

Barton Brands Timber Tax Costly

SALEM (AP) — A bill embodying a timber tax compromise would cost Oregon \$32 million over a 30-year period, Rep. Clarence Barton, D-Coquille, said Monday.

Barton, who is sponsoring his bill that contrasts sharply with the industry bill, at a House tax committee hearing hit repeatedly at the industry compromise sponsored by Rep. W. O. Kelsay, D-Roseburg.

Paul Liniger, an industrial Forestry Association spokesman, said any taxation proposal that would impose \$32 million in taxes in excess of the industry proposal would be damaging to tree farming, the forest industry, the state's economy and the general public.

Bruce Cowan, spokesman for International Paper Co., said there is no verification of Barton's figure and that the compromise is no on principle but on the area of impact. Barton said his \$32 million figure came from the state tax commission.

Barton said if the industry bill passes, this \$32 million would be shifted to home owners, farmers and other property holders, including remaining timber owners. Timber, he said, would pay that much less and other classes of property owners would pay that much more.

Kenneth Smith, representing U. S. Flywood Corp., said his firm had invested in new plants, equipment and more timber in the Curry County area. He said these investments added to property tax liabilities and that timber taxation should be considered in the light of this.

Barton's proposal would tax property on the basis of each owner's timber cutting rate and permit an optional severance rate.

"The slower the timber is being depleted, the lower the valuation," Mike Katz, committee consultant, said. "The more rapidly timber is being depleted, the higher the valuation."

Barton would break down taxing areas by county so if a fast cutter took all his timber out of a taxing district such as a school district that district would get a large chunk of revenue. The industry proposal would put the cutting rate on the same basis for all of Western Oregon.

The industry proposal would exempt trees up to 12 inches in diameter and assess timber over 12 inches in diameter at 30 per cent of market value. It would give a timber operator who cuts less than 3 1/3 per cent of his timber each year the benefit of a 25 per cent rate.

The Barton bill would fix the per cent of market value on which taxes would be levied at from 25 to 90 per cent depending upon the time that the timber was held.

It also would provide that if any cutting were done beyond that for thinning in immature timber, that timber immediately would be taxed entirely as mature timber. The percentages of market value on which immature timber would be taxed range from 10 to 25 per cent under the Barton bill.

Liniger said because the timber owner's inventory, that is his trees, turn over about once in 25 years, and because of the risks of fire, storm and insects timber cannot be taxed each year at full value.

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YELL LEADERS for the Bonanza Antler A string, who won second place in the recent county tournament, left to right, are Naomi Branham, Susan Williams and Katherine Toffell. — Photo by Ferebee

Commission Hears Fish Saving Plans

PORTLAND (AP) — An examiner for the Federal Power Commission resumed hearings in Portland today on fish conservation plans of two competing applicants for licenses to build dams on the Snake River.

J. A. R. Hamilton, a fish biologist for the Pacific Power and Light Co., is to continue testimony he began at Monday's opening session.

Pacific Power and Light is one of the firms making up the Pacific Northwest Power Co. Pacific Northwest Power wants to build High Mountain Sheep Dam just above the mouth of the Salmon River.

The other applicant is Washington Public Power Supply System, a combine of public utility districts. They want to build a dam at the Nez Perce site. It would block the Salmon River — the last big unobstructed salmon spawning stream in the Columbia Basin.

Hamilton was questioned about his competence to discuss engineering aspects of High Mountain Sheep's fish passage facilities. Mrs. Evelyn N. Cooper, attorney for the public power group, said he was a biologist, not an engineer.

Hamilton replied that the engineering work was based on biologists' research.

Some 21 agencies and groups have intervened in the case. Most of them, including the fish agencies of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, choose Mountain Sheep as less harmful to fish than Nez Perce.

Spokesman for two Indian groups — the Chinook Nation and the Cowlitz Tribe, said they were opposed to both dams.

Legislators Say No Free Tuition

EUGENE (AP) — A plea that free tuition be given children of faculty members at the state's colleges and universities was brushed aside Monday by the Finance Committee of the Oregon Board of Higher Education.

Portland State College faculty members had made the proposal, saying it would be one way of making up for low salaries.

The plea was tabled after Chancellor John R. Richards said the free tuition plan might be an obstacle to a major effort now being made to raise salaries.

Board members also talked over aspects of their edict that fraternities withdraw membership bans based on religion or race by 1963 or lose official recognition by the board.

