

Welfare Aid Recipients Face Tightening Of Belt

By NORM CARDOZA
Residents of Klamath County who are on welfare may soon have to tighten their belts. In fact the needy all over the state will probably soon be in trouble as the result of a cutback in an emergency appropriation by the State Legislature to the State Public Welfare Commission. Amount asked for was \$1,900,000. The Joint Ways and Means Committee slashed that figure to \$1,200,000 and turned the request in to the House of Representatives with recommendation that it be passed. The appropriation is as good as passed already. Final results will be known before the week is out. Mrs. Julia Brown, Klamath County welfare administrator believes. She says the slash will result in cutbacks in payments to persons on all types of welfare in the county. General assistance, financed entirely by state and county funds, will be hardest hit. That is the fund that has been supporting families which have been unemployed and which have no other income. Cutbacks are going into effect immediately. How payments will

be slashed is pending action by the House of Representatives. But, though the picture is growing darker, it's doubtful that anyone in the county is going to starve. Payment for food on an emergency basis is available, even for transient families, on a reduced scale. A family can qualify for emergency aid if it has no immediate means of providing for itself. Emergency grants usually are sufficient to cover about a week's food purchase, as gauged by welfare commission standards. It is more difficult to qualify for sustained general assistance, a aid to dependent children and so forth. First, need must be proved. Specialists from the Klamath County Welfare Office in Klamath Falls visit residences of applicants. They decide eligibility and need. Single, able-bodied men are not eligible for payment. If they must have assistance, they will be referred to various charitable agencies in the county. But single, able-bodied women are eligible and so are disabled men.

Able-bodied men, married or not, are not eligible if they are away from home — even if they are looking for work. Payment to the disabled varies with ability to earn a living and with money received from other sources. Those who make more money than payments they would otherwise receive from the welfare program are not eligible. Payments will fill the gap between what the department calculates is the basic cost of living and the amount an applicant earns. Aid to dependent children is based on a sliding age-number of children scale. Applicants must prove that the family wage-earner has died, abandoned his family or has a temporary or permanent incapacity to earn a living. They must prove a year's residence in the state. If a husband is out of work, but is able to work and is honestly seeking employment, he is eligible for general assistance for himself and for his family, but he is not eligible for aid to dependent children. Much of the state welfare program is financed by federal, state and county funds on a percentage basis. The welfare case-load zoomed during 1958 due to the recession. Pressure was felt — still is being felt — acutely in Klamath County. The county got a reputation as a good prospect for job hunters. Talk of California Oregon Power Company dam construction and construction of the West Side Bypass, arrival of the Johns-Manville plant near the city, a growing air base, and bumper crops contributed to the influx of population. Many didn't get jobs. Some were hired in place of residents who might otherwise have been. The county case-load spiraled to 310 families receiving general assis-

tance payments in March. That was substantially more than the normal number of recipients. The case-load still is climbing, but at a decelerating rate. Unemployment is well over last year's level at this time, but, paradoxically, so is employment — an indication of an enlarged labor force. Federal, state and county funds budgeted for welfare in 1959 are not sufficient to last until July 1 when another fiscal year and another biennium start. The shortage is appearing all over the state, and that is why the State Welfare Commission asked the Legislature for the \$1,900,000 deemed necessary to continue the welfare program without cutbacks during the next three months.

Full Time Chief Pondered For Youth, Rec Facilities

LAKEVIEW — Considerable interest was evidenced at the meeting Monday night at the city hall in Lakeview in the discussion concerning the eventual combination of youth activities and recreation facilities under the supervision of a full time director. This director would also be the same person to handle juvenile problems in the county. The plan, yet only in discussion stages, would place all recreational facilities under the direct-

or selected would be responsible to the park board. In his capacity as juvenile officer he would also have to be acceptable to the circuit judge. Mayor Howard Goodnough, who is active in promoting the plan, stated that, while additional funds would not be a request for them to be raised by further taxation. Contributions from organizations and sale of tickets are thought to be the probable solution to this. Development of this youth recreation plan began with the purchase of the armory building by the city. The land on which the building was erected was owned by the city and on moving out of the National Guard, the building was offered for sale at a price which attracted the city fathers, who saw an increase in value of the property with a view to future sale. However, the fact that the building could be used for many youth activities such as boxing, skating, volleyball, teen-age dancing, etc., caused a number of representative citizens to request that the building be retained by the city. Not wishing to assume the financial support for the building and activities, the idea was born of coordination under one director. Besides the armory, there would be the participation in the swimming pool, the ski tows, bowling teams, golfing, and other available activities, with each department under a separate budget item. Juvenile problems are now handled in the county by a part time officer. The combination of both a city and county program is the ultimate aim of the planning group. Another meeting has been called for April 20 in the city hall and in the meantime, there will be a check on the recreation programs of such cities as Portland, Klamath Falls and Redmond, with a report to be made at the meeting.

