

Legislative Recap

1959 State Legislature Passed 700 New Laws In 116 Day Session

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM (AP)—The 50th Oregon Legislature, which passed some 700 new laws during its 116-day session, balanced its \$133-million-dollar general fund budget, although plagued by a shortage of revenue and strong demands for increased spending.

As the weary legislators went home, they had fears of the financial problem that will face the 1961 session. They budgeted all of the 30 million dollars in surplus funds for the 1959-61 biennium. They will face a demand for at least 75 million dollars in added revenues in 1961 just to maintain the present level of services.

It was the first Democratic-controlled Legislature since 1878. It accepted much of Republican Gov. Mark Hatfield's program, and the budget it adopted is almost exactly the total he recommended.

The Democratic leaders failed in their determination to keep spending below 300 million dollars. They also saw the session last 25 days longer than they had hoped.

The session was long not only because of the money problem, but because 1,318 bills had to be considered. This was almost as many as the record 1,336 bills two years ago.

Most of the new laws will go into effect in 90 days, although some with emergency clauses will become effective sooner, or already are law.

Here is a summary of the major legislation passed by the 1959 Legislature:

The major new tax law would increase income taxes about 9 per cent. It abolishes the federal income tax deduction, and replaces the present 3 to 9½ per cent rate schedule with a 2½ to 7½ per cent schedule.

Other new revenue will be raised by a million-dollar annual increase in income taxes on utilities, higher inheritance and gift taxes, higher liquor prices, and charging interest of one per cent a month on payment of income taxes by installments.

Bills to tax tobacco, levy a 1½ per cent tax on business profits to replace the inventory tax, and refer a three per cent sales tax to the voters, died in the Legislature.

The tax on capital gains was reduced to attract new investment capital.

The Legislature referred to the people a proposal to issue 40 million dollars in bonds for long-range state building needs. And an interim committee was set up to study all phases of taxation.

Memorials were adopted to ask the federal government to repeal the taxes on telephone, telegraph and passenger transportation, and to require the government to pay taxes on lands it acquires from the states.

The way was paved for a wholesale reorganization of state agencies by passage of a bill to let the governor submit plans for it. Bills were passed to abolish the Board of Control, increase the parole board from three to five members, create a board of appeals from Tax Commission rulings, and give the state Finance Department more controls over budgets and building.

A Legislative Fiscal Committee was created to keep tab on state finances between legislative sessions. The state Department of Agriculture was reorganized and authorized to conduct research.

The state Bond Commission and several minor boards were abolished. And a measure was referred to the voters to let the Legislature write a new state constitution.

By appropriating 106 millions in basic school aid to local districts, the Legislature kept the present formulas of \$105 per year per census child.

Bills were passed to allow local areas to set up community colleges and to create a state scholarship commission.

Oregon Technical Institute was transferred to the state Board of Higher Education. Higher education got 10 millions in new buildings, half what it asked.

The higher education budget totaled 55 millions, a 17 per cent increase. But fees in the state colleges and university will be increased \$30 a year for residents and \$60 for non-residents.

School districts were required to have special classes for retarded children beginning in 1964. A program for gifted children was begun, and a pilot program for education of migrant farm labor children was authorized.

The Legislature asked for federal aid for education, and set up the machinery to accept it when and if it comes.

A measure was ordered to the ballot to increase the higher education self-liquidating bond limit for buildings from 29 to 54 millions.

The Board of Higher Education was told to plan a graduate school of social work, to open in 1961, and an interim committee was authorized to study all school problems.

The 1953 law which banned picketing for the purpose of influencing workers to join a union was repealed.

The Legislature set up an interim committee to study labor-management relations. This was the answer to Republican demands for laws to prevent coercion by employers and labor, require unions to account for their funds, and require unions to hold secret elections.

The new laws designed to build up the sagging Unemployment Compensation Fund would increase the tax on employers' payroll by increasing the ceiling on taxable wages from \$3,600 a year to \$3,800; extend coverage to employers of one or more workers, and require that persons must work 20 weeks a year to get benefits. The three-member Unemployment Compensation Commission will be replaced by a single director, and the governor was authorized to borrow federal funds when the state runs short of money to pay benefits.

