

Salem Scene

by Everett E. Cutter

SCHOOL FINANCE: TWO-PART ANSWER

After more than 200 preliminary school budget election defeats this year, Oregon school districts finally came in home-free and are operating normally—at least until they have to go to voters again next year.

This unhappy situation is caused by two main factors. Increasing education costs, representing about two-thirds of local property taxes, have been the chief cause of property tax growth in recent years. Greater amounts of state funds are funneled into local schools every year, but on the average their percentage of total education costs is dropping.

Second, most school district tax bases are inadequate. Most date back to 1916, except for the gradual 6 per cent annual increase allowed Constitutionally; only district voters may choose to exceed the growth limit.

The Salem school district, for example, has a Constitutional tax base of \$1.6 million. Voters have long approved levies exceeding the 6 per cent growth allowance, until today the Salem district must levy \$18.6 million to meet its needs. Obviously that is not within the 6 per cent limit, or \$1.6 million base, so voters must continue to vote on Salem's levy every year.

The situation is common throughout the state, and resistance to such growth and such frequent elections is reflected in the increasing number of no votes.

The two-sided dilemma has a two-sided solution, if the people and the legislature can make it work: (1) remedy the Constitutional tax base problem so that schools have adequate, current tax bases that will permit voters to turn down excess property taxes if they choose without facing the alternative of school closure, and (2) increase state aid to local schools. In other words, finance a larger share of school cost from state revenues and a smaller share from local property taxes.

The Oregon Education Association is initiating a Constitutional amendment which, if it gets on the ballot and approved statewide, would remedy the tax base problem. Its provisions:

- (a) A new tax base for each school district in the state, based on its current operating budget.
- (b) That the base would automatically increase at a rate of 6 per cent per year without a vote of the people (as is allowed now).
- (c) That legislative authority be granted to allow for additional growth in a district's tax base because of increased enrollment.
- (d) That statutory authority be granted for the legislature to reduce a district's tax base to reflect prevailing economic conditions.
- (e) That any amounts voted in excess of the original tax base and the 6 per cent growth factor would be added to and made a part

of the tax base.
(f) That except as provided by law, a school district would be limited to two elections per year for purposes of establishing a new tax base.

(g) That provisions of the amendment would not apply in case of levies for the retirement of bonded indebtedness and payment of interest; serial levies to raise revenue for other than school operating purposes; or levies to raise revenue to be used as an offset against levies made by school districts.

Allowing levies voted above the 6 per cent limit to automatically become a part of the base, not now permitted, would keep bases current. Requirement for excess levies would no longer be a necessary annual affair, and if they were submitted and defeated it would not mean closing the schools.

Also, by including state aid in the new tax base, an increase in state aid would mean a reduction in local property taxes under this proposal.

The Oregon Education Association will be circulating initiative petitions for support of their measure. If enough signatures are gained, it will appear on the November, 1970 ballot.

The other half of the two-part solution, increased state aid to local schools, is trickier, and its achievement may be the responsibility of either the legislature or the people, or both. New state revenue is needed to substantially increase state aid, and voters repeatedly have vetoed ideas for this—such as this year's sales tax again.

The 1969 legislature increased state aid by \$20 million, and state aid has increased 40 per cent in 10 years. But its percentage of total school costs has declined; today's annual total of \$177 million in school support still is only about 23 per cent of local schools' operating budgets.

The legislature is not likely to adopt any significant tax increases or new taxes for school aid revenue. Perhaps holding down state spending in other areas, plus moderate revenue adjustments, could help raise state aid to a more satisfactory level.

And if new-found state aid were to be distributed to districts with new tax bases as proposed by OEA's initiative, it would achieve some of that elusive property tax relief.



The Old Times
"The old folks wonder what the younger generation is coming to — while the younger people wonder when the older generation is coming to."

