



By Marguerite W. Wright

Gov. Mark Hatfield's knock-out-drag-out fight with the State Public Welfare Commission has burst upon the Oregon Legislature and the public - as predicted in this column two weeks ago.

Much is at stake in the outcome of this very serious dispute.

Probed and powerful men have taken public positions from which it will be difficult to retreat.

Of these, the governor, who made known his wish to get rid of four members of the commission (who have refused to resign) at the same time he announced his "definite" intention to run for reelection next year, has the most to gain - or lose.

His decision to condemn Oregon's welfare administration at a time when many Oregonians are "on welfare," appears to be a calculated risk designed mainly to get the public stirred up in favor of Hatfield's government reorganization plan which is now in the hands of the legislators.

The governor's appeal to the public to rally to his support came in a press release at the end of the Legislature's third week. It includes the following paragraph:

"I call upon all citizens who have knowledge of welfare abuses to contact their legislators, the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate. I believe the Legislature is the only place corrections can be achieved in view of the present administrative chaos and the shackles on the Governor."

This poignant picture of the governor in shackles surrounded by administrative chaos contains some background color which may explain why the chief executive of a sovereign state feels he must resort to such dramatics in order to win over the first major threat to his heretofore almost unchallenged position.

Here are some angles to help clarify a muddled situation:

1. Reorganization of Oregon's government from a system of semi-independent boards and commissions (loosely coordinated within the executive department) to a system of cabinet officers dominated by a strong chief executive, is one of the major issues before this Legislature.

2. Support for much of the Hatfield plan already has come from the top Democratic leadership including former Gov. Robert D. Holmes, House Speaker Robert B. Duncan, former Senate President Walter Pearson, Democratic State Chairman Robert Straub, Sen. Alfred Corbett, and others.

3. Opposition to some key points in the Hatfield plan is being heard from some of the top Republican leadership, including State Treasurer Howard Belton, Secretary of State Howell Appling, and others.

4. The Democrats' challenge to Hatfield to round up Republican support for the reorganization program is an embarrassment, especially when the Legislature is controlled by Democrats and only as much of Hatfield's own program will pass as the Democrats allow to pass.

5. Rather than have his reorganization plan remain at the mercy of the Democrats and Republican legislators who are under pressure from both sides, it would be much more expedient and politic if the governor could arouse great public interest in and support of his program. The most stubborn lawmaker will tremble before an avalanche

of letters from his constituents! 6. But it is hard to get people excited about something that seems so far away from home as the dimly understood governmental set-up. The average Oregon citizen is about as much concerned about the bureaucratic organization of his government as the average soldier is concerned about the chain of command at the Pentagon; it all seems too remote and impersonal. At that distance, who knows the good guys from the bad?

7. The welfare commission, whoever its members may be, is not a popular image. Hard-working citizens usually bear an instinctive resentment at having their tax money used to support other people who are not working - regardless of the reason for such unemployment, whether they be a depressed economy, illness, old age, or sheer perversity and laziness. It dies hard: the old unreasoning suspicion that poverty is a sin and unemployment is a result of lack of initiative and hard work by the unemployed. This feeling of resentment is easily transferred to welfare workers, social workers, and other "do-gooders." Hence, "nobody likes the welfare commission." Hence, he who criticizes the welfare commission has a good chance of getting automatic support from the public. (Welfare recipients are not likely to come to the defense of the hand that feeds them.)

8. Time and again, the governor and his staff have indicated that the problem with the welfare commission is an example of "what is wrong" with the whole present governmental board-and-commission system which Hatfield wants changed.

9. Once people have accepted the idea that the welfare commission is at fault for everything, it will be fairly easy to accept the idea that the governor's plan is right.

10. And if the public responds to the governor's plea to "do something about" the welfare situation by applying pressure on the Legislature, the battle may be half over.

11. This, admittedly an oversimplification of an extremely complex situation, explains why saner heads among the legislators fear that the welfare commission duel may endanger basically desirable government reorganization legislation by bringing in raw, tough politics.

12. However, the blow-up was bound to happen, and perhaps it is better for the public to know what it's all about than to remain in the dark while wrangling continues behind the scenes, as it has for months.

13. Welfare commission members whom the governor said he had asked to resign (all four appointees of ex-Gov. Holmes and three of them Democrats), expressed "shock" at the headlines. Three of them said it was all news to them! All of them indicated they had no intentions of resigning. (They can't be fired except for "cause," which might lead to court tangles.)

14. Governor Hatfield said their basic disagreement was over "welfare philosophy." Commission members said they had never been adequately informed about the governor's welfare philosophy. They said they didn't know what he wanted them to do.

15. There has been a breakdown in communications, one member said, meaning there has been no direct contact between the governor and the

commission in months. Commission members did not feel that contact with Hatfield's undertakings was a satisfactory substitute for a real understanding with the governor himself.

16. An illustration of the lack of understanding is that both sides (governor and commission members) claim credit for originating certain programs which have proved popular with the public.

17. One is the program to give county jobs (cleaning up roadsides, etc.) to able-bodied welfare recipients. Hatfield said he wanted this program but that the commission "dragged its heels" in putting it into effect.

