

Oregon & Counties Heading Toward Tax Split Dispute

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
ALEM — Oregon and her counties are heading toward a "tax rule" dispute over how to divide property taxes fair and equitable.

The State Tax Commission's million dollar 10-year reapportionment program under way and scheduled for completion in 1961, has caused the counties to be assessed and other county officials already are accusing the commission of taking over the tax apportionment of the counties. The Tax Commission is trying to convince the counties it is only helping them, and that it doesn't want to be a difficult taxation in Oregon and other states is in a mess, it has been for many years. It is unfair. Some people pay property taxes that they don't want to pay. Some people pay taxes that they don't want to pay. Some people pay taxes that they don't want to pay.

There have been bills in the Legislature to let the tax commission appoint the assessors, but Stewart says the commission doesn't want that power. The Legislature also has considered bills to make the office non-partisan, which the Tax Commission thinks might be a good idea.

This whole program won't increase the amount of revenue received by local government, which get all the property tax receipts. The state doesn't get a dime from it.

It will only result in equalizing the taxes, meaning some will pay more, and some will pay less.

The counties and the state split the cost of the reappraisals. Counties enter into contracts with the state, and Stewart thinks all the counties will have it done.

What they already have found is turned out to be even worse than expected. Stewart pointed out the Grant County town of John Day as a typical example, with the extremes of tax assessing ranging from only 10 per cent of the appraised value, to 187.5 per cent of the value. The figures for Grant County farms were worse, ranging from 10 to 240 per cent of the actual value.

The purpose of this reappraisal, Stewart said, "is to try to make the property tax an equitable tax. But the reappraisal program won't be successful unless we take steps to prevent the appraisals from getting out of line in the future."

The first of these steps, he said, is to provide standards and regulations for county assessors to use.

State To Present Views On Hells Canyon Project

OLYMPIA — The State of Washington plans to ask the Federal Power Commission for permission to present its official view in the current hearing on the Hells Canyon Dam site, Governor Langlie announced Wednesday.

The governor said the state wasn't taking sides on whether it wanted the Snake River dammed by private or federal interests but it favored the three low level dams proposed by the Idaho Power Co.

Langlie said the state would send Holland Houston, state engineer, to Washington, D.C., if the FPC grants permission for him to be heard. Houston long has been an advocate of the three small dams instead of the one high dam proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The governor said the three dams could be built more quickly, at less expense and be more easily integrated into the development of the area.

Langlie is meeting here with the governors of Idaho, Montana and Oregon. He said Wednesday night they had not discussed the Hells Canyon project.

Military Aid To Europe Set To Go Upon Ratification

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON — Plans are about complete for funneling U.S. military aid to Western European countries through the projected European Defense Community as soon as it is ratified.

This was reported today by government officials who pictured Secretary of State Dulles and other top officials as confident that the long-stalled EDC treaty will be finally approved in the next three or four months.

That action would clear the way for rearming of West Germany, the only nation which has ratified it so far. Other signers are France, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg.

State Department informants said a special agreement covering the delivery of American aid to EDC, being worked out with a defense community preparatory commission at Paris, is substantially completed.

In general it follows the line of agreements required by Congress with all the individual countries receiving U. S. assistance.

In brief, the requirements are that the aid must be used to strengthen the free world, that there be adequate publicity as to the source, and that the aid not be transferred to other areas without U. S. approval. Technical provisions cover presence of American personnel in the areas where weapons and equipment are released and used.

Officials said the agreement has been negotiated in line with basic U. S. policy, as laid down by Congress in recent foreign aid bills, that U. S. aid may be given to international organizations where that is desirable.

Beyond this, an amendment to the bill passed last year specified that only a portion of the authorized military help for Western Europe could be delivered prior to the formation of the European Defense Community.

The result of this distribution of military equipment through EDC is that it will not be handed over directly to West Germany. Officials feel this should prove reassuring in some degree to French concerned about a revival of German militarism.

Another significance of the policy is this: the mere fact that EDC handles the volume of American weapons for Western European countries should help to insure its future existence and strengthen the chances for its success.

The understanding here now is

Cordon Talking Retirement

PORTLAND — The Oregon Journal said Wednesday that Sen. Guy Cordon reported he "has under consideration" retirement from the Senate after his present term.

He has been in the Senate since 1944 when appointed to fill out the term of Sen. Charles L. McNary. He would be up for re-election again next year.

The Journal did not go into detail on the retirement possibility. It said Cordon made the statement while "resting briefly in Southern Oregon."

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that all six EDC nations would get American help through the organization, once it comes into being, but that France in addition would receive assistance under a separate program for its forces fighting in Indochina. None of the other countries, of course, has a similar problem.

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