WANTED BY THE FBI



CAMERON DAVID BISHOP

Cameron David Bishop, a violence-minded college revolutionary who is charged with the sabotage of war utilities in the dynamiting of Colorado power transmission towers, is on the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

Between January 20 and 28, 1969, he allegedly was responsible for dynamiting four transmission line towers in Colorado supplying power to defense plants. Wreckage from one blast damaged property nearly a mile away and dozens of square miles near Golden, Colorado, were partially blacked out. A Federal warrant issued at Denver, Colorado, on February 14, 1969, charges Bishop with the destruction of war utilities.

Bishop, who is reputedly an active member of the Students for a Democratic Society, a loudly militant "New Left" group opposed to U.S. involvement in Vietnam and existing government policies, has reportedly voiced a desire to live in Cuba.

He is known to associates as a revolutionist or anarchist who believes in violence to secure social reforms and was given a discharge from the Army for unsuitability after being located, while a deserter, as a mental patient in a hospital. He reportedly has a violent temper, has reportedly bragged of using drugs, including LSD, and was convicted of assault and battery in Colorado in 1965. He has allegedly stated his willingness to kill a police officer and has reportedly possessed hand guns, including a .357 magnum, in addition to rifles and dynamite.

A white American, born at Pueblo, Colorado, on November 7, 1942, he is 5'8" to 5'9" tall, weighs 155 to 165 pounds, has brown eyes, dark brown hair, a stocky build and a medium complexion. He has worn a beard, long hair and long sideburns in the past. A tattoo of a skull holding a mirror appears on his right forearm. He has worked as an assistant credit manager, auto parts manager, coffee house operator, laborer, mine worker and truck driver. Consider Bishop armed and extremely dangerous.

Should you receive any information concerning the whereabouts of Cameron David Bishop, you are requested to immediately notify the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories.

Sgt. Kimery Gets Commendation From U. S. Army

Sgt. Erol J. Kimery of Lyons received a letter of commendation from the department of the army headquarters, sixth U. S. Army ROTC camp at Fort Lewis, Wn. The letter came from Col. Walter A. Pashley, Jr.

The letter follows:
"During the period 16 June 1969 to 16 July 1969, Sgt. Erol J. Kimery, 542-64-3405, has served with the Sixth US Army ROTC Summer Camp as a member of the Squad and Platoon in Defense Committee in a truly outstanding manner."

"Many favorable comments have been made by cadre personnel, cadets, and senior officers, regarding the high degree of proficiency, military appearance and helpful attitude of the Squad and Platoon in Defense Committee personnel. Sergeant Kimery's performance of duty has been especially noteworthy and he has contributed immeasurably to the efficient operation of the committee."

"Sergeant Kimery has at all times conducted himself in the finest traditions of the military service and has imparted a lasting and favorable impression of the military to all ROTC cadets he has come in contact with. He is a credit to himself, the Army, and your unit and receives my most sincere appreciation and congratulations for a job well done."
WALTER A. PASHLEY, Jr.
Colonel, FA S3

MEHAMA

Mrs. John Teeters

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Matthis returned home Monday, Sept. 29 from Salt Lake City, Utah, where they attended a meeting dealing mostly with the raising of pheasants, and other game birds. Friday Mrs. Matthis flew to Virginia to be with her daughter, Mrs. Frank Shelton who had been in an accident.

Mrs. Parris Bouche of Bend was an overnight guest last week at the home of Mrs. Lilly Wolfkiel and also visited with other friends here.

S/Sgt. and Mrs. Denis Teeters came Tuesday Sept. 30 and visited a short time with relatives here before going on to Albany for a few days visit. They also returned here before returning to Mrs. Teeters parents home at Filer, Idaho. Sgt. Teeters is being transferred from Lowry AFB near Denver, Colo., to an Air Base near Lubbock, Texas, where he will report October 20.

Mrs. R. J. Bruch of Seattle, arrived Saturday evening for a visit at the home of Mrs. Jack Ryland.

Mrs. Charles Bouche returned home Friday from a Salem hospital where she spent a week following surgery.

Mrs. Edward Titze accompanied her granddaughters family, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Hershefelt and Russell to Milton, Freewater Friday where they were guests at the Glen Rogers home, for the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stout of Portland were Mehama visitors Sunday at the John Teeters, E. J. Hughes and M. V. Frame homes and with other relatives and friends.

