

Income Tax Bill, Sales Tax Nearly Ready for House Floor

Hearings on Minimum Wage Erupt in Committee Fight

Salem - (UPI) - A fight between members of the Senate Labor and Industries Committee erupted Thursday during hearings on a proposed \$1.25 per hour minimum wage for Oregon.

Sen. Don Willner (D-Lake Oswego) sputtered with rage when committee chairman Sen. Walter Pearson (D-Portland) refused to allow him to question witnesses who opposed the proposed minimum wage law.

Shortly before the outburst, Pearson gavelled Sen. Lynn Newberry (R-Ashland) to silence as he attempted to question a witness.

Willner was first cut off when he asked an opposition witness the average wage paid to harvest workers.

After more opposition testimony, Willner again attempted to ask a question, but was ruled out of order by Pearson.

Pearson Drowned Out
Then in a shout that drowned out Pearson's calling of another opposition witness, Willner demanded "you mean you allow proponents to be questioned, but not the opponents?"

Willner's demand was cut off by Pearson, who said so many opposition witnesses had showed up to testify that there was not time to allow questions.

Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen, spokesman for organized labor, and representatives of the Oregon Council of Churches all urged adoption of the law which would set the minimum wage at \$1.25 and require overtime after 40 hours of work a week.

The proposal would include agricultural workers.

Opponents included cattlemen, farmers, retailers and other business groups who claimed the minimum wage would be a threat to business, create a hardship for hotel and motel operators, and be unworkable and economically impossible for farmers.

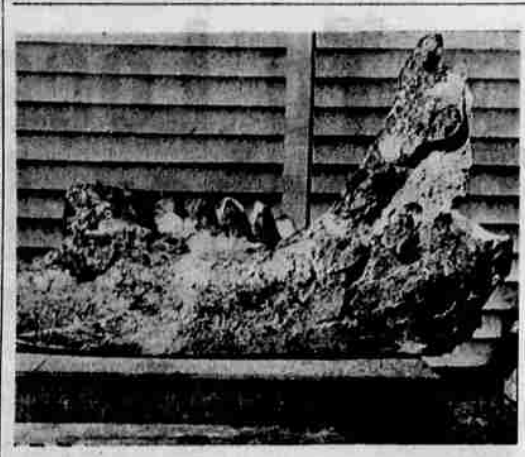
Six witnesses spoke for the bill, and 28 were signed up as opponents. The 1 1/2 hour meeting was recessed before all opposition witnesses could be heard.

Nilsen said minimum wages in Oregon apply to women and minors only.

"Men now have no protection of minimum wages or maximum hours of work in Oregon, unless they are involved in interstate commerce and come under the federal minimum, which will be raised to \$1.25 this year."

Opposition witness Clifford Orrey, spokesman for the Oregon Farm Bureau, said Oregon paid the third highest harvest wages, behind California and Washington.

He said "agriculture hires people who can't get other jobs - winos, handicapped, housewives, students, and re-jects from industry." A series of agricultural spokesmen echoed the same views.



MASTADON JAWBONE-This is a jawbone section of a mastadon, which was excavated at a damsite near Oroville, Calif. It is in display at the University of California at Berkeley. (UPI)

Brown, Legislative Leaders Disagree Over New Taxes

Sacramento - (UPI) - Gov. Edmund G. Brown and his legislative leaders were in open disagreement today over the prospect for new taxes.

The dispute started with a statement Thursday by Sen. Hugh Burns and Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh at their weekly news conference. It burst into public with

Brown's most strongly worded statement yet on taxes.

The central issue was whether California can afford \$128.5 million additional school aid supported by the state board of education—or even the \$55 million additional school money backed by the governor.

Burns, president pro tempore of the Senate, told a news conference that the state must either get along with its present income or face the prospect of a tax increase in this session of the legislature.

"I'm not afraid to face up to that," said Burns (D-Fresno). "I'd face up to any tax

increase anytime I find it necessary."

The Senate leader said his personal preference was for the state to get by for four years without new taxes but added: "I'm not sure of a cut in their services."

Asked about the prospect for approval of the increased school aid bills, Burns said flatly: "I think we will either have to levy new taxes or turn them both down."

Unruh said he agreed substantially with Burns' position and said that although it was wise "politically" for the governor to promise no new taxes during the election campaign it probably was a "mistake."

"We will either have to go whole hog or not at all," he said. "Unless we face up to an income increase (through new taxes) there will be no increase in expenditures."

As possible sources of new income Unruh reiterated his previous suggestions of a larger cigarette tax and licensing night harness racing.

Brown promptly issued his strongly worded statement.

"I had hoped my position on tax increases during 1963 was crystal clear by now," he said, "but perhaps I had better repeat it at this time."

"I promised the people of California that there would be no new or increased taxes this year. I will keep that promise."

Rate-Bracket Formula Yet To Be Completed

Salem - (UPI) - The House Tax Committee took long strides Thursday night toward sending an income tax bill, and perhaps a sales tax, to the House floor for action within a few days.

The committee completed all policy decisions on the income tax bill except for a rate-bracket formula to raise the needed revenue.

The income tax decisions came after the committee recessed and went into secret session in a back room for more than an hour. House Speaker Clarence Barton was with the committee when it returned.

Sales Tax Revived
In a separate action earlier in the four-hour meeting, the committee revived a sales tax bill and amended it to eliminate a property tax offset feature.

Signs were the committee may send the 3 per cent sales tax to the floor in hopes the House will kill it and thus clear the way for serious consideration of the key income tax measure.

The committee amended the governor's original net receipts income tax proposal to restore many, although not all, of the familiar features of Oregon's present state income tax law.

A graduated rate structure to raise \$35 million in new revenues remains to be added. A subcommittee will work it out over the week end. Then it all will be introduced in a new bill.

