

State Auditor Alleges Deputy Clerk Altered Claims To Obtain Extra Pay; Restitution Of \$185 Follows Report

Klamath county court members announced today they had received word that restitution had been made by C. C. Heidrich, former deputy county clerk, for \$185 which he had allegedly received from the county through alteration of county claims as reported in the 1944-45 state audit.

According to County Commissioner John Reber, Heidrich has given a certified check to his bonding company for the amount involved, and the company will in turn reimburse the county.

Disclosure of the Heidrich incident came today when copies of the state audit were received.

The auditor said Heidrich had altered the claims in order to obtain pay he felt due him for overtime work in 1945.

After the unusual procedure for collecting overtime pay was reported to County Clerk Charlie DeLap by the state auditor, Heidrich resigned his deputy clerk position. That was in November.

According to the audit, made by Auditor Bernard C. Davis of the state, Heidrich drew two salary advances in June and August, 1945, the first for \$85 and the latter for \$100. The advances were approved by the county court.

Heidrich was entered in the commissioner's journal and published in this newspaper, gave consideration of those advances, with the amount of the advances deducted.

Warrants Altered

But after the claims had been signed by the county court and entered in the journal by the county clerk, the warrants were altered by Heidrich to ignore the advances and call for his regular salary, the auditor states.

His salary for June was \$225 and for August \$260. With the advances he drew warrants in those months for \$310 and \$360.

In altering the warrants Heidrich showed the salary advance for June as "extra time, election June, 1945," the auditor reported. There was a legislative measure election in June and county officials said that he probably had worked overtime.

Other office workers received overtime pay for work on the election.

Davis' report says that Heidrich stated that he felt he had overtime pay due him and used this method of obtaining it.

Heidrich was appointed to his job two years ago by Mae K. Short, DeLap's predecessor as county clerk, and retained by DeLap when he took over the office a year ago.

With the exception of the Heidrich incident, the 1944-45 audit contains largely routine material with respect to the county's financial affairs. Other-

wise, Auditor Davis said, "test checks of disbursements indicated that expenditures were made on proper authorization and for proper purposes."

Cash Surplus

Davis reported that all county funds, except the county library fund (deficit of \$264.08) had a cash surplus at June 30, 1945, and were on a cash basis during the year covered by the audit. Current surplus of the several county funds increased in the year by \$8,018.48, and totaled \$342,043.13 at the end of the period.

The auditor emphasized his advice that all county funds should be included in the budget regardless of the sources from which their revenues are obtained.

Davis noted that tax collections have been exceptionally heavy in this county, thus reducing the taxes receivable by a substantial amount. He said he found the work of balancing the tax rolls had been carefully and accurately done.

The auditor pointed out that the law requires that warrants shall be issued in all cases where personal property taxes were delinquent on June 14, 1941. He added there are several personal property tax accounts in Klamath county to which this rule applies, and action should be taken.

With references to justices of the peace, Davis said that Justice Tom Chaburn of the Merrill district retains the total fines in his court and applies the excess against other costs, thus re-

Portlanders Boo Butter Shortage

PORTLAND, Jan. 18 (AP)—Butter-starved Portlanders lined up for two solid blocks to purchase 1000 half-pound packages of the golden spread in the Farmers' Market building.

At another store, Manager A. J. Tacchella numbered cards corresponding to the packages on hand. "It's a headache," he complained. "People boo and catcall and blame me for the butter shortage. I'm going to quit."

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Huge Boom Expected In Home Repair

More than \$1,700,000 is expected to be spent during the next five years by Klamath county home owners on remodeling and repair work.

The year 1946 promises to inaugurate one of the greatest eras in American history for home repairs and modernization, according to estimates released by the The Council of America. "Few developments will contribute more to employment and general prosperity in any community," according to R. E. Jordan, chairman of the council's residential construction committee.

Because of lack of materials

Cordon Loses Housing Scrap

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (AP)—A lively scrap between Senator Cordon (R-Ore.) and the reclamation bureau over 43 surplus houses at Richland, Wash., has ended, at least temporarily, with the bureau in technical possession.

Cordon wanted the houses declared surplus and assigned to the University of Oregon at Eugene and the State college at Corvallis, Ore. The colleges already had received 26 such surplus houses for use of students.

Everything was going nicely for the schools when suddenly Cordon was notified that the reclamation bureau with a higher priority had taken the houses for veterans who will be employed on the Columbia basin irrigation project in Washington.

Cordon summoned Commissioner Michael W. Straus of the reclamation bureau to his office and asked that the bureau relinquish claim to the houses. Straus declined.

Cordon said he planned to take his demand to Secretary Ickes of the interior department, declaring the houses had been declared surplus at his request and for use by the Oregon universities.

"There is no problem as far as we are concerned," Straus said, "for we have the 43 houses. Grand Coulee is going back in construction. Every house we get, and we need 1000 of them, will be occupied by a war veteran working on the project. We need them and we have the priority to get them."

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