

# Majority Sentiment Along Coast Favors Tidelands Oil Development

By DOUGLAS GRIPP  
UPI Correspondent  
While there is pro and con feeling along the Oregon coast about opening up the state's 940-square mile offshore lands for private oil and gas exploration majority sentiment seems to favor it, a survey by United Press International reveals.

The UPI check included businessmen, local government officials and others up and down the coast. The typical reaction was: enabling legislation is wanted, but with guarantees that no scenic or other aspect is impaired.

The legislature is working on such a law now. Comments ranged from strong enthusiasm to a minority stand that legislation be held up.

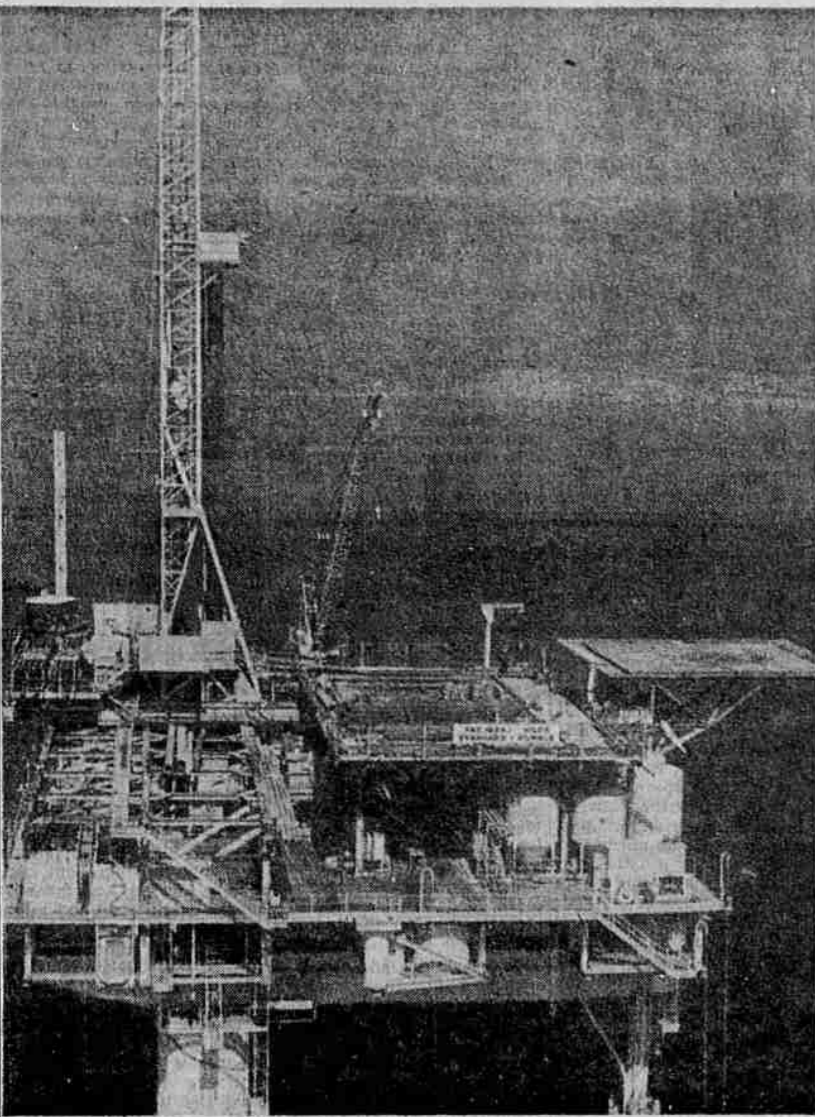
Oregon has 325 miles of coast, and all but about 51 miles are owned by the state. In 1913, Oregon passed a law putting the coast under state ownership. This property lies from ordinary high tide to low tide. The state also owns the ocean bottom three miles out to sea, 600,000 acres. The 51 private miles are owned by business concerns, cities and others.

**Real Estate Men Approve**  
William Manion, Gearhart real estate man, is all for oil exploration. "I'm not the least bit afraid," he said, "and I have a big stake in the coast," meaning property values.

Ed Eaton, who sells beach property in the "20 miracle miles" and is a member of the Oceanlake city council, agrees with this position and says "anything that expedites the development of Oregon and the economy is desirable." He has visited California and notes that Tidelands Oil has not hurt property values there.

The question he asked, however, is: "When they say offshore, how far offshore? Some people have visions of oil rigs on the sand."

**Out To Sea**  
In industry lingo, offshore is just that — off the beaches and out to sea, although early California operations were on some beaches before the state got around to regulating it. Public hearing procedure is included in Oregon's bill, to permit the state land board to grant "easements" across beaches. Such pipes, to carry the resource inland, would be buried under the sand.



