

# Oregon Railroads To Retain Third Brakeman

## State Legislature May Soon Receive Some Major Bills

Salem - (UPI) - Committees were showing signs of sending a few major pieces of legislation to the floor soon as the Oregon Legislature Saturday rounded out its 11th week.

The Ways and Means committee, scrutinizing budget after budget, gave overwhelming approval to one of the most disputed proposals of the session: A reduction in the state civil defense staff from 18 to 3.

The House Tax committee indicated it was about ready to kick out some of the measures needed to raise the money to balance the state budget for the coming biennium.

Here is how major legislation stands:

**Budget** - Ways and Means continues its efforts to reduce Gov. Mark Hatfield's proposed \$405 million budget by \$15-\$20 million. Of about 100 budget bills, some of the smaller ones already have passed the two houses and been signed by the governor. Review of the biggest and most serious budgets - those dealing with education - goes on.

**Tax** - The House Tax committee, source of all major revenue-raising bills, indicated it will start sending some of the smaller tax measures to the floor soon "to see how they go." The committee is proceeding with discussions on what its major revenue measures - a new income tax law and a cigarette tax - should contain. The Senate Tax committee is waiting for the House to act.

**Education** - Higher education's legislative activity centers on its budget. The amount of basic support for schools and high schools probably will be one of the last matters taken up. The House has called for some changes in Basic School Fund procedures. There has been little decision on community colleges.

**Labor** - The House Labor and Industries committee has suggested employee contributions to the unemployment compensation fund, along with better benefits. The Senate committee still is trying to write a new workmen's

## More Permanent Settlement Urged By Senate Group

Salem - (UPI) - The third brakemen on Oregon freight trains have been assured of their jobs for two more years, but railroads and unions were told to get together on a more permanent settlement.

The Senate Committee on Commerce and Utilities voted to leave Oregon's full crew law on long freight trains as it is, with one exception.

The committee accepted a union proposal to update the 50-year-old law by deleting the reference to "steam" trains, making it clear the law also applies to diesel trains.

**Six Required**

The law requires a crew of six, including three brakemen, on freight trains in Oregon over 40 cars in length and traveling more than 15 miles.

The railroads had asked for elimination of the requirement for a third brakeman, saying he was no longer needed on modern trains.

The union replied he was necessary for safety.

The railroads noted they were losing \$1.7 million a year by paying for third brakemen in Oregon, one of only six states requiring them.

The unions replied several hundred men would lose their jobs.

**Two Questions**

Committee Chairman Alfred Corbett (D - Portland) made it clear there were two separate questions: Safety, and jobs. He said the legislature was unequipped to make a safety judgment, and the job problem should not be written into a law.

The vote to kill the bill for a reduced crew was unanimous, as was the vote to delete the steam reference in the law.

The committee decision came after railroad spokesman Randall Kester said the railroads were willing to accept an attrition clause so that third brakemen positions would be eliminated only when there were vacancies in the positions held by present brakemen.

On the other side, union attorney Alex Parks said the unions were willing to have an impartial study of safety factors.

## Valley Students Gain Berths in Speech Tourney

Ashland - Speech students from Medford, Ashland, Crater and Phoenix High schools won the right to go to the state speech tournament as a result of the Southern Oregon District Speech contest held at Ashland High school Friday and Saturday.

Students competed in eight different contests, with the first and second place winners gaining berths in the state tournament to take place April 18-20 at Corvallis. Third place winners in the district contest will act as alternates for the state tournament.

Medford students took first place in four of the contests, Ashland in three and Phoenix in one, but Ashland students took seven second and third places to Medford's three. Four Phoenix students and two from Crater won second and third places. Students from Eagle Point and Grants Pass also competed.

Winners in the eight contests and the schools they represented were as follows:

**Serious reading:** 1. Rob Hoag, Medford; 2. Frank Perkins, Phoenix; 3. Kathy Rucker, Ashland.

**Oratory:** 1. Carol Bjork, Ashland; 2. Charles Hillestad, Ashland; 3. Dale Hocker-smith, Medford.

**Humorous reading:** 1. Karen Foley, Medford; 2. Trudee Lewis, Ashland; 3. Linda Mullin, Phoenix.

**After dinner speaking:** 1. Dave Lohman, Ashland; 2. Todd Dole, Phoenix; 3. Bev Bush, Medford.

**Extemporaneous speaking:** 1. Richard Coulter, Phoenix; 2. Dave Force, Crater; 3. Carol Bjork, Ashland.

**Poetry reading:** 1. Rob Hoag, Medford; 2. Carol Ann James, Ashland; 3. Sue Thrapp, Phoenix.

**Impromptu speaking:** 1. Craig Pennington, Ashland; 2. Dave White, Ashland; 3. Dave Force, Crater.

**Radio:** 1. Brian Porter, Medford; 2. Larry Tuttle, Medford; 3. Scott Roberts, Ashland.

Also vying in the state tournament will be debate teams from Medford, Crater and Phoenix High schools.

