

Former State Conciliation Chief Urges Change In Law

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR. SALEM (AP) — The pleasant, little gray haired Presbyterian minister, who probably knows as much about mediating labor disputes as anybody in the state, thinks it's time that Oregon get itself an agency that can help settle labor disputes.

He is the Rev. P. G. Scherer, who resigned a year ago as chairman of Oregon's Board of Conciliation to become the state's first labor examiner.

"Oregon needs a conciliation service with teeth in it. Nobody even knows just what the State Board of Conciliation can do. We ought to have a state conciliation service comparable to the federal mediation service, something that employers and employees would respect," he said.

"A real state conciliation service," he added, "could step in whenever a labor dispute is threatened. It often could prevent labor disputes before they even get started.

"In every labor dispute, there is always at least one point of conciliation."

This subject came up when I congratulated Scherer this week on the fact that he's no longer on the Board of Conciliation, which now has the stupendous task of trying

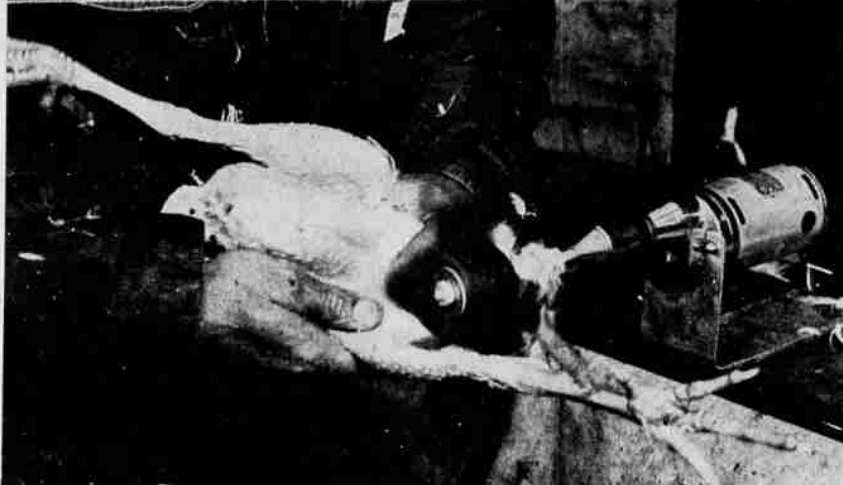
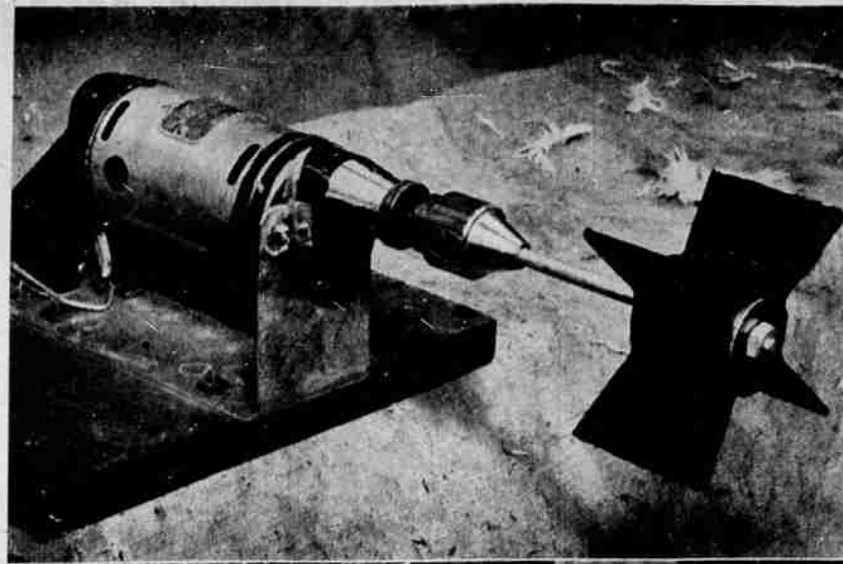
to settle the long lumber strike. The law is so vague that the board will have trouble figuring out just what to do. But by the time it gets going, the strike might be over.

The Board of Conciliation never has done much. Many people didn't even know it existed until a few days ago, when it became embroiled in a controversy between Democrats and Republicans.

The reason it never has done much probably can be found in Scherer's statement that when he was on the board, he didn't know just what powers the board has.

The argument over the board started when State Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, Democrat who's trying to win Guy Cordon's seat in the U. S. Senate, demanded that Gov. Paul L. Patterson fill the two vacancies on the three-man board, and give it the job of trying to settle the lumber strike.

The governor said "no comment" to Neuberger's demand. But when lumber workers from Sweet Home picketed the capitol in a demand that the board investigate and arbitrate the strike, the governor acted quickly.



