

Higher Education Construction Measure Meaningful in Oregon

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Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The \$1.2 billion higher education construction bill which passed the House in August, is expected to be brought to the Senate for a vote within the next week, according to authoritative sources.



Passage of the bill would be meaningful to Oregon colleges faced with financial cutbacks if the tax referendum fails. The priority given to Rep. Edith Green's bill by the staff of Sen. Wayne Morse's subcommittee on education, who said they were going ahead with plans to prepare for floor debate on another education bill. A spokesman said that when Senate action was completed on that bill, only then would the committee file a report on the higher education bill.

Last week, the full Senate Labor and Education committee voted out several education bills among them the higher education and vocational education bills. Morse at that time was quoted as saying it was a "miracle" that the committee took the action.

His subcommittee had not acted on Mrs. Green's bill, and the full committee took the unusual action of voting out the bill even though the subcommittee had failed to report the measure. Morse's committee staff denied rumors that he had been deliberately withholding action on Rep. Green's bill.

Differences Narrowed
The differences in the House and Senate bills are less drastic than last year, when the bill floundered over Senate-approved scholarships and House-approved grants to private as well as public colleges.

The House calls for across-the-board grants. Last year, Morse's position had been that such grants to private colleges were unconstitutional. He did, however, support categorical grants when the Senate-House conferees compromised their differences.

Here is a break-down of the two bills. The House bill calls for spending \$1.2 billion for three years for classroom construction (\$230 million in matching grants and \$120 million in loans) for undergraduate colleges and about \$50 million a year for junior colleges and technical institutes, using no more than one-third federal funds.

Mrs. Green added a feature of special benefit to Oregon calling for \$25 million the first year and \$60 million the second and third for cooperative graduate research centers, such as proposed in the Portland area. This is only in the House bill. All Colleges Eligible

The Senate calls for \$1.5 billion (\$900 million in categorical grants and \$600 million in loans) plus \$50 million in grants for community colleges. Both public and private colleges would be eligible, however, the grants would be limited to science building, libraries and engineering buildings.

Both versions forbid money for divinity schools, classrooms for sectarian use or gymnasiums. The House construction money could be used for all classrooms, laboratories and laboratories. State Commissions would decide priorities among the schools.

Republicans Al Quie of Minn. and Charles Goodell of New York, key men on Mrs. Green's education subcommittee, maintain that the House Republicans will not accept categorical grants. Republican votes are essential to carry an education bill, and the House has had good bipartisan support.

Cong. Quie thought that the Senate position that across-the-board grants were somehow unconstitutional but that categorical grants were constitutional was "ridiculous".

He pointed out that the Senate bill provides money for libraries in which a student could study subjects other than science, and further, "to say that to study botany or chemistry was constitutional, but to study in the humanities was not is ridiculous."

Goodell thought that categorical grants was too arbitrary. He believes the time has passed when a national crisis in science which led to the National Defense Education Act, the space program (NASA), increased funds for the National Science Foundation and the Defense Department programs.

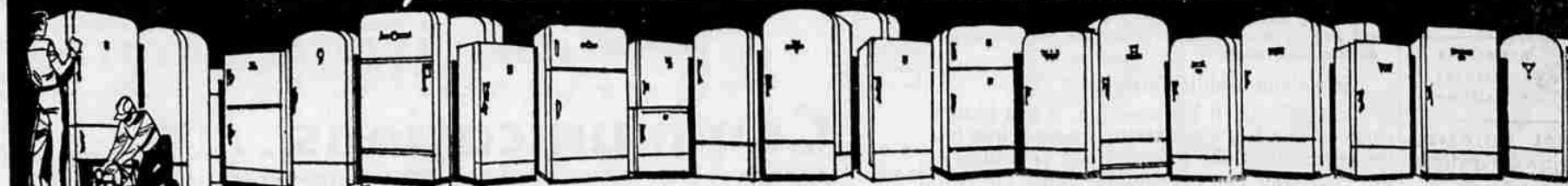
He thinks the Government should not be setting priorities for universities as they would in making categorical grants, in deciding what classrooms would be built.