18. According to the minutes of commission meetings, the work program was proposed at a meeting June 26, 1959, by Commissioner Gerson Goldsmith (one of those Hatfield wants to get rid of). The commission sent out "neutral" letters to county welfare departments about this program, giving both advantages and disadvantages as revealed in other states, and left the decision of going ahead with the counties.

19. Some counties did go ahead. The governor says the "work projects were undertaken only after my insistence."

20. Hatfield also says he sparked the move to get federal surplus food to needy Oregon families. On Jan. 13, this year, a Portland paper quoted the governor as saying the welfare commission had thrown up "road blocks" in the way of distributing surplus foods. Yet, the commission's records say that the first word from the governor to the commission in regard to the surplus food program was a letter dated Jan. 17, 1961, written by the governor after U.S. Rep. Edith Green said she wasn't using surplus food for welfare recipients.

21. Wherever the truth may lie, the main fact now is that both work programs and surplus food distribution are the coming thing in Oregon. Food, such as butter, corn meal, flour, dried milk and rice, will be brought to Portland at the federal government's expense and then transported around the state at the counties' expense.

22. Cost estimates of distribution (including handling, packaging, record-keeping, etc.) vary from less than one per cent of the wholesale value of the food up to 10 per cent - depending upon figures from different states. It's possible that the distribution work could be part of the welfare "work for relief" program, especially if women come under that program, or that volunteer agencies may aid in food distribution.

Five-Year Plan For Teachers Hit

Salem - (UPI) - Rep. Carroll Howe (R-Klamath Falls) said Monday HB 1056 that would require a five-year training period for elementary teachers would result in discouraging youngsters from middle and low income families from entering the teaching profession.

This would add to the present shortage of grade school teachers, he said, and also create a number of "sub-standard" certificates now in the hands of present elementary teachers.

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Surplus food cannot be used as a substitute for welfare food allotments already made; it is a supplement or addition to such allotments. That means that many Oregon children who now are not getting an adequate diet for health and growth, because welfare allowances have not been increased enough to meet rising costs of food, will have a chance to get more and better food.

The reason food allowances were not increased per family is because the number of families needing welfare aid increased; there was only so much money to go around and it had to be spread out thinner. A rise in unemployment in Oregon has meant that those already on welfare have to tighten their belts still further.

(This situation is another issue between the governor and the commission. The governor favors a "closed-end" welfare budget which limits the amount of money available; the commission favors an "open-end" budget which maintains certain minimum standards of aid and allotments, regardless of the increase in welfare cases.)

Commission members are worried that publicity about this intra-governmental dispute will harm Oregon's entire welfare program, as well as seriously hurt morale of the understaffed and underpaid welfare department.

Governor Hatfield says, "A democracy functions best when its citizenry is alert to abuses, violations and miscarriages of justice. Knowledge of these instances must be made known to responsible officials who will have the courage to act."

Bills Approved By Senate, House

Salem - (UPI) - Measures approved Monday: SB59 - Sen. Yurri and others; making three volumes of Oregon law duplicate originals.

SB135 - Oregon employees association; retirement. SB154 - Public employees retirement system - rights of beneficiaries.

SCR2 - Legislative rules. By the House: HB1053 - Rep. Van Hoornesen; penalties for false swearing.

HB1062 - Rep. Layman; business names. HB1112 - Rep. Whelan; contracting by port of Portland. Signed by the governor.

HB2001 - Finance department allotments.

Banker's Daughter Awaiting Sentence

Stoux City, Iowa - (UPI) - Mrs. Burnice Geiger, 58, confessed embezzler of more than \$2 million, calmly pleaded guilty Monday to 35 counts of embezzling funds from her father's bank.

The banker's daughter, speaking in a clear, distinct voice, solemnly replied "guilty" 35 times as federal Dist. Atty. F. E. Van Alstine read off the list of charges.

Sentence was delayed pending investigation and Mrs. Geiger was returned to the Woodbury County jail where she has been held since Jan. 16, steadfastly refusing to post the \$10,000 bond under which she was held.

She could be sentenced to a 175-year prison term since each count carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a \$5,000 fine or both.

4-H News

The Griffin Creek Dairy club held its first meeting Jan. 26, at the home of the leader, Ed Goodwin.

The meeting was called to order by President Marthanne Goodwin. We elected officers. They are president, Marthanne Goodwin; vice president, Steve Clark; secretary and reporter, Margaret Goodwin, and junior leader, Peppi Clark. We set goals for the coming year.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served. The next meeting will be held at the home of Peppi Clark on Madrona lane, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Margaret Goodwin, Reporter

Phoenix Saddlelites The Phoenix Saddlelites 4-H club held an executive board meeting at the home of Verna Adams in Griffin Creek recently.

Plans were discussed for the meetings in 1961. The new leader, Gale Hammond, attended, as did her advisor, Sharkey Anderson of Phoenix.