Julius Titze was taken to Santiam Memorial hospital Sunday, Sept. 28 after becoming seriously ill at his home. At last report he was somewhat improved.

Guests during the week-end at the Julius Titze home were Mrs. Titze's daughter, Mrs. Harvey Buxton and her daughters, Beth and Jean Davies of Coos Bay.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Bilyeu of Lebanon visited a short time Sunday afternoon at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Monroe.

Mrs. Edward Walz and daughters Joanne and Carol and Bonnie Christenson went to Corvallis Sunday afternoon and visited a short time with Dorothy Walz who is a freshman at Oregon State University this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Bomberger and daughter Carrie of Tualatin were guests during the week-end at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wallen.

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LYONS

By Eva Bressler

Harry Clason of Mehama is the new maintenance man for the Lyons-Mehama water district. He replaces Vaughn Hastings who resigned, and expects to go east where he will be employed.

Mrs. Ruth Lyons of Salem and Mrs. Helen Lyons of Springfield were Wednesday visitors at the home of Mrs. Eulalia Lyons and attended the Wednesday afternoon card party.

An early date to remember is the chicken dinner and fall festival to be held at the Lyons Catholic Community hall Sunday, October 26, from 11:30 to 3 p. m. Committee in charge is Mrs. Charles Bouche, Mrs. Edwin Sieg and Mrs. Leland Manning.

Mrs. Hazel Lewis was hostess for the first fall meeting of the Wednesday afternoon card club. A 1:30 dessert luncheon was served followed by the playing of 500. High score was held by Mrs. Ruth Lyons, second high by Mrs. Helen Lyons and low by Mrs. Eulalia Lyons. Others attending were Mrs. Gladys Nygaard, Mrs. Bea Hlatt, Mrs. Alma Olmstead, Mrs. Freda Kuiken, Mrs. June McPhetters, Mrs. Leota Worden, Mrs. Katie Sieg, Mrs. Bertha Allen and Miss Zeta Prichard.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Weidman and Kathy spent several days last week in Klamath Falls at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert James and family.

Mrs. Milton Roten underwent major surgery Thursday morning at the Salem Memorial hospital. Mrs. Roten who is bookkeeper at the Peoples' Telephone Co. is being replaced by Mrs. Alex Bodeker, a former employee there.

Recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shull and family were Mr. and Mrs. Orlin Carpenter and son Keith, and Mrs. Lawrence Carpenter and children, Steve and Karen from Holley.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hince of Salem and former Lyons residents visited friends here Saturday. They were guests at the Earl Allen and E. L. Royce homes.

Miss Ellen Dougherty of Portland was a week-end guest at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Fink.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Craigmyle were weekend guests at Redmond. They were at the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Studebaker and family.

Sgt. Errol Jack Kimery from Fort Lewis, Washington, is spending a 15-day leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Kimery and Jerry.

Miss Helen Grosso student at OSU was a week-end guest at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Grosso.

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Scott were in West Fir Saturday to visit his sister, Mrs. Wallace Neal who is seriously ill.

Mrs. Eulalia Lyons spent several days the first of the week in Albany as guest at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hill and Stewart.

John Childs was taken to the Lebanon hospital Thursday afternoon with injuries received when the Southern Pacific train hit his logging truck at the Gilbert Logging company crossing about a mile and a half east of Lyons. Extensive damage was done to the truck but Mr. Childs injuries were believed not to be too serious.

Mrs. Leota Worden was a Sunday dinner guest at the home of her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lierman and children in Stayton, and went with them to Salem to see Mrs. Lierman who is in the hospital convalescing following major surgery.

Mrs. Harvey Richardson and three children of Portland were Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Kinzer and family, Mrs. Richardson is a sister of Mrs. Kinzer.

Mrs. Joe Johnson was a week-end guest in Tacoma Wn. at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Taylor and children. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Brian Phillips of Stayton.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jobe spent the week at Kernville on the coast. They reported fishing very poor, but the weather nice.

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