



By
Marguerite W. Wright

Well done, good and faithful servants," could be the average Oregonian's response to the 1961 Legislature after analysis of work accomplished.

Political science professors and some politicians, including Gov. Mark O. Hatfield (who is both a political science professor by trade and a politician by ambition), are not so pleased with the 51st session of the Legislature Assembly.

They think the Legislature failed miserably because it followed the advice of the Republican Secretary of State Howell Appling and refused to reorganize state government into a cabinet system led by a Strong Man governor.

Least happy of all are the liberal Democrats, who recognize that the Legislature bowed too frequently to the wishes of special interests such as the powerful utilities and the equally demanding timber and agriculture lobbies, and who fear that the Legislature's neglect to enact more liberal legislation will hurt the state as well as undermine the prestige and influence of the liberals.

But the average Oregon voter and taxpayer is not a political scientist, not a dedicated politician, and not, obviously, a liberal Democrat (if he were, Hatfield would not have been governor and the Senate would not have been in control of a Conservative Democratic - Republican coalition).

Interested Personally
No, the average Oregonian is most concerned about legislative action that will directly affect his way of life and his pocketbook.

That's why House Speaker Robert B. Duncan's feeling that the 1961 Legislature helped make Oregon a better place in which to live is the summation that comes closest to home.

The fact that the Legislature did not raise taxes and did act to lower property taxes (indirectly, by increasing state aid to schools) ought to be of foremost interest to the average Oregonian.

True, various schemes to decrease income taxes failed. This is balanced off by the fact that governmental services to the public were not only maintained at the former level but increased in some areas in accordance with citizens' demands.

The Legislature spent more money (appropriating some \$365.8 millions from the general fund) than ever before, but it kept the budget balanced and Oregon remains the only West Coast state still operating in the black.

Better Place to Work
During the 122-day session (second longest in history), law makers considered a record number of more than 1,400 bills and passed some 600 of them.

Some of the most important bills passed are expected to have a beneficial long-range effect on Oregon's economy, creating new jobs, leading to increased industrialization of a state long dependent on timber, farming, fishing and tourists for its payrolls.

These measures include appropriations for development of the Boardman Industrial park, the permission for off-coast oil exploration and a paper plant on the coast, authorization for construction of the Astoria bridge across the Columbia and for extensive highway construction and improvement including Highway 42, appropriations of more than \$5 million for state institution buildings including a new women's prison and of more than \$9.5 million for state higher education buildings, and permission for state Planning and Development department to accept federal grants for promotion of development.

Of all Oregonians, farmers received the best treatment at the hands of the 1961 Legislature. Here's what they got:
A new law to discourage unionization of farm laborers by preventing picketing of farms during harvest season except by employees of a farmer who have worked three days.

Revival of state Department of Agriculture milk price control as demanded by dairymen hard hit by a milk price drop.

Permission for suburban area real estate to be taxed as farm land instead of residential or industrial land.

A penalty of loss of fishing or hunting license when sportsmen cause malicious damage, such as breaking down a farmer's fences.

Continued tax exemptions

for deciduous trees and crops; tax exemptions for grazing rights on federal lands.

Better Education
Probably of most value to all of the people of Oregon, both in the near future and for many years to come, are the Legislature's far-sighted actions in the field of public education, including:

Increase of basic school support by the state to local districts from \$105 to \$115 per school child this year and to \$120 next year - thus helping property taxpayers who have protested the high cost of property tax - supported education. (State money for basic school support does not come from property taxes but out of the general fund which mostly comes from income tax revenue.)

The \$9.5 million appropriated for new buildings at state colleges and universities (including the newly named Oregon State university, formerly OSC, and including a start on a new campus for Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls.)

The \$1.7 million appropriation to begin community colleges in areas not now served by higher education facilities, e.g. Astoria, Coos Bay, Bend.

Better school programs for migrant children, gifted and retarded students.

More Scholarships
More state-financed college scholarships; more student loan funds.

A new graduate school of social work at Portland State college, which should result in more efficiently administered welfare programs in the future.

A 14 per cent salary raise for higher education faculties, which means Oregon will be able to keep many of its best teachers, upgrade education generally.

A strengthened State Board of Education, authorized to appoint the superintendent of public instruction (formerly elected), to accept private foundation grants, to prepare education television programs for classroom use.

A change in the school district reorganization law (allowing 50 per cent instead of 60 per cent of the voters to veto reorganization proposals) that may cut down on some of the more outspoken opposition to public education updating.

Permission for school districts to charge tuition for summer school classes.
Keeping the school starting

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7283



by Alice Brooks

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age for first-graders as it is so Mama won't have Junior underfoot another year (as was proposed in a bill that quickly died).

Among new laws passed that will contribute toward making Oregon a better place for the average family to live are these:

An average 10 per cent raise for state employees which will help reduce costly turnover and keep good public servants doing a good job.

A \$200,000 appropriation to begin community health clinics where men, women and children can get help that may prevent their need for hospitalization.

Tax exemptions for fallout shelters in homes as an encouragement to better civil defense preparation.

A \$10 million appropriation to begin a medical care for the aged program next November.

Laws facilitating county distribution of surplus food to the needy and county and city work programs for able-bodied persons getting welfare subsistence. A law which may help take county welfare commissions out of state partisan politics by having county courts instead of the governor name the commission members.

Action to restrict billboards on freeways and scenic area highways.

Union Elections
A provision to let workers not now covered by a federal law decide, in state-conducted elections, which union, if any, they want to represent them.

A change in the law to make more unemployed workers eligible for benefits. A boost to 12½ per cent in the cities' share of liquor revenues and a five per cent share for counties - extra money which counties could spend on better health and welfare programs.

Action to encourage creation of sewage districts, plus stronger laws against water and air pollution.

Making it possible for a Negro to get a haircut, among other things, by prohibiting discrimination by establishments selling goods and services - a major extension of Oregon's civil rights law. Also restoring civil rights to convicts who complete their sentences.

A law to make it harder for kids to get hold of dirty books. Authorizing forest work camps for teenage boys who might otherwise be looking for trouble on city streets.

Requiring humane slaughter of animals heretofore tortured to death in meat packing plants.

Some of the above measures may not amount to major legislation, but together they add up to considerable improvement in Oregon's general atmosphere as a civilized and progressive section of the United States.

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