House Passes Welfare Bill

SALEM (AP) — The House passed and sent to the Senate today a bill giving the state Public Welfare Commission a \$1,200,000 emergency appropriation. The 47-9 vote came after a nearly successful attempt to give the commission the \$1,900,000 that it asked. The House voted 28-28 on a motion to send the bill back to the Joint Ways and Means Committee to grant the \$1,900,000 request. The committee had pruned the request, designed to tide the commission over during April, May and June, down to the \$1,200,000 figure. Rep. Keith Skelton (D-Eugene), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, argued that the \$1,200,000 is sufficient. He said that Oregon's welfare grants are among the highest in the nation. The motion to send it back to committee was made by Rep. Vernon Cook (D-Gresham), who said the \$1,200,000 was not enough. Skelton and Rep. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille), House tax chairman, were critical of the Welfare Commission. The Senate Taxation Committee approved a bill to repeal the personal property tax on inventories effective July 1, 1961. A legislative interim taxation committee will work the next two years to devise some other form of taxation to replace the 16 million dollars annually that the inventory tax repeal would cost. A bill to let bus lines abandon their agencies without permission of the public utilities commissioner was passed by the Senate and sent to the House.

Four Killed In Accident

ARDMORE, Okla. (AP) — A speeding auto failed to make a railroad crossing near here Wednesday and was hit by the Santa Fe Texas Chief passenger train. Four persons were killed, two critically injured. "The only thing I saw when we hit was flying bodies," said engineer Floyd Webb. He said the train's speed was 60 miles an hour, about the same as the auto. The victims were identified as Dale McNew, 20; Pearl Williams, 46, her daughter, Roberta, 18, all of Bristow, Okla., and Mrs. Roger Joyce, 21, Gowen, Okla. In critical condition are Airman Roger Joyce, 22, and his 9-month old son, Jimmy. Joyce was the car's driver.

Damage Action Lost By Pianist

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Entertainer David Street wanted \$103,500 in damages because he was banged up a finger operating an elevator. But a judge said Wednesday it wasn't worth anything. Street said he cannot play the piano because of the injured finger, but Superior Court Judge Arnold Praeger upheld arguments of operators of the building. They said Street operated the lift at his own risk. Praeger dismissed the suit.

Medics Observe Ex-Child Star

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former child actor Scotty Beckett, 28, of "Our Gang" is under medical observation after behaving wildly in court. Beckett tore at his clothing Wednesday while waiting to appear before a judge on suspicion of drunk driving. Bailiffs hurried him out of the room. Judge Leo Freund ordered the actor kept under observation until a new hearing set for April 15.

BIG HAUL
DENVER, Colo. (AP) — It was the biggest theft reported around here this year. Somebody, said Robert R. Carter, stole a seven-ton tractor one of his workmen left in the street at Arvada, Denver suburb. Tire tracks indicated the tractor had been hauled away by truck.

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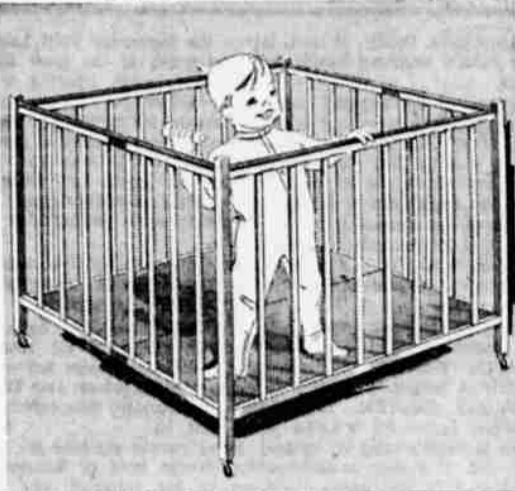
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