

Change in Handling of State School Grant Land Account Proposed

Editor's note: The legislature's own fiscal officer has made an independent study of the governor's proposed budget. Its recommendations include some sharp innovations in Oregon's fiscal policies. This is the first in a series of three articles.

By ANN H. PEARSON

Salem — Oregon is in the position of a man who asks for a raise to support his family while salting away

part of his original earnings in a savings account.

The people of Oregon are the family, and Gov. Mark Hatfield says it will cost \$404.1 million in taxpayers' money to keep state services going for the next biennium.

He has asked for a raise — in taxes — of at least \$49 million.

Meanwhile, earnings from school grant lands that Oregon received a century ago are piling up in a special fund

the Common School Fund administered by the State Land Board.

Much of the revenue is coming from timber sales from the school lands.

After the revenues go into the Common School Fund, they are reinvested, mainly in bonds and loans.

Under the present constitution and laws, only the interest from these bonds and loans is given to local school districts.

Change Said Needed
Legislative Fiscal Officer Kenneth Bragg says the legislature should think about changing all this.

In a report just issued, the legislature's own fiscal watchdog has questioned the venerable fund.

To Bragg, it is a debatable practice for the state to borrow money on one side while saving its earnings on another side.

Bragg says it would be timely for Oregon to think about amending its laws and its constitution to make the earnings from the state lands available now at a time when they are needed.

The fund is now worth \$18.5 million. Timber sales will build it up by \$2.6 million in the 1963-65 biennium. Cash from timber sales is expected to be worth \$3 million by the 1969-71 biennium.

On the other hand, interest from all the reinvested money in the fund will be worth \$1.2 million in the next biennium. If the fund keeps build-

ing up, it will amount to \$1.8 million by 1969-71.

Interest from the fund now is providing local districts with about \$1 per census school child. Bragg's proposals would more than triple that amount.

Bragg suggests two changes. Law Change

One is a change in the law. It would make it possible for the \$2.6 to \$3 million in biennial earnings from timber sales to go directly to the school districts, instead of going into the fund.

That change would triple

the amount the school districts are now getting while leaving the fund at its present size. The fund would continue to produce \$1.2 in interest that also would go to the districts.

The second is a change in the constitution. It would let the legislature dive into the fund itself, giving the local school districts a \$15 million chunk in 1963-67. Under this plan, interest from the fund gradually would diminish as the fund was depleted.

Bragg's plan would ease the financial pinch that Oregon is

now feeling a little. It would provide a greater source of money for school districts in the decade ahead.

Not until the 1970's or later would earnings from the lands amount to less than the potential interest from the fund if the earnings were plowed back in.

Two basic concepts have bearing on Bragg's suggestion.

One is the open question of whether Oregon wants to build up a common school fund as an investment for the future.

This is a policy matter for

the legislature to decide. But Bragg says another basic concept has washed away in recent years.

Originally, the land was the capital, and timber cutting depleted it. Therefore, the money from the timber was put into the fund to keep the basic working capital at the same level.

This is no longer the situation, says Bragg. Now, timber is being cut on a sustained yield basis, so that the resource no longer is being depleted.

Thus, even if the fund were

spent the earnings from the school grant lands, under new

land management practices, could be expected to continue.

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The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Henry. Copyright by General Features Corp.

Janet S. — We don't want her bringing Ken along to the party.

Grace Z. — I can't shake him without hurting his feelings.

Janet S. — There are some people who just throw a pall over a party, and Grace's friend Ken is one of them. Our club is planning a ski week end and it will be ruined if she brings him along, as she says she will. She introduced him to us at the Christmas dance and most of us took a dislike to him immediately. He's loud-mouthed, long-winded and boring.

He buttonholes you and argues with you over any remark you make. It's not fair of Grace to wish him on us and subject us to his tirades and harangues. She says she's just trying to help him. That's fine. But let him do his talking to her, not us.

Grace Z. — I'm 23 and I met Ken two years ago. He'd just been discharged from the Navy and he was confused and lonely. When he explained that he'd grown up on a remote farm in Iowa and never felt at ease among young people, I befriended him. What he wanted most was a pair of ears, someone who'd just let him talk.