ANOTHER LOCAL INDUSTRY is well on the way these days with the introduction of the McKendree chicken picker. Designed and manufactured by Scott W. McKendree, 1893 Del Moro, the chicken picker follows on the heels of the McKendree duck picker, put on the market last year and already selling in almost every country in the world. The chicken picker will operate from any low powered hand drill or mixer motor, will remove feathers, including pin feathers, and finish the chicken off with no hand finishing required. First shipments of the picker are now on dealers shelves over the Basin. According to McKendree, once the operator has mastered the technique, a chicken can be completely finished in six minutes.

AFL Voting Disturbs CIO

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. (AP) — By voting to accept a previously rejected 6-cent hourly wage increase, AFL atomic production workers put the squeeze on disturbed CIO union leaders who said today the AFL vote would not block their demands for a 15-cent boost.

The AFL workers put teeth into their leaders' recommendations by voting about 3-1 in secret ballot yesterday to accept the 6-cent wage hike suggestion handed down June 15 by the President's atomic energy labor relations panel.

Disappointed CIO Local President Emerson Pownall said today, "We thought that they would back us up. We wanted their support but they're not going to stop us."

And he added: "We think we'll win out in the end."

Always in the past, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Co. has granted identical increases to the CIO and AFL at bargaining time. The company operates all four atomic plants involved here and at Paducah, Ky., for the Atomic Energy Commission. A wage increase won't cost Carbide anything for, under the cost-plus contract, the firm will pass along the increase to the government.

REQUEST

Gov. Patterson asked the Democratic attorney general, Robert Y. Thornton, if the board had jurisdiction in the strike. Thornton replied that it does.

The governor then filled up the board and gave it the go-ahead in the lumber strike investigation.

The governor didn't like Thornton's opinion. He said Thornton ignored his important question as to whether the board could try to settle a strike which crosses state lines, as the lumber strike does.

It took Gov. Patterson 24 hours of almost constant telephoning to get somebody to take the thankless job of being the new member of the board. He finally got J. L. Jennings, retired Portland industrialist, to do it.

All of this has the governor and his aides a bit worried, because the Democrats put the governor on the spot. It might hurt the governor in his reelection campaign.

STATE MEDIATION

The governor's position has been that the Federal Mediation Service is doing all that anybody could to mediate the strike, and that the state couldn't do more. Also, he previously said he would order state mediation only when both sides requested it. But the employers didn't want it.

The Democrats forced his hand, and the governor and his staff fear that the Democrats will claim that the governor sat idly by while the strike crippled Oregon's economy.

Gov. Patterson's answer is the claim that he has held many conferences with both sides of the strike.

Scherer, as state labor examiner, can't do anything about it.

He was appointed under the 1953 law which won't let unions picket unless they are recognized bargaining agents.

This law has been declared unconstitutional by two circuit courts, and is on its way to the State Supreme Court.

Maine Growers Back Spud Order

Maine potato growers voting in a referendum held recently have approved the issuance of a federal marketing order regulating the handling of potatoes grown in that state, USDA announced last week, according to the August 16 American Farm Bureau News Letter.

Of the producers voting in the referendum, 76 per cent by number and 77 per cent of production favored issuance of the order. Potato growers representing about 54 per cent of the production in Maine voted in the referendum.

Handlers of Maine potatoes are being given an opportunity to sign a marketing agreement which contains the same provisions as the marketing order which has just been approved by growers.

GALLEON

LONDON (AP) — An expedition headed by the Duke of Argyll has started probing the secrets of a wreck that may be a sunken galleon of the Spanish Armada. Legend says the 16th century ship was laden with gold ducats worth 68 million dollars.

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Science Teacher Meeting Held

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, — Corvallis — Thirty-two selected high school science teachers from seven western states are at Oregon State College for a unique conference aimed at improving science instruction in high schools across the country.

The teachers are emphasizing ways for better tying in high school science studies and laboratory work with actual industry needs and situations. To do this, they are visiting various Northwest industries, including forest products centers, fish and wildlife services, manufacturing plants and research laboratories.

Selected from KUHS for this conference and tour was Mrs. Gladys Herron, chemistry teacher.

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New Antelope Pamphlet Out

Just off the press is a new pamphlet on antelope written by R. U. Mace, in charge of big game for the Oregon State Game Commission.

The pamphlet titled "Oregon's Pronghorn Antelope" is one in a series of publications on big game authored by Mace.

Filled with facts, many gained from personal observation of the animals, the booklet is a must for

antelope hunters or anyone else interested in the fleet-footed pronghorns.

Of particular interest to hunters will be the sections on hunting, care of the meat, and care of the trophy.

The pamphlet is filled with excellent illustrations by Harold Smith. Copies are available free of charge from the Oregon State Game Commission, Box 4136, Portland 8, Oregon.

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