**OIL PLATFORM**—Shown above is an offshore drilling platform at Summerland, Calif. When oil is discovered all structures are removed down to the first level. Similar structures would be erected off the Oregon coast if the proposed tidelands bills pass the legislature and are signed by the governor. Oil officials claim removal of the structure down to the first level would eliminate unsightly scenes from the coastline. (UPI Telephoto)

Clair E. Terry, Coos Bay motor hotel operator and restaurateur, said the policy "should be liberal" to encourage oil companies to come and look. He has traveled extensively in California, viewed Tideland operations there, and says oil and recreation

are "one-hundred per cent compatible." A Shell Oil Co. crew is now making a profile of the ocean floor off Oregon. Coos County Judge James W. Harrison notes that a president of the Oregon Coast association he would be a

logical person to hear strong fears about the proposal and says, "I haven't heard any." **Press Concur**  
The coast's two daily newspapers favor the legislation. Forest Amsden, editor of the Coos Bay World, said "I disagree with anyone who

says an oil rig visible offshore will drive tourists away. Industry is not going to hurt tourism and we need industry." Amsden said the legislation — with safeguards for the state — is a "must" in the current legislation.

Fred Andrus, editor of the Astorian Budget, said as long as the scenery is safe, it sounds "all for the good." Andrus agrees with the Coast Association stand which puts faith in the legislature to write in necessary safeguards. **Wouldn't Deter Uses**

Roger Duncan, Mayor of North Bend, said he would like to see the oil probe go forward "for the simple reason that it would not take away from other coastal uses."

Fernley W. Long of Gold Beach, Curry County Judge, owns 480 acres of land in Pacific County, Wash., and leases it for oil exploration. "Naturally I'd like to see oil pumping in the Northwest," he said, "as long as we keep the coast rugged and beautiful."

State oil revenue would go into the common school fund, meaning taxes could be lowered. Leslie Raw, Seaside hotelman, said: "Anything to lower taxes, I'm interested in."

Al Thelin, manager of the U. S. National bank in Coquille, would like to see exploration move "on the slow side." David Moffitt of Waldport, Lincoln County Com-

missioner, agrees, adding that the regulations should be stiff and the "tougher the better." Moffitt says the oil companies are rich and big and will "come in anyway."

The "go slow" faction seems to center in Tillamook county. County Judge Otto Effenger favors turning the issue over to an interim committee for study in 1962. "If

the oil is there, it's there," he says, "and we can't lose it."

**Thing of Past**  
Paul Hanneman, Pacific City resort operator, said "I'm a horse and buggy man. I would hate to see the sun go down behind an oil derrick." Oil companies say that in modern offshore operations, the ugly derrick is a thing of the past. Floating derricks are re-

used for drilling but are removed when a well comes in, leaving only a flat platform visible offshore, and that visible only on the clearest days.

The most frequent comment heard was summed up by Don Houghton, co-operator of the famed Sea Lion Caves in Lane county: "I'm uninformed, and I shouldn't be. But I'm very interested."

## Grange News

**Butte Falls Grange**  
The local Mothersingers presented a musical program of three numbers at a recent meeting of the Butte Falls Grange.

Included in the group were Mrs. William Hunter, Mrs. Dean Boggan, Mrs. Leonard Stratton, Mrs. Randal Perkins, Mrs. William Harris, Mrs. Don Jolliffe, Mrs. Henry Tygart, Mrs. Virgil Conley, Mrs. Charles Capello, and Mrs. Dale Smith. Dean Boggan, high school instructor, directed the performance, and Mrs. L. L. Meadows was the accompanist.

Miss Sherry Tygart and Steve Stratton entertained with piano solos.

Several hats were exhibited at the hat show. Three gifts of recognition were presented to Mrs. Stratton, Mrs. Earl Deen, and Leonard Stratton.

A crab feed will be held April 22. Proceeds will be

used for tile for the kitchen floor and paint for the dining area.

After the business meeting, a no-host social time was held with sandwiches, cookies, and coffee.

The next regular meeting will be held May 1, at 8 p.m. in the Community hall.

**Williams Grange**  
Williams — The Williams Grange held its regular meeting April 7 with Master W. W. Claypool officiating. Herb Rudd, district Grange insurance agent, was guest speaker and gave a general report on Grange insurance.

Youth group chairman, Miss Shirley Rippee, reported that the new group had held its first meeting. Games were played at the Grange hall and the Williams school gymnasium.

Age limit for the group is 14 to 35 years. Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

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