

Oregon Law Volumes Now Condensed

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP)—You've heard about authors who get \$1 a word for what they write. But did you hear of anybody who gets \$1 a word for each word he eliminates?

Oregon's State Statute Revision Council, almost ready to hand the Legislature its written version of all the state laws, gets paid that much.

It has spent \$300,000 on its four-year mammoth job, and has cut 300,000 words out of the old laws. The council has had to work over 20,000 sections of Oregon law.

The new edition will compress all the laws into three volumes. There also will be a one-volume index and a one-volume reference to court decisions and attorney general's opinions on the laws.

The council will ask the Legislature in January to adopt the new code. When the Legislature does, all of the old laws go off the books. Besides trimming excess wordage, the council's staff has rewritten many laws and eliminated many others.

It wants the Legislature to adopt a system whereby whole new sections of laws can be easily inserted after each Legislature.

Ten full-time lawyers have done the revising. There are 22 separate steps a reviser has to go through in revising a section. The lawyers have to be very careful they don't change the meaning of a law.

An editor checks each revision, and then the state departments and private agencies affected by those sections get a chance to correct.

The new code will be a big help to lawyers. They will be able to save much time because it will be easy to find a law and because the laws will be easier to understand.

Sam Haley, the code reviser, knows the job. Sam worked on a similar job in Missouri.

The consultant is Robert K. Cullen, Frankfort, Ky., who revised Kentucky's laws and who served as consultant in Ohio and Missouri.

Cullen started the Oregon project and now he works for the Kentucky Statute Court helping the judges prepare their opinions.

The new books won't be printed until late in 1953. That's because the laws passed by the 1953 Legislature will have to be included. Members of the new Legislature are being told Friday in Portland about the new law code.

Many complete sections of law are eliminated because they no longer have any effect, because they have been repealed, because they have been declared unconstitutional, or because they duplicate other laws.

The state constitution says every law "shall be plainly worded, avoiding so far as practicable the use of technical terms."

That's the aim of the Statute Revision Council, which has had to do some major repair jobs on some laws. For instance, it has had to trim down sentences running as long as 900 words.

Here's a typical example of how the council reduces the wordage. One law starts out: "In all election precincts in which were cast one hundred (100) or more ballots," etc.

The council changed it to this: "In precincts where 100 or more ballots were cast," etc.

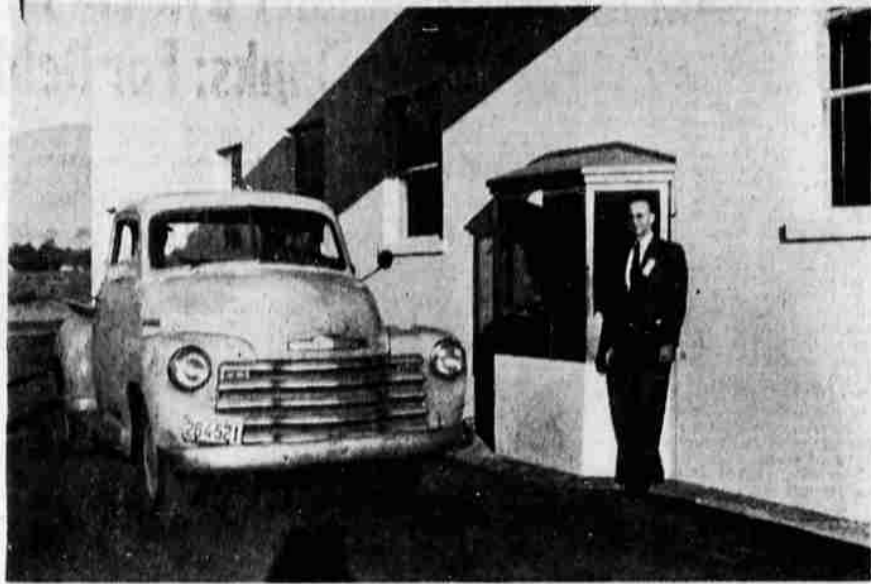
Another law starts: "In any and all counties of this state having a population of over 300,000 inhabitants," etc.

The new version: "In counties having a population of over 300,000," etc. The word "inhabitants"

is dropped, Haley believing anybody would know that 300,000 means people.



