

Barton Expects Budgeting, Finance To Be Big Problems

Editor's note: United Press International asked the President-designate of the Senate and the Speaker-designate of the House to comment on the 1963 session which begins Jan. 14. This is the second of two dispatches.

By REP. CLARENCE BARTON Speaker-Designate 52nd Legislative Assembly

Written for United Press International

Beyond venture of a doubt, the chief problem for the 1963 legislature is budgeting and finance.

It cannot be other wise. Oregon during the past decade—and longer—has been operating by deficit financing. With one exception during this period of time, the state has

spent more than it has raised in taxes.

This situation arose through surpluses accumulated during World War II when state services were at an extremely low level. After the war, as the service-level rose, taxes were held at their existing levels, and slowly the surplus was depleted.

By 1955 fear arose that the

surplus and taxes would not meet expenses of the next biennium. Consequently the 1955 legislature enacted the surtax, revenue from which far exceeded expectations, resulting in a bigger surplus than ever. The 1957 legislature consequently repealed the surtax.

The state has since been eating into this post-surtax

surplus. Services have been at an ever-higher level while statistics show Oregon taxes per capita are on the low side, per \$1,000 income, among 13 western states.

We have been able to have these low state taxes and high state services only because of the surplus.

The surplus is now gone. The 1963 legislature is thus

faced with this problem: if we meet Gov. Mark Hatfield's proposed expenditures, we must raise at least \$35 million over and above present taxes, by way of increasing income taxes and addition of a cigarette tax, as the governor suggests.

Taxes Will Go Up

This means if we accept Governor Hatfield's expendi-

tures, state taxes will go up roughly \$28 million a year.

The people of Oregon must make up their mind what they want: the present services and the higher bill that goes with them, or a decrease in services and the present level of taxes.

A second major concern of the 1963 legislature may be constitutional revision.

The constitutional revision commission has labored long and hard. I know legislators will want to take a good look

at the document which the commission suggests should be Oregon's constitution. It's will be a time-consuming job since there is a multitude of difficult issues involved.

Optimistic About Session

But no matter how difficult the problems, I am optimistic about a successful session. I have been impressed by the caliber of the members of the 52nd legislative assembly, particularly by the many new members. Many of them have taken time off from busy pre-

Christmas affairs to attend the pre-session orientation sessions. This indicates they are ready to get down to business.

I am also optimistic about the coming session because of the intellect and integrity of Sen. Ben Musa, president-designate of the Senate. The state of Oregon is fortunate that Senate leadership will be in his capable hands.

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