay, D-Roseburg.

Kelsay also sponsored a bill to set up safety regulations for boilers and pressure vessels.

**WEATHER**  
Forecast: Cloudy with occasional rain tonight. Partial clearing and showers Saturday. Snow level about 2,500 feet. Low tonight 31. High Saturday 38-42.  
TEMPERATURE  
Highest Yesterday 46  
Lowest This Morning 12  
New Month 16  
To 10 a.m. Today 01

**Our Skies Tonight**  
Sunset today - 3:07 p.m.  
Sunrise tomorrow - 7:25 a.m.  
Moonrise tomorrow - 5:08 a.m.  
New Moon - Jan. 16

**Visible Planets**  
Venus low in west - 8:25 p.m.  
Mars high in south - 10:53 p.m.  
Jupiter low about 35 miles north from the earth. Mars is about 40 million miles away.

### Mayor Snider Vetoes Ordinance For Bus Benches

Medford today vetoed a city council ordinance that would have given the Crater Bench company a one-year franchise to place bus waiting benches in the city.

In a rare use of his veto power, Mayor Snider said: "Although I believe in the comfort and convenience afforded by well placed street benches, I cannot in good conscience approve of the use of commercial advertising to attain them."

### Committees Meet For Taste of New Finance Methods

#### Equalized Flat Grant Most Explosive Bill

Salem - UPI - The Senate and House Education committees met first Thursday and got their first taste of a revolutionary new way to finance public elementary and high schools in Oregon.

The joint group asked for swift introduction of 29 bills recommended by the interim committee on education, with finance and transportation measures going to the Senate and the rest to the House.

Most explosive bill is one to create an "equalized flat grant" (EFG) system of distributing state aid to public schools. Purpose is to equalize the school tax burden but a number of legislators have expressed concern that it adversely affects their individual districts.

Rep. Carrol Howe, R-Klamath Falls, said the proposed system would result in a \$198,000 loss of state aid to Klamath county.

**Oppose "All Way"**  
Howe, a former superintendent of the Klamath County School District, said he will oppose EFG "all the way" in its present form.

A second major bill would increase basic school support by 6 per cent, bringing the state's share of local school costs to 42 per cent or about \$61 million a year.

Thirteen measures were introduced in the House Thursday, one an AFL-CIO request bill calling for a \$1.25 an hour minimum wage.

Thirteen bills were introduced in the Senate including one covering most of Gov. Mark Hatfield's cabinet government plan. Sponsors are Sens. Walter J. Pearson, D-Portland, and Anthony Yturri, R-Ontario.

The measure, consolidating many agencies, would create six "cabinet" departments—labor, social services, commerce, and transportation, public safety and natural resources, and utilities.

**Tax Commission Out**  
A seventh new department would be revenue-going away with the state tax commission. The Senate's 22-7 override of Hatfield's veto last session of an industrial accident change is not expected to have much support in the house.

The Senate has a Democratic edge of 20-10 but House Democrats enjoy only a two vote majority, 31-29. The vetoed bill would allow injured workers to choose their own doctor and have the state pay for it.

### Planning Group Elects Officers

Jack Edison was elected chairman of the Medford city planning of the commission last night. He will succeed Paul Selby, whose term on the commission expired last year.

Harold Snodgrass was elected vice chairman. One new commission member, Larry Horton, was present at last night's meeting. Another new member, Walter Higgins, was unable to attend.

Horton and Higgins are replacing Selby and Terry Green whose terms of office have expired. The two new members will each serve a four-year term.

Other commission members are Donald Walters, Elwood Hedberg Jr., and Charles Crary.

Charleston, S. C. - UPI - Two destroyers engaged in maneuvers off the North Carolina coast collided early today, the Navy announced. No one was injured, but both ships were damaged.

### Bengtson Case Now In Hands of Jury

Grants Pass - Final arguments in the O. H. Bengtson trial in Josephine county circuit court were presented this morning and after instructions by Judge Orval Millard, the jury retired this afternoon at 12:05 for deliberation.

In final arguments by the defense, Attorney Richard Carney, Portland, accused the state of trying to distract the jury with side issues and to shift the burden of proof. He said that the case involved one person's word against another.

Instructions to the jury lasted about 35 minutes. During the trial proceedings Carney had made five motions for mistrial and two motions for direct judgments of acquittal. They were all denied.

A surrebuttal by the defense Thursday afternoon preceded arguments in the trial charging Bengtson, Medford lawyer and former secretary of the Medford Escrow company, with embezzling \$1,700 from the firm.

Bengtson was recalled to testify by the defense following the noon recess. He identified two checks he had received from two insurance companies and an envelope and letter which was reported to have been left on his desk May 1, 1960, by Mrs. Rachel Peterson Carter.

The defendant also testified that when Mrs. Carter did not report for work May 1 at the Medford Escrow company he discovered the company's account "down to \$1,200" and made arrangements to borrow \$20,000 from a sister in St. Louis, Mo.

Asked by Carney why he felt he should put his money into the company to cover the shortages, Bengtson started to cry.

He stated that "a large percentage of the Escrow clients were my clients. I have trusted that girl (Mrs. Carter) as I would a sister. My first thought was to protect those clients until I could get further into it and see what the situation was."

The defendant further testified that he discussed the matter with District Attorney Thomas J. Reeder on May 9, 1960, who, he said, suggested that he contact the Medford city police as more information was obtained.

At the close of the surrebuttal Carney moved for a judgment of acquittal. During final arguments by the state, Paul Haviland, special prosecutor, mentioned that Mrs. Carter received nothing for writing the \$1,700 check on the Medford Escrow company account and depositing it in Bengtson's personal account. He said that Bengtson's actions immediately after Mrs. Carter left the firm were not "normal." These included contacting his attorney in Eugene, borrowing \$20,000, contacting a certified public accountant and the district attorney.

He mentioned the specific lack of information as to a purchase contract for the Escrow company and accused Bengtson of "hiding behind a woman's skirt."

Approximately 40 persons have been attending the trial sessions since it got underway Jan. 5. A vote of at least 10 to 2 is required for the jury of eight women and three men to return a guilty or innocent verdict.

### Realtor Talks With Court About Stadium Proposal

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John Weisbrod, Medford realtor, made a vigorous, but apparently futile attempt, to convince the county court this morning that Jackson county should have a large athletic stadium. Weisbrod urged the county court to put the \$413,000 stadium proposal before the county budget committee when it meets this spring. County Judge Earl Miller suggested Weisbrod put the proposition before the committee himself.

The realtor said it is necessary to have borrow pits for Pacific freeway construction and one large borrow pit in the general location of the present ball park south of Medford would be sufficient for this section. The excavation would form the base for the stadium, he explained.

Robert Hunter, representing Houck and Sons Construction company, Salem, suggested that such a borrow pit be made available to all of the highway contractors, not one. He questioned the \$15,000 total price of the fill material which Weisbrod said could be removed from the pit, but seemed to think it was a fair price after Weisbrod explained his reasoning. He said he did not know Weisbrod was going to appear before the court, but had come to find out about the proposed borrow pit after reading Weisbrod's proposal in the Mail Tribune recently. All the contractors are scouting for borrow pits or fill material now, he said.