Raising new revenue is this legislature's biggest problem, and the income tax bill is intended to do most of the job.

Proposed Tax Law
As now proposed by the committee, here is how Oregon's income tax law would look:

-It would have a \$500 floor. Persons earning less would not pay.

-In an effort to pick up low bracket earners and broaden the tax base, it would impose a 1 per cent flat tax on income from \$500 to \$15,000 and 1.5 per cent above that.

-On top of this, there would be a graduated income tax proportionate to the present law.

-The present 5 per cent standard deduction would be doubled to 10 per cent or \$1,000, whichever is less to eliminate much long form filing. Deductions above that would be allowed if itemized.

A handful of deductions such as the federal telephone tax would be eliminated.

\$20 Tax Credit
-The federal income tax deduction would be eliminated, a key revenue raising feature.

-Instead of a \$600 exemption, taxpayers would get a \$20 tax credit subtracted from the final bill.

-Inequities in the present law against the single taxpayer with a family would be removed.

Seven of the committee members said they were prepared to recommend the proposal. Reps. F. F. Montgomery (R-Eugene) and Cornelius Bateson (D-Salem) opposed it.

United Seeks Court Injunction

Washington - United A I R Lines today was to file a petition with the United States Court of Appeals here for an injunction to restrain the national mediation board from holding a representation election among a group of 12,700 United employees, pending United's appeal from an adverse ruling of a lower court.

United said that it was advised by the mediation board on April 9 that the proposed election would be held on or shortly after April 22.

United contends that the NMB should not hold an election without first conducting a hearing and giving United an opportunity to be heard as an interested party on the appropriateness of the grouping of employees among whom the election would be held, and should not conduct the election unless the ballot permits an eligible employee to cast a valid ballot against as well as for representation.

The national mediation board contends that under the Railway labor act airline employees are required to have a bargaining representative. The board also has stated that to use a "Yes" or "No" ballot in the election would circumvent a "mandate of Congress."

United, in its appeal to the court, challenges the board's interpretation of the Railway labor act.

Morse Takes GSA To Task On Tongue Point Base Price

Washington - (UPI) - Sen. Wayne L. Morse (D-Ore.) Thursday night accused the General Services Administration of considering "scandalous" proposals to sell the closed Tongue Point Naval

Station at Astoria, Ore., to private bidders for a "pittance."

Morse warned that the GSA would be "laying an egg of scandal for this administration to be hatched in the heat

of the 1964 campaign" if it went ahead with its plans.

And, he told the Senate, President Kennedy will have to answer to Oregon voters next year if he lets the GSA go ahead.

The Navy closed the Tongue Point base in 1959 as an obsolete facility. Morse and Sen. Maurice B. Neuberger (D-Ore.) have been trying to move other government facilities into the surplus installation.

Their effort to move a Coast Geodetic Survey facility from Seattle to the Astoria site had been unsuccessful.

Morse held the Senate into a late evening session to berate the GSA for trying to "sweep the issue under the rug" through a quick sale of the surplus property.

The Oregon Democrat said one proposed bid is for only \$1.4 million, which he branded a "scandalous return" for the former Navy base at the mouth of the Columbia river.

He said one stone quarry alone on the 800-acre base is worth \$1.5 million accord-

ing to estimates of "reputable road-builders."

Morse told the Senate that "I don't propose to sit here and permit our administration to be taken in by that kind of scandal."

A sale of Tongue Point without a thorough survey of other possible government uses would be a "shoddy and unconscionable waste" of taxpayer funds, Morse declared.

All Markets Closed For Good Friday
By United Press International
All securities and commodity markets were closed today in observance of Good Friday.

In Britain and Europe, stock and commodity markets also were closed and will be closed Monday, April 15, for Easter observance.

The London Metal Exchange will close after the first session today and will remain closed until Tuesday.



SUMMER-COOL-The 95-degree temperature in Dallas, Texas, doesn't bother Miss Cheri Slikker of Bakersfield, Calif., newly crowned Miss Wool of America, as she attempts to prove her favorite year-round fabric is summer-cool as well as winter-warm. (UPI)

Foreign Briefs

AMNESTY FREES ESTIMATED 3,500 IN HUNGARY
Budapest, Hungary - (UPI) - About 3,500 persons have been freed from the amnesty proclaimed recently by Premier Janos Kadar, authoritative sources said Thursday.

The amnesty did not apply to Josef Cardinal Mindszenty who sought refuge in the U.S. consulate here during the 1956 uprising.

ROYAL BALLET COMPANY TO TOUR U.S., CANADA
London - (UPI) - Members of the Royal Ballet company leave today for a 12-week tour of cities in the United States and Canada.

After a five-week run in New York, the company will continue on to Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle, Portland, Ore., Los Angeles and Toronto, Ont.

THANT INVITED TO SPEAK IN SWEDEN
Stockholm, Sweden - (UPI) - The local social democratic labor organization has invited United Nations Secretary General Thant to deliver a May Day speech here.

SOVIET DELEGATE RETURNS FROM FINLAND
Helsinki, Finland - (UPI) - Soviet Deputy Premier Aleksei Kosygin left for Moscow by train Thursday after taking part in a week of official ceremonies marking the 15th anniversary of the Finnish-Soviet Friendship and Mutual Assistance pact.

CHURCHILL VACATIONS ON RIVIERA
Monte Carlo, Monaco - (UPI) - The Riviera's most illustrious current "American" tourist, Sir Winston Churchill, soaked up the Easter sun today in a room filled with red roses from two old friends, Aristotle Onassis and Maria Callas.

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- No animal larger than St. Bernard Dog.
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 - Only one parade entry blank should be prepared for a group entry.
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