On Medford's team, which won first place in the A division a week ago, are Paul Goodwin, Mike Whinham, Larry Tuttle and Rob Hoag. On Crater's team, second place winner in the A division, are Dave Force, Alan Bray, Don Gall and Carol Foote. On the Phoenix B division debate team are Laura Griffith and Richard Coulter.

Judging the Southern Oregon district contest was a team of professors from Southern Oregon college, Dr. Alvin Fellers, Ed Fitzpatrick, Dr. Marshall Woodell, Hugh Simpson and Dr. Dorothy Stop.

Coaches for the competing schools were Herb Lewis, district director, Ashland; D. Vere Taylor, Medford; Art Carpenter, Grants Pass; Margaret Hadley, Phoenix; Glen-na Brewoid, Eagle Point, and Don Lacy, Crater.

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**Morse Confirms State Conference Attendance**

Portland - (UPI) - Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.), has confirmed his appearance as the major speaker at the Democratic State Conference in Salem, April 20-21, E. D. Spencer, State Democratic Chairman said today.

**HIKERS PROTEST HIKES**

Dixon, Ill. - (UPI) - Eight high school students set out on a 100-mile hike to protest 50 mile hikes.

## Friends of Library Support Budget

The Friends of the Library of Jackson County went on record last week giving strong support to the proposed budget of the Public Library of Medford and Jackson County.

The resolution, expressing the support and the need for the budget items as detailed by Dr. John T. Brandenburg, is being presented to the members of the Jackson county court and the budget committee.

The budget committee announced Wednesday that the increase, asked by the library board, would not be granted.

Pointing out that "the maintenance and operation of the public library is of vital concern to all inhabitants of this county," the resolution states that the increase is needed to maintain "the standard of quality at which Medford and Jackson County Public Library is striving to operate."

The resolution continues to urge acceptance of the budget as presented to "allow the continuance of the present quality of operation of said library and the maintenance of a minimum quality of service."

## Yakima Man Files Damage Suit Here

John Edward Ryan, Yakima, Wash., is seeking \$27,930.55 in damages from Stephen O. Wilson, White City, and his drivers, Herbert Percival McDonald Jr., and Charles McDonald as a result of an automobile accident last Nov. 5 on Highway 62.

Ryan charges in his complaint that he was seriously injured when his car collided with a logging truck and trailer and a dump truck operated by the two drivers, who had been stopped on the highway, obstructing it.

No tail lights, warning devices, flares or lights were visible at the required safe distance that night, Ryan alleges.

The total damages include \$1,430.55 for medical treatment and \$1,500 for loss of wages for being unable to work following the accident.

## Bids Called for Aerial Spraying

The Portland area office of the bureau of land management has asked for bids on aerial spraying by helicopter of 1,627 acres of government-owned land in the Medford, Salem and Coos Bay districts of the BLM.

The spraying project is part of the bureau's brush control program on public lands for forest stand improvement, and is set aside for Small Business concerns only.

Josephine, Douglas and Jackson counties in the Medford district have 1,438 acres to spray; 20 acres will be covered in Clackamas county, Salem district, and 169 acres in Douglas county, Coos Bay area, will be sprayed.

Bidder will furnish all labor, equipment, spray material, transportation and supplies.

Bids will be opened at 2 p.m., April 11, at the Portland office of the bureau of land management, room 720, 1002 NE Holladay st., post-office box 3861.

Detailed description of the work may be obtained by writing the bureau in Portland at the above address, or may be obtained from the district offices of BLM at Medford, Salem or Coos Bay.

## TOO MUCH BAD

Falmouth, Mass. - (UPI) - A mongrel dog learned that too much of a good thing is bad. Officials said the dog dragged himself from the local supermarket after an overnight stay during which he sampled seven different 30-pound bags of dog food. A veterinarian helped the dog's discomfort.

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