Other officers for the new year include Verna Adams, Griffin Creek, president; John Hughes, Medford, vice president; Donna Welch, Jacksonville, secretary; Sue Griffin, Jacksonville, reporter; and Chris Prentice, Medford, junior leader.

All members are urged to attend the next regular meeting Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Verna Adams' residence.

Sue Griffin, Reporter

Prior Unmet Needs in County Being Met, Inter-Agency Told

Many of the 11 needs unmet in Jackson county in 1958, when the Jackson County Inter-Agency Council was established, have been met or are being met, Mrs. Laura Porter, council chairman, reported at the group's annual meeting recently.

Representatives of 18 organizations attended the meeting, at which a program for the year was outlined.

Mrs. Porter reviewed the history of the Council, noting that it was established in 1958 in an effort to acquaint organizations with the limitations and policies of various agencies to promote intelligent referral and counseling of persons needing assistance and guidance.

The Council, she said, is in the process of revising its directory of social welfare services, which was first published after the Council was organized. Financing for publishing the revised edition is being sought, she added.

Reviews Unmet Needs Mrs. Porter reviewed the 11 unmet needs in the county in 1958. They included lack of financial support for existing social services; a need for medical care for marginally indigent persons not eligible for help from welfare or veterans' benefits; a need for a qualified person to collect information about needy persons relevant to Christmas basket distribution, and giving by groups in the area; and the need for special services for children.

Other unmet needs in 1959 included: lack of a traveler's aid agency; lack of a substantial winter payroll and social problems relating to the community; a need for vocational training facility for young people with apprenticeship opportunity with compensation; a need for city or county park and year-round recreation program; a need for cooperation between employers of migratory workers and the community to help seasonal workers find a satisfactory life here and to help the community accept them; a need for greater rehabilitation

program and facilities for physically disabled persons not taken care of by existing programs, and the need for a family counseling service.

Mrs. Porter pointed out that since the list was drawn up, many of the needs have been, or are being, met.

Lindsay Vinsel, director of adult education for the Medford public schools, reviewed the vocational training program conducted by the school, and Capt. William Rieken of the Salvation Army explained the Christmas bureau project handled by the bureau.

Explained Next Meeting The family counselling service will be explained by Thomas Goff at the next meeting, and Jim Sullivan will review the parks and recreation program in the area.

A list of new or different unmet needs in the county was asked for by the Inter-Agency Council. The next Council meeting will be in the Red Cross building Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Attending the recent meeting were representatives from the United Methodist Church, Salvation Army, YMCA, social security administration, board of parole and probation,

juvenile department, the child guidance and family counseling clinic, the Jackson county health department, Medford public schools, the county extension service, Southern Oregon college, Washington school PTA, Hedrick Junior High school PTA, the Jackson County Council of PTAs, the city coordinating council of PTAs, the Medford Ministerial association, the Red Cross and the welfare commission.

(One out of 647,700) of Oregon's wage-earners - mildly stimulated by our recent ads - had this to say:



"Words, words, words! Sure, let's tell the world about Oregon. But while you're sweet-talking new industry into the state, let's don't forget our Oregon job-makers like the guys I work for. Why dontcha' run an ad saluting my company? Look, in just 12 short years, we've....."

OK, OK, OK - don't get excited! We understand how you feel and we agree. After all, we employ a few (6,087) people ourselves, and we've been Oregonians since Lewis and Clark. We'd be daft to suggest that anyone forget the job-makers who are already here. We agree that the first essential to growth is to "start with what you have." Attracting new industries (and new people) is important because it brings balance into the economic base of our community, and - in our book - industry that is already here deserves top billing, too. We have aimed most of our whimsical newspaper drum-beating at getting new people and new industries into Oregon because Oregon needs tourists and industry. The job-makers who are already here are proud of Oregon, and are doing their own brand of promotion.

Your company probably is, too. No matter what size, every company plays an important role in Oregon's continued growth. Just for fun, here are three interesting-for-instances:

Omark Industries, Milwaukie. Founded in 1947 with four employees in the founder's basement. They now have more than 500 employees and make about 1/4 of all the world's sawchain, as well as related products.

Lamb-Weston Inc., Weston. Founded in 1934, they pioneered "Shelled-at-the-Plant" pea handling and dehydrating of peas, carrots, and diced potatoes, and extended agricultural output. Current peak employment is 1000 - exactly double the number of employees in 1955.

Holiday House Inc., Medford. Started in late 1959 with nothing more than an idea on how to make better vacation-type travel trailers. By the end of 1960, they employed 85 people and are starting production of an all fiberglass model.

Before you are tempted to sit down and write an irate letter asking why we didn't mention your great company, let us point out that these three firms were picked at random by Gus, our statistician. He picked them out of his Stetson with his eyes shut. But each of the unchosen ones - nonetheless - is an essential partner in the future of Oregon.

Cut this ad out and make a few points with your Boss. If you've got two Bosses (shudder), call your Telephone Business Office and we'll send you additional copies. And now, we'd better get back to work. Our phone is ringing.

P.S. Let's tell the world about Oregon!

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Mr. Insurance - Fred Brennan

BUY LOCALLY! KEEP PROFITS AT HOME!

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