Conferences Postponed

Morse's slow-motion handling of the joint Senate-House conferees last year led supporters of the higher education bill to believe he was deliberately delaying action on Mrs. Green's bill this year until there was no chance of passage this Fall because of the expected southern filibuster on the civil rights bill. Last year the House bill passed in January and the Senate bill shortly thereafter, and yet with Morse refusing to hold meetings because of "irreconcilable" differences. At the insistence of Sen. Joseph Clark of Pa. and Mrs. Green, Morse finally agreed to another conference in September when Congress was hot, tired irascible and anxious about elections. When the conferees came up with categorical grants and nonreimbursable loans to students, the House refused to accept the bill. Republicans Quie and Goodell say the scholarship provision really killed the bill last year, and Quie was pleased that the Senate bill did not include "IF" as he said the bill actually does get to the Senate. optimistic that a compromise with the Senate could be reached.

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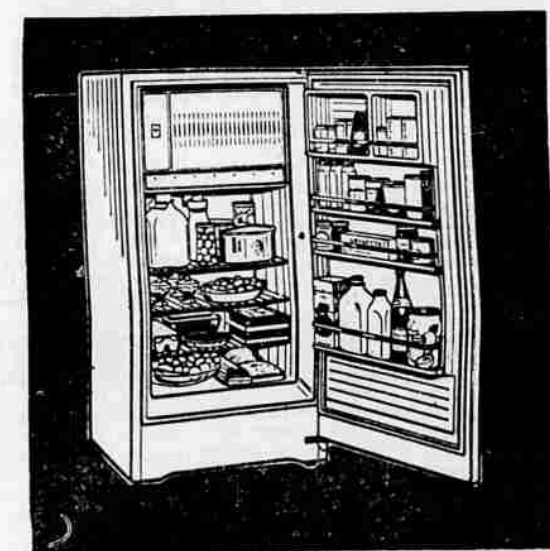
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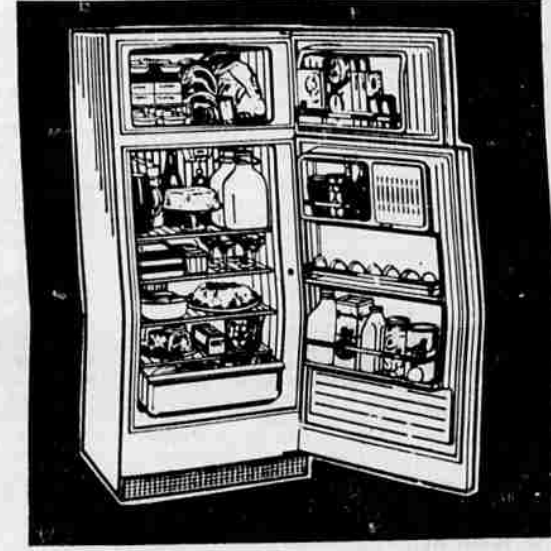
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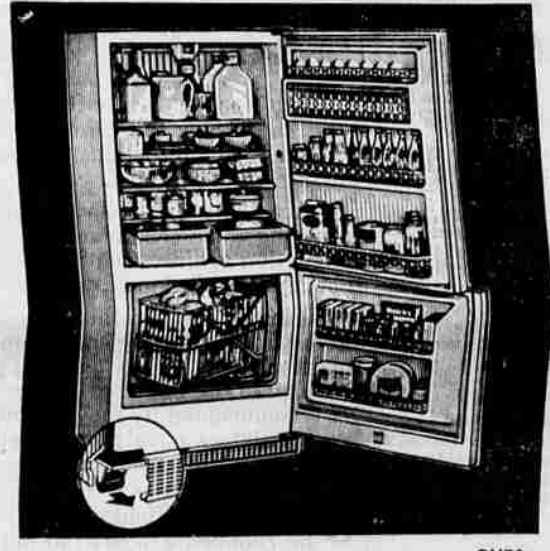
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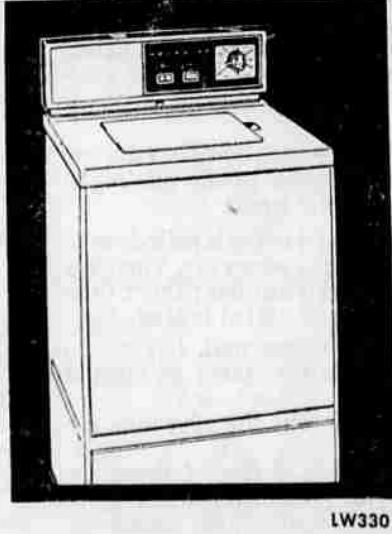
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