

Committee Opposes House Bill Which Would Reduce Sheriff's Duties

Jackson County Sheriff DeArmond Leigh spoke in opposition to House Bill 1641, which would transfer from the sheriff to state police in Oregon duties relating to enforcement of criminal law, at a meeting of the governmental operations committee of the Medford Chamber of Commerce last week.

Leigh said that the effect of the bill would be to abolish the sheriff's office as it is known today. All police powers, he said, such as criminal law matters and enforcement of criminal law, would be transferred to the responsibility of the one agency, the state police.

The Jackson county sheriff said that in his opinion the bill has within it seeds that

could sprout into a police state.

The bill also would transfer the tax collecting duty to the office of the treasurer, Leigh said.

Abolishes Constable

The same measure abolishes the office of constable, transferring his duties, functions and powers in civil matters to the sheriff and in criminal matters to the state police.

The committee by unanimous vote decided to oppose the measure.

Other measures considered at the meeting were House Bill 2020, opposed by Mrs. H. P. Bosworth Jr., and House Bill 1263, which Bob Cunningham, a member of the chamber committee, explained.

Mrs. Bosworth stated that House Bill 2020, which pro-

vides appropriations for civil defense, would make available \$366,675 for civil defense in the state of Oregon and that this figure would not take into account expenditures which would be made by cities and counties and many affected departments of state government.

She said she opposed the bill in its entirety on the ground that this money would be spent for protection which no agency of government could perform or deliver.

She indicated that a new bill will soon be introduced which would authorize state funds for natural disasters only, which in her opinion, would be a wise appropriation of state funds.

Cunningham explained that House Bill 1263 was a proposal of the interim committee on local government and was concerned with annexation by cities.

He said the bill, if passed, would create additional procedure for annexation of contiguous property if the territory is developed for urban purpose and its fire protection, water supply or sewer service is provided by the annexing city.

The bill, he said, would require the city council to formulate an annexation plan to be presented at a public hearing, and that seven to 60 days following the hearing, the council might enact an annexation ordinance.

All this could be accomplished, Cunningham stated, without petition. Such an ordinance, however, would be subject to referendum or special election if 25 per cent of the registered voters in the territory were opposed.

Presentation of the measure was followed by lengthy discussion by the chamber committee and Chairman Robert D. Heffernan Jr., suggested that it be considered again at the next meeting. The bill is supported by the League of Oregon Cities.

Senate Joint Memorial 5, which proposes a tariff for the re-instatement of "Hold Service" was read by Ken Nottingham, member of the

committee. The committee gave it endorsement with one dissenting vote.

Tourist Promotion Of Area Discussed

The tourist, convention and recreation committee of the Medford Chamber of Commerce has started work on what is expected to evolve as the 1963 program to stimulate and encourage participation by all residents in advancing the scenic and recreational values of Medford and the Rogue valley.

The committee is meeting once a week to sift ideas and suggestions that are coming in from various quarters. The most recent session was held during the breakfast hour last week.

Chairman W. H. Elmore called for reports from a number of sub-committees.

Write Communities

Dale Hearrell reported that the chamber had written 37 communities, comparable to Medford, inquiring about convention facilities, including a multi-purpose building which would cater to conventions.

He said 27 replies had been received and nine had reported the availability of such facilities. Working with Hearrell are Bert Pree, Chet Irish and Don Whalin.

Chamber Manager Don McNeil said it is not usual to find a large convention building in a city of less than 200,000 population. He added that it was not until Portland developed a real convention business that it began to plan special convention facilities.

Suggests Course

Jim Grigsby suggested preparation of a correspondence course for clerks, waitresses, gas station attendants and other employees to better equip them to answer questions asked by tourists. He also recommended a rerun of films on the southern Oregon country on television and development of a better liaison with Jacksonville as one of the historic attractions.

He asked that tours and visits to mills, packing houses and other points of interest be planned in advance of the tourist season.

Picture postcards, telling the southern Oregon story, and a weekly feature in a

newspaper were also suggested by Grigsby as ways to stimulate travel, participation in fishing, hunting and other sports available in the area. Coordinated spots on valley radio stations were also mentioned in the planning, and designing of a litter bag with a map of the scenic attractions printed on it.

Information Signs

H. A. Mauck, reporting on roadside signs, asked for concentration on tourist information signs. The committee expressed considerable interest in the proposal that a large sign be placed near the junction of Highways 99 and 97. McNeil advised working closely with the travel division of the state highway department regarding plans in this area.

Membership of the chamber committee, working in the field of tourist, convention and recreation promotion includes Elmore, Betty Fichtner, Ron Gande, Grigsby, Hearrell, Irish, Mauck, John North, Bill Patton, Ralph Peyton, Julie Tummers, John Weisbrod, Don Whalin, Ward Yolger, D. V. Jordan, Mrs. Pree and Irene Neeley.

CHAIRMAN ELECTED

Astoria, Ore. — (UPI) — The election of John S. McGowan as president of Bumble Bee Seafoods, Inc., and Thomas F. Sandoz as chairman of the board and chief executive officer was announced Thursday following a meeting of the board of directors.

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