

Capitol Memo

By Zan Stark



MOH Turns Tables On Capitol Press

SALEM (UPI)—In what could be a major change in his public relations program, Gov. Mark Hatfield has turned the tables on the capitol press corps.

At two recent meetings with newsmen, the governor has asked almost as many questions as newsmen.

Veteran statehouse reporters cannot recall anything like it in Hatfield's first five years as governor.

Normal practice has been for the governor to hold scheduled press conferences during legislative sessions, and then hold them only when requested by newsmen while the legislature was out of town—unless he had some special announcement to make.

First Hint

First hint of the new approach came after the Oct. 15 tax referendum election.

Hatfield invited the capitol press corps—the handful of full-time reporters who cover the state capital year around—to his office for an informal briefing.

That was an informal, off-the-record session where coffee was served, and the governor and reporters exchanged ideas.

When the special session convened, Hatfield did not hold any press conferences. He granted only one interview during the session—an exclusive 30-minute session with United Press International.

The day after the special ses-

sion ended, Hatfield announced he would meet with the press.

While there was no effort to invite reporters who did not regularly cover the statehouse, only one of the legislative press staff was still in Salem. He was Douglas McKean, political editor of the Oregon Journal, who joined the "regulars" in Hatfield's office.

Coffee Served
Coffee was served as newsmen peppered a series of questions at the chief executive.

When the flow of questions slowed, Hatfield indicated he wanted to chat a while.

He then reversed the tables, and asked reporters for their views on current topics.

As was the case after the tax referendum, Hatfield seemed unusually relaxed and at ease with newsmen.

Some of the replies to Hatfield's questions were sharp, and not necessarily flattering to the governor. If Hatfield was offended, he didn't show it.

It was a precedent-setting style for a Hatfield news conference.

Travis Cross, Hatfield's press secretary, said the governor has commented he sometimes learns more from the kinds of questions reporters ask than they do from his answers.

Hatfield now appears to be going one step farther, and expressing his concerns by asking questions he previously put only to his staff and advisors.

Bloodmobile Will Visit Medford on Monday, Tuesday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Medford at the Red Cross chapter house, 60 Hawthorne Ave. from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10. It will be located at the Elks Club in Ashland from 1 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11.

This month, hospitals are operating at near capacity. Beds are filled with patients awaiting surgery, victims of burns and traffic accidents, sufferers from seasonal respiratory ailments and other illnesses, Red Cross officials noted.

Accidents increase, due in part to increased use of the highways, with a resultant demand for additional supplies of blood.

But at a time when the potential demand for blood is high, the supply slackens, according to Red Cross officials. Most people are preoccupied with Christmas plans and overlook the need for blood.

It takes only 30 to 45 minutes to give blood, officials indicated. Shoppers wishing to schedule their blood donations to coincide with their shopping, may do so by calling the Red Cross office at 773-3813.

Appointments assure donors that they will be taken in without a wait. Appointments are not necessary, however, and drop-in donors will be welcomed, they added.

Persons between 18 and 59 years old are eligible to donate, but those between 18 and 21 years old must have a written consent from their parents or guardian.

Transportation and baby sitters will be available for persons wishing these services.

Donations may be made in the name of any individual or organization, officials stressed.

Protestants Rally Support Behind Civil Rights Bill

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)—Protestant church leaders from all parts of the nation moved today to muster public support for a discharge petition to pry the administration's civil rights

bill out of the House Rules Committee. A resolution urging millions of church members to write to their congressman, supporting the discharge petition, was pre-

sent to the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches for adoption this morning.

The resolution, endorsed in advance by assembly leaders from major Protestant denominations, voiced strong support for prompt passage of the stalled civil rights bill, and bade church members to apply all possible public pressure to members of Congress to insure its speedy enactment.

It specifically endorsed the discharge petition which requires the signature of 218 House members to bring the bill to the floor without a go-ahead from the traffic-cop rules committee.

Bishop Rueben H. Mueller, Indianapolis, Ind., took over as president of the National Council today with a pledge to "make more prominent" in the group's activities "the basic purpose of the Christian faith."

Bishop Mueller, 66, an Evangelical Protestant, indicated he wants churches to put more emphasis on their basic mission of "bringing people into encounter with the living God."

Continue Work
He added that there should be no "subtracting" from any of the council's past concerns for social issues. He said he

plans to "continue and intensify" the work of the National Council's Commission Religion and Race, which is seeking to involve church members actively in the fight for racial justice.

Bishop Mueller was elected President Wednesday night at the group's triennial General Assembly here to succeed J. Irwin Miller, of Columbus, Ind.,

wealthy industrialist and the first layman to head the council.

The new president, who is senior bishop of the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB), will serve a three-year term as chief spokesman for the National Council, which represents 31 major Protestant and Orthodox denominations with 40 million members.

MANCHESTER, N.H. (UPI)—Funeral services will be held today for George Eli Whitney, 101, inventor of the first steam powered automobile and grand-nephew of Eli Whitney.

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33		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
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