Industrial accident benefits were increased six per cent, and the definition of occupational disease was broadened.

Farm labor contractors will have to be licensed, and the Board of Health was ordered to regulate health and sanitation in factories.

A Workmen's Compensation Advisory Council was created to advise the Industrial Accident Commission and proposed new laws.

The Highway Commission got a 197-million-dollar budget, a 20 per cent increase over this biennium.

The Legislature authorized bond issues of 24 millions for construction of the bridge across the Columbia at Astoria, providing that Washington State pays for half; and 4 millions for improvement of the Roseburg-Coquille Highway.

Trailers used as residences were taxed 2 per cent of their market value, and inspections were provided for trucks and buses used to haul farm workers.

A clause protecting the owner from bodily injury damage caused by uninsured motorists will have to appear in all liability insurance policies.

Stricter enforcement was provided for the present billboard regulation law, but a bill to keep the boards off interstate highways died.

The Highway Commission failed to get the gas tax increased one cent a gallon.

The Public Welfare Commission got 91 million dollars, compared with 83 millions in the present biennium. Legislative dissatisfaction over administration of the welfare program prompted a resolution to be approved for an interim investigation.

The Welfare Commission ran short of funds for the biennium ending next July 1, and got \$1,000,000 of the \$1,900,000 it asked as an emergency appropriation.

Regulations were set up for health and sanitation standards in farm labor camps.

A \$1,800,000 building program for institution building was approved. Most of the money goes to Fairview Home for mentally retarded persons.

The tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles will be converted into a hospital for chronic mentally ill cases over 50 years old.

The Supreme Court was given broad powers to supervise circuit and other lower courts.

Other measures adopted provide for two temporary supreme justices, a new juvenile code, new traffic code, and public defenders in counties over 100,000 population to defend indigent persons.

The appeals procedure was revised. Divorce courts were given authority to make family investigations in cases where there are children.

Proposed constitutional amendments were put on the ballot to require judges to retire at 75 years of age, and to permit accusations to be filed by information of the prosecutor.

The machinery was provided for counties to adopt home rule, and a proposed constitutional amendment was approved to let such counties issue bonds for improvements.

Counties now can issue bonds to buy voting machines, and they can permit private parties to use rights of way for purposes in the public interest.

Lending agencies were authorized to form development credit corporations to supply investment capital.

Other measures designed to spur industrial growth will reduce the tax on capital gains, exempt factories under construction from the property tax, and permit goods shipped through the state to be tax-exempt.

Five-day week for state police. Prohibit employers of six or more persons from discriminating against persons solely because of their age.

License fitters of hearing aids. Forbid giving or selling tobacco to a child under 18.

Refer the daylight saving question to the voters.

Extend the governor's emergency wartime powers for two more years.

Create a state Marine Board to license and regulate boats of more than 10 horsepower.

Make parents liable up to \$100 for malicious damage caused by their children.

Increase the bonding limit on veterans bonds from 155 to 218 million dollars.

Provide compulsory treatment of narcotics addicts.

Create a voluntary Beef Council for research and marketing.

Prevent real estate agents from discriminating against persons because of race or religion.

Place all presidential candidates in Oregon's primary, unless they withdraw.

Increase legislators' salaries from \$600 to \$2,100 a year.

Provide for regulation and inspection of amusement rides.

Set up a committee to determine when the governor is physically or mentally unable to serve.

After 35 Years As Chief, Hoover Has No Thoughts Of Quitting Federal Men

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's No. 1 G-man reaches an important milestone Sunday—35 eventful years as boss of the FBI, and the longest tenure for a federal agency head in the country's history.

But there is every evidence that John Edgar Hoover has the same drive and zest for his job that marked his wonder boy era back in the roaring twenties.

That era had its start when Hoover, just 29, was placed in charge of a discredited, scandal-ridden organization of political hacks whose staff reputedly included some ex-convicts. It is history now—the story of how he cleaned out the bureau with a stern hand and went ahead to make it one of the world's most

Prison Group Loses Plea

EUGENE (AP)—The Oregon Prison Assn. should not be allowed a share of funds raised through the Oregon United Appeal, the admissions committee of that group recommended Thursday.