At the same time I tried to introduce him to others and get him to join clubs. I didn't want him to grow too dependent on me. But he clings like molasses. And frankly I'm having a hard time trying to shake him. He may even be in love with me, which would be tragic.

Janet and my friends ought to be willing to help me in my "good deed" toward Ken. I feel that just listening to him is a form of philanthropy.

The Council: The kind of listening Grace offers Ken is polite and merciful, but it really isn't helping him. It may merely be solidifying his obnoxious traits.

We're reminded of the

boast made by a much-married and fading actress: "I've never gone in for psychoanalysis because I have some dear friends who listen to me for nothing." And nothing is what that listening is worth.

Ken needs a more skilled form of listening than Grace, or her friends, can provide, even though her kindness has undoubtedly brought him well along the way to social courage. He must talk to someone who can guide his thinking and help him solve the riddle of himself. Grace has bitten off more than she can chew if she thinks she can settle his personality problems single-handed. Or with the aid of her pals.

Somehow she must get Ken to turn elsewhere for practice in "getting along" with his peers. As a painless start she might refer him to one of the many How-to books and ease the blow by saying she'd just read it herself and it had helped her. But his real salvation seems to lie in counseling by a guidance expert, impersonal and experienced. This doesn't mean he's ill. It means that he doesn't know himself or trust himself and, consequently, stays tied to Grace as to a lifeline. He must be helped to stand alone socially and emotionally.

Even if he demurs and claims, as Grace dreads he may do, that he's in love with her, she should be firm. As a test of his "love," and in return for her two years of listening to him, he should agree to listen to her this time. The psychologist will endeavor to show him the difference between love and dependence.

Grace ought not to bring Ken to the party. He's her project. Rehabilitating him may feed her ego. Her friends have their own crusades.

Brazil has an estimated 300 or more million wild rubber trees.

Number of Men, One Woman, Join U. S. Army Here

A large number of area men and one woman are currently undergoing eight weeks of basic training in the U. S. Army, according to the Army recruiting station in Medford.

The men are taking basic at Fort Ord, Calif., while the woman is at Fort McClellan, Ala.

They are: Thomas W. Rouhier, son of Mrs. Margaret Rouhier, 515 South Grape st., military police; William H. Marical Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Marical, route 2, aircraft maintenance school; William E. White, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett White, Sacramento, Calif., airborne; Lee E. Kramer, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Kramer, 417 1/2 Fairmount st., airborne; Max Q. Goucher, son of Mrs. Thelma Foster, route 4, airborne; Lavon G. Owens, son of W. P. Owens, Klamath Falls, airborne.

Others are: Kenneth L. Dyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ford, 1304 Reddy ave.; Ralph O. Gysin, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Gysin, route 3, engineering equipment operator; Connie Singley, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Bismark, Phoenix, aircraft maintenance; Larry Johnson, husband of Sandy Johnson, Medford, corps of engineers; Randy Oetken, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Oetken, Corps of Engineers; Weldon Starkey, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Starkey, South Peach st., security agency.

Doc L. Shaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Shaw, 618 Chestnut st.; Kenn Wallen, son of Mrs. A. F. Dowen, Brookings, airborne; Tommy Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thompson, Ashland, corps of engineers; Fred Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Martin, Eagle Point, engineering equipment operator; Ken Cambren, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Troy Cambren, Eagle Point, engineering equipment operator.

David Borg, husband of Evelyn Borg, Eagle Point, administration school; Don Charney, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Charney, Eagle Point, administration school; James Bench, husband of Connie Bench, Talent, engineering equipment operator; John Reed, son of Mrs. Constance Fueston, Gold Hill, corps of engineers; Don Brockway, husband of Mrs. D. L. Brockway, Grants Pass; John W. Neilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Neilson, Rogue River, nuclear weapons assembly school; and Carolyn Rigosa, daughter of Mrs. W. Kimble, Rogue River, enlisted in the Women's Army Corps, finance school.



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