Forestry Association Forester Says Politics, Timber Must Mix

"Politics and timber must mix if our economy in the Pacific Northwest is to be maintained and prosper," N. E. Bjorklund, chief forester of the Industrial Forestry association, told a meeting of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association recently here.

Increased appropriations for access road development, for improve forest service policies.

Recommendations Noted

Recommendations include maintenance of an orderly program of timber sales, recognition of the government's monopoly position as a timber seller in setting stumpage rates, revision of appeals procedure and revision of forest service timber sale contracts to provide normal buyer-seller relationship.

The bureau of land management also is important as a timber holder in southwestern Oregon, and is receiving attention from the industry.

He noted that in Oregon, two-thirds of the timber volume is in federal ownership so any legislation relating to public forest lands has a real impact on Oregon economy.

Urges Active Role

He urged SOCTFA members to take a more active role in government and communicate with their legislators so law-makers can be better informed concerning forest industry problems.

Bjorklund pointed out that Congress is playing an increasingly important part in determining the well-being of the forest products industry which provides 60 per cent of the basic economy in the Pacific Northwest.

In southern Oregon, the timber industry is even more important since it provides about three - fourths of the basic payrolls, he noted. Local timber supply, markets for forest products and the amount of competition from both foreign lumber and competing products are all directly affected by congressional action.

Subcommittee Hearings

Bjorklund reported that the subcommittee hearings on the wilderness legislation were continuing in Washington, D. C., and that, due to the volume of the testimony, the executive session has been delayed until early June.

The proposed law could lock up millions of acres of western federal forests for single use, he said. The IFA is appearing at the hearings to safeguard the region's economy, he added.

Board Okays Transfer Of Placement Program

Salem—(AP)—The State Board of Education has approved transfer of the state's adult program from the University of Oregon advanced placement program to the Oregon Education department here.

Under the program, high school students who score high in several fields enter college with advanced standing and can waive certain courses required of college freshmen.

Timber Sales Are Planned in Winema

Klamath Falls — A series of timber sales to be offered soon by the Winema National forest has been announced by Forest Supervisor Alex Smith.

First in the series is a sale of 60,000 board feet on the Chemult district, known as the Buttercup sale area scheduled May 29.

The second offering will be the South Ichabod area on the Klamath district of 4,000,000 board feet, to be sold June 21.

Other sales are planned in about the following sequence: Crystal Springs area on the Chiloquin district, Mares Egg and Varney creek on the Klamath district, Wildhorse sale on the Chiloquin, and Boundary Springs and Jackson creek areas on the Chemult district, all to be offered within the next few weeks.

4-H NEWS

Applegate Susans

The Applegate Sewing Susans 4-H club met recently at the home of Mrs. Clay Brion. The president, Judy Macy, called the meeting to order and the flag salutes were led by Connie Burrell and Susan Downing.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary, Adrienne Brion, and roll call was taken. The Williams Sewing club attended our meeting.

Beth Krouse,
Reporter

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Vote TO ELECT Judge Denecke MAY 18

Position No. 6 Non-Partisan Judicial Ballot

Pd. adv. Judge Denecke Inc Supreme Court Committee
James T. Nicol, Retired Supreme Court Justice, Chairman
424 Corbett Building, Portland, Oregon

Pollution Control Group Meets in GP

Volunteer certification examinations for water works and sewage treatment plant operators are scheduled May 25 in Medford, the Northwest Pollution Control association announced recently in Grants Pass.

Main speaker of the evening was Ed Lynd, state water pollution control technician, who gave a report on the compulsory certification bill and what is being done toward revising the bill in preparation for distribution.

Others at the meeting were Keith Sherer, assistant district sanitarian; Roger Blomberg, Josephine county sanitarian, and sewage treatment plant operators from Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Medford, Canyonville, Glendale, Oregon Technical institute, and Ashland.

'Hour of Decision' Near on Kennedy's Medical Program

Washington—(CQ)—The "hour of decision" is fast approaching in President Kennedy's efforts to secure Congressional action on medical care for the aged.

The House Ways and Means Committee, laden with work, considering a plan to take up the health care measure when it finishes action on the President's trade bill.

If it does, there's a good chance a compromise plan can be worked out in the Committee. And once that happens, there may be no stopping the bill until it reaches the White House.

The lull between the time the trade bill is sent to the drafting technicians, probably May 18, and the time it gets back is the crucial period. Sinnostrings were held on the health bill last year, all that's needed now is some time to work out a draft bill in closed session.

By fortuitous circumstance for the Administration, it happens that President Kennedy is scheduled to throw the Administration's medical care drive into high gear at a big rally in Madison Square Garden May 20, and it would be no surprise if all the persuasive powers of the White House were brought to bear at that point to get the House Committee to act promptly.

So far, the Committee is noncommittal. "There are mixed feelings up here, you know," an aide said May 9.

Three Plans Weighed

Three major health plans head the list for committee consideration at the present time. All call for financing medical benefits for the aged by increasing the Social Security payroll tax, which is the essential feature sought by the Kennedy Administration and vehemently opposed by the American Medical association.

Where the plans differ is in the type of benefits that would be offered.