The committee voted 17-4 after heated debate that lasted nearly two hours. The action was based mainly on a four-page report by a special OUA committee that said the program of the OPA failed to coincide with the purposes of the OUA.

The recommendation, if accepted, would deprive the OPA of its share of the money raised by the United fund group. The OPA this year received \$17,933 and raised \$1,000 on its own.

George Sage of Salem, a spokesman for OUA, said the committee's action reflects the view of local fund organizations that the OPA program fails to accomplish purposes in line with the OUA goal.

However, Paul B. Bender of Portland, president of the prison association, said his group should not be "subject to anyone as to its personnel and the method of carrying out its program."

The special report to the state United appeal said the prison association must rid itself of its executive director, Mrs. Claire Argow of Portland.

The committee said it could not "visualize a program of the OPA which is acceptable if it includes the present executive director."

The same committee asserted that "an organization with the stated principles of the OPA is valid in Oregon."

Dr. Floyd B. Albin headed the special committee, and the admissions committee is headed by attorney Jack Lively of Springfield.

renowned and most respected investigative agencies.

Hoover, who passed his 64th birthday last Jan. 1, has no thought of retiring.

A few days ago he told me: "Old age will have to run mighty fast to catch up with me."

The FBI director serves at the pleasure of whoever happens to be attorney general. Hoover, who has no political affiliation, has held the job under five Presidents and a dozen attorneys general, Democrat and Republican.

Atty. Gen. William P. Rogers laughed off a question about a possible Hoover retirement.

Who would succeed Hoover if he should retire? One rarely hears talk about a successor, but two names are mentioned occasionally: Clyde A. Tolson, the associate director who has worked at Hoover's side for 31 years; and Edward A. Tamm, who was assistant to Hoover for 20 years before accepting a federal district judgeship in the District of Columbia.

A bachelor, Hoover, lives in a modest home in a fashionable Washington neighborhood with his two Cairn terriers—G-Boy and Tucker—and raises roses in his leisure hours.

He believes in keeping fit. Just under 6 feet, he watches his diet and keeps his weight at 175 pounds. Weather permitting, he daily dismisses his car a mile short of his office in the Justice department building and strides the last lap at a gait that frequently winds companions.

Hoover reads several newspapers every day—including the comic strips and everything in the sports section. His favorite books

Closed Meet Bill Killed

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—The power of the press can force governmental meetings open but a bill pending in the Texas Legislature won't, Rep. R. J. Strickland says.

The San Antonio representative said he deliberately killed a Senate-approved measure because "I think it's a bad bill."

Strickland refused to call a subcommittee meeting to act on the bill, in effect killing it.

The bill would require state, county and city governmental bodies to hold meetings open to the public except on matters involving "public security" and "financial interests."

"I'm certainly for the principle of the open meetings, but this bill is not the vehicle," Strickland said.

The measure was endorsed by newspaper and professional journalism organizations throughout the state.

are the biographies of great Americans.

At the office, he maintains constant personal touch with everything of importance that is going on at the moment. There is a standing rule that any employee who wants to see him has only to ask.

I asked Hoover what kind of qualities a young man of today should have to make a success of an important job. He said:

"Most important, to my mind, is humility—to remember that he is not trying to build his own reputation but is serving his fellow

man. Many careers are wrecked when individuals forget the role of service and follow their own personal desires, whether for money, social position, prestige, greatest opportunities are those of etc. In our society today, the greatest opportunities are those of helping others.

"Next is integrity—that is, being a man of your word. If you say one thing and do something else—well, that is the way to undermine your reputation among others. Stand for what you think is right, regardless of criticism.

"Also, there is hard work. Over my 35 years I can truthfully say that there is no substitute for hard work. To guide your career just by the clock is to lose the true meaning of a job. Give your job your whole heart. If a job is worth doing, do it well."

Out of a treasure trove of memories as gangbuster, crusader against communism, constant champion of better-trained, better-paid police, what does Hoover remember best?

May 10, 1924, of course. That was the day Atty. Gen. Harlan Fiske Stone, later Chief Justice of the United States, called him in to take over the FBI.