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READY AND WILLING to transact usual banking business is this out-of-service window at the South Sixth Street Branch of First National, with Manager Myron Shannon posing beside it. The window and drive-in banking should be of much convenience to customers, Shannon says, who won't even have to leave their autos to conduct business.

Charles Wilson, New Defense Secretary, Says He'll Give Task 'Darnest Whirl'

By ELTON C. FAY

WASHINGTON (AP)—Charles Wilson's comment about giving the defense secretary job the "darnest whirl it ever had" can work both ways.

The job has given four men a whirl in the last four years.

Wilson was named yesterday as President-elect Eisenhower's selection as the next secretary of defense. That the president of General Motors faces a tough assignment is shown by the fact that:

The first secretary resigned and, broken by the immense burden of his job, committed suicide.

The second one was fired.

The third one, a soldier by profession, dutifully served out his assignment for a year, then resigned.

The present one let it be known some months ago, before he knew the election would bring a change in administration, that he intended to leave government. He now says he is more anxious than ever, as he puts it, to go back as rapidly as possible to what he hopes will be moderately prosperous obscurity.

Even the gigantic General Motors Corp. which Wilson heads and which, at Eisenhower's request he is leaving to come to Washington, is dwarfed by the portions of the business he will manage as defense chief.

There is a noteworthy aspect to Wilson's job change: A much bigger job produces a much smaller pay check. The general improvement is that his 1951 salary and bonuses totaled about \$626,300. He'll get \$22,500 from the federal government—and no bonus.

Of all the executive agencies of government, the Defense Department is the largest, the costliest, the most complex, the most technical. Its responsibilities can be grave. Decisions made by a defense secretary can be important in how a battle is fought and how men die.

The number of persons who work under the Defense Department and its armed forces approaches the five-million mark—3,600,000 of whom are in the armed forces, the others civilian employees in the farflung enterprises of the military establishment. General Motors has a big work force, but nowhere near that large.

General Motors is really big alone, not counting the income

from commercial sales. It has been doing business in the multimillions since the start of the Korean War. But the Defense Department's spending budget runs about 60 billion dollars a year.

First man appointed to the job after unification of the Army, Navy and Air Force and creation of the Defense Department in 1948 was James Forrestal, investment banker. He worked at a tremendous task of organizing the department, trying to settle long-existing rivalries and quarrels among the armed forces and getting the national defenses into shape at a time when national sentiment was cool toward military matters. He got things going but, broken by the burden, left his job and then took his life.

Louis Johnson was named to succeed him. Johnson came into office at a time when the trend was to economy. Actions he took to cut back on military spending in line with economy mandates came in for criticism from congressional quarters and elsewhere. The Korean War burst upon the world. The criticism, by then involving charges the military wasn't ready, sharpened. President Truman ousted him.

Truman turned to a man he had long admired and appointed to previous high jobs, including that of secretary of state. He chose five-star Gen. George C. Marshall. A special exception was made by Congress to a law which would have barred appointment of a military man to the civilian job of defense secretary. Marshall came back from brief retirement and took the job. He left much detail of administration to his deputies, kept for himself the task of overseeing the whole broad operation of the Defense Department and of making basic policy decisions.

Robert A. Lovett, present secretary, is Texas-born but transplanted to New York. Like Forrestal, he is an investment banker. He works hard at his job but, unlike Forrestal, doesn't worry

about it. A sense of humor, some times sardonic, saves him. He has been in government work, with only a short break, since early in World War II.

Lovett and Wilson know each other, having met in business meetings during World War II and since.

Immediately upon hearing of Wilson's appointment yesterday, Lovett wired his congratulations and the offer of full co-operation of his office to bring about the transition of administrations in the Defense Department. Up until this morning, the Defense Department had no word whether Wilson would want to come to Washington to sit in for the remaining weeks with Lovett and his aides, as Lovett has recommended.

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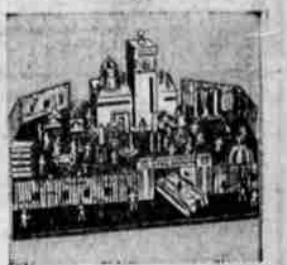
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