The King-Anderson bill, backed by President Kennedy, would pay hospital bills for 90 days and costs of home and nursing home care for longer periods, with the reservation that recipients would be required to pay part of the costs for the first nine days. Two points emphasized by the Administration are that the bill would not cover doctors' fees and patients would be able to choose their hospital from among those participating in the plan.

Rockefeller Plan

The benefits would be available to all persons 65 and over receiving Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits. The Administration says other elderly persons could be aided under the Kerr-Mills health program enacted in 1960.

An alternative plan, championed by New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller (R) and introduced by Manhattan Republican Congressman John V. Lindsay would retain all the features of the Kennedy bill, except that recipients would forfeit their eligibility for benefits and instead take equivalent monthly cash payments to be applied toward the purchase of guaranteed renewable private health insurance.

The private insurance would have to provide benefits equal in value to the Social Security benefits and might well cost the recipient some additional money out of his own pocket, since the Government does not have to worry about advertising, commissions and similar cost factors in figuring its benefits. However, the recipient would have the advantage of tailoring his health insurance to fit his individual needs, or continuing policies in which he had invested before the Social Security plan was available.

Some Administration officials have expressed fears that private companies would accept only the good risks, leaving the bad ones to the Government under the cash option plan, thus greatly increasing Government costs. To forestall this, Lindsay's bill would authorize the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to lower the cash payments applicable to private insurance if he found there had been a seriously adverse selection of risks in the first two years of operation of the plan. Lindsay would also provide a special fund for retirees not on Social Security.

A similar cash option plan has been introduced in the Senate by Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) and the Administration is under pressure to accept some form of the option if it wants to pick up liberal Republican support for its health care legislation.

Long-Term Care Proposal

The third major proposal is currently being drafted by Rep. Burr Harrison, a conservative Virginia Democrat who could prove to be "swing man" in the Ways and Means deliberations. Harrison supports the Social Security Method of financing, but he feels the Kennedy plan concentrates too heavily on short-term illnesses and gives current Social Security beneficiaries, who would not be paying the increased payroll taxes, "too much for nothing."

Aides say Harrison's plan will provide payments only for very long-term care, which recipients would be least able to finance from their own resources, and will spell out a "reasonable contribution" which present retirees would be required to make in order to be eligible for the benefits.

Harrison says the 1960 Kerr-Mills bill, which has no controls over how little or how much the states may do in setting up programs and securing federal funds, "opens the door to unparalleled political debauchery of the public treasury." He says any new legislation should have the "withering away" of Kerr-Mills as its ultimate aim.

Whether the three proposals can be reconciled remains to be seen, but a combination of Social Security financing, long-term benefits and a cash option might do the trick and put the bill on the road to the White House.

Meanwhile, 32 House Republicans have lined up behind a bill introduced by Frank T. Bow (R-Ohio) giving $125 in income tax credits or direct federal payments to old persons holding private health insurance policies with specified benefits. The plan is not expected to receive Ways and Means backing, but it reflects the splintering of conservative opposition which has strengthened the prospects for new health care legislation this year.

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Farmers May Be Failing To Pay Federal Taxes

Washington —(AP)— The government's chief tax collector estimates that farmers may be failing to pay about $105 billion a year in federal income taxes.

Mortimer Caplan, commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, spoke in Washington this week to a meeting of the Newspaper Farm Editors Association.

Caplan said experts have estimated that Americans fail to report about $24 billion in gross income on their tax returns. Of this total, about half of the so-called "reporting gap" is believed to be in business and farm profits. Experts think about $4 billion of this amount may be unreported farm income. The income tax on that would be in the neighborhood of $1.5 billion.

Auditing Expanded

Caplan said the Internal Revenue Service is expanding its auditing of tax returns. But he said this is just part of a general program for auditing more returns of all kinds. He declared there is no special drive of any sort to crack down on farmers' tax returns.

The government's top tax collector says his agency does want to eliminate the reporting gap among farmers as well as other groups. But where agriculture is concerned, Caplan said he feels much of the trouble has been in getting proper information about taxes to farmers.

Caplan said communications media have been helping greatly in the job of getting tax news to farmers.

Benefits Total $151.6 Million

Social security benefits totaling $151.6 million were paid to Oregonians in 1961, Sen. Maurine Neuberger reported recently, based on a report she had received from the secretary of health, education and welfare.

Oregonians numbering 188,696 were receiving social security benefits as of Dec. 31, 1961. Of this number, 179,090 were receiving regular retirement or survivors benefits, while 9,606 were receiving disability benefits. For the month of December, 1961, benefits amounted to $12,758,000.

Social security retirement benefits are paid to men and women upon reaching age 62. Social security disability benefits for totally and permanently disabled are paid regardless of age. Survivors benefits are paid on widows upon reaching 62, minor or disabled children and their mothers, and dependent parents. Social security also pays a small death benefit on covered employees.

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VIGOROUS — He has visited every Oregon County several times and—like the circuit riders of old — will hold Court in all Counties.

FAIR-MINDED — He is highly regarded by lawyers and laymen because he is objective in his thinking, fair-minded and forthright.

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