May 1, 1936—Hoover flew to New Orleans and personally arrested Alvin Karpis, the No. 1 bad-man of his day, who had been boasting that he planned to rush Hoover's office in Washington and kill him.

"I remember that day well," says Hoover. "We in the FBI had a deep feeling of satisfaction in finding Karpis. He was a badly wanted fugitive. His arrest helped us defeat the criminal gangs of that day."

Dec. 7, 1941—Pearl Harbor Day. Says Hoover: "When the Japanese bombs hit Pearl Harbor, we in the FBI placed into immediate operation previously prepared plans for guarding the nation's internal security. I was proud of the way FBI employees responded to the challenge—working around the

turned with enough energy to secure wood for the night. Again fairly comfortable.

"It is plus-5 this morning but reached minus-10 last night. It is cloudy and I see little prospect of any planes reaching us today."

Monday, 10 a.m.—by Dr. Miller: "Snowing. Decided against any snowshoeing. All energy used for woodcutting. I have little hope."

Monday—by Dr. Quinn: "Up until today we were hopeful of being found but no sign of rescue ship as yet. Tried to walk out yesterday. I have become particularly weak. Fighting the cold weather is hard."

Tuesday noon—by Dr. Miller: "Still trying though tools broken. Snow. No hope left."

A final note by Dr. Miller, written in grease pencil on fabric, apparently part of the plane's upholstery (no time shown): "This is my last and most important message. Survival instinct fights pain. R.E.M. (Miller's initials). Goodbye all. This is saying a lot of experiments. I hope."

Dr. R. F. DeWitt, Grafton County medical referee, and Dr. Richard Ford of the Harvard University department of legal medicine, reported after an autopsy: "Dr. Miller and Quinn died of exposure. Through post-mortem examination it was found Dr. Miller had received an injury to his face with a fracture of his jaw. No other evidence could be found of further injury."

Notes, penciled on note paper, said:

Monday, Feb. 23 (the second day after the crash)—by Dr. Miller: "When the carb (carburetor) ice set us down here Saturday about 4:30 we made camp. Fair night. Minus 5 degrees fahrenheit. Good wood cut with hacksaw."

"Sunday noon we went south with snowshoes (homemade) but the road petered out and we re-

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College Releases Notes Of Medics Final Hours

LINCOLN, N.H. (AP)—"I see little prospect of any planes reaching us today."

"I have little hope."

"I have become particularly weak. Fighting the cold weather is hard."

"It is plus-5 (temperature) this morning but reached minus-10 last night."

"No hope left."

"Goodbye all."

In these notes, found in the wreckage of their crashed plane, two Dartmouth College physicians described their last hours after their single-engine plane plowed into a clump of trees in snowy mountain wilderness here last Feb. 21.

The notes, written by Drs. Ralph E. Miller, 60, and Robert Quinn, 32, of the Dartmouth medical faculty, were released Thursday night by the college news office.

Their plane, downed on a flight from Berlin to Lebanon, was found last Tuesday in a desolate part of the White Mountain National Forest, about seven miles east of Lincoln. Dr. Miller, a veteran pilot, said in one of the notes that their carburetor had iced up.

Not all of the doctors' last notes were released. Personal messages to their families were withheld.

But what was made public showed how cold and snow and hunger eventually defeated the two men.

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Hatfield Raps Legislature

SALEM (AP)—Gov. Mark Hatfield said today the 1959 Legislature looked backward instead of into the future.

Commenting on the session which ended Thursday, Hatfield said the Democratic-controlled Legislature "provided only another patch on the crazy quilt of Oregon taxation."

The Republican governor, who recommended a one per cent gross income tax to bring in new taxpayers, said the tax program adopted his present taxpayers' burden instead of broadening the base.

He said the Legislature did take a step forward in approving tax relief on capital gains reinvested in Oregon. Hatfield said this will encourage investment and provide new jobs.

The governor also listed as accomplishments the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, repeal of the anti-picketing law, approval of the uninsured motorist clause in automobile liability policies, and changes in unemployment compensation laws to increase the sagging unemployment fund.

But Hatfield said that "a taxpayers' rebellion in Oregon is avoidable only if we in government administer with economy and efficiency."

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