Dan Poling, dean of men at Oregon State College, said that might affect Phi Kappa Theta at OSC, which limits its membership to Roman Catholics.

The board's Building Committee authorized a call for bids on dormitory projects. They include two projects costing an estimated \$1,895,000 and \$1,500,000 at the University of Oregon; a \$630,000 project at Oregon College of Education; and a \$1,140,000 job at Oregon State College. Bids also were authorized for a \$440,000 addition to Hunt Hall at Eastern Oregon College.

Preliminary plans for a \$335,000 addition to the Erb Memorial Union at the university were approved. That addition will include eight more bowling alleys. The committee also recommended that plans be continued for a proposed \$1,670,000, eight-story humanities building at the university.

In addition, the committee authorized a site study for housing for married students at Eastern Oregon College.

Poor Water Supply Seen For Lakeview Irrigation

LAKEVIEW — The water outlook for irrigated lands in this region is poor, according to a forecast by W. T. Frost and B. L. Whaley, snow survey and water supply forecast technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, during a meeting held in Lakeview Thursday evening.

February was too warm and not wet enough in Lake County to improve the mountain snowpack. The snowpack is the "water reservoir" upon which all lands depend for natural streamflow. Some lands are served from man-made reservoirs but even these supplies are exceedingly short this season, according to the report.

Water content of the snowpack is now 57 per cent of the March 1 average and only 68 per cent of last year at this date. Conspicuously absent is the usual low-elevation snow which normally plays an important part in the total water outlook.

Wetness of the soil mantle—the top four feet—has improved somewhat in the past month, with moisture penetrating nearly three feet in upper parts of the watershed. Penetration is only eight to 10 inches in the northeastern part of the county.

Stored water on March 1 was 1,235 acre-feet in Cottonwood Reservoir and 12,640 acre-feet in Drews Reservoir.

One year ago these same reservoirs held about 600 acre-feet and 10,500 acre-feet respectively. Further inflow to these reservoirs is dependent almost entirely on rainfall, since there is virtually no snow left on their watersheds. A snowfall Thursday night will help to meet this shortage.

Water supply forecasts for flow of Lake County streams during the irrigation season (April-September) are all very low, ranging from 63 per cent of the 1943-57 average down to 32 per cent.

Inflow to Drews Reservoir for the March-July period is expected to be about 15,000 acre-feet or 32 per cent of average. With present storage in the two reservoirs, this would provide about 30,000 acre-feet for the Lakeview Water Users, Inc., which is the system under which most of the Westside lands are irrigated.

Deep Creek, Honey Creek and Twenty-nine Creek are expected to flow about 60 to 63 per cent of the 15-year average (1943-57) for the April-June period.

Flow of the Chewaucan River during April-June is forecast at 67 per cent of the average. This stream heads in a higher watershed where snow is currently in better supply. Flow of Buck Creek, Bridge, Silver, Duncan, Moss, Willow and Crooked creeks will be very short this year unless highly abnormal rains are received to improve the situation.

All forecasts assume average conditions of temperature and precipitation for the balance of the season. Another statement on the water supply outlook will be made in an April 8 report.

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Sheriff Will Hear Ideas On Solovich

ROSEBURG (AP) — Douglas County Sheriff Ira Byrd says he will gladly talk to state police about any plans they may have for corralling Steve Solovich—an escaped mental patient who has become a hermit in the woods near here.

Byrd's comment came after a group of residents of the Glide-Little River area met over the weekend to protest Byrd's handling of the search.

They said they were frightened and angry at the on-again, off-again methods Byrd was using. They called on state Sen. Al Flegel, D-Roseburg, and state Rep. W. O. Kelsay, D-Roseburg, to get state police in on the search.

Solovich has evaded police and passes for the past year after escaping from the Veterans Administration Hospital here. In recent weeks, he has threatened visitors to the woods and has shot and wounded one member of a search posse.

Byrd said he thinks his way is the best to capture Solovich without getting someone shot. But the sheriff added that he would be glad to discuss the matter with State Police Supt. H. G. Maisson if Flegel cares to arrange a meeting. Byrd said: "If Maisson has any ideas on how to get Big Steve out of there, I'll be glad to work with him."

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Corn Liquor Under Corn

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Federal officers had just seized a moonshine still and were looking for the products.

And where might you look for corn likker besides under a pile of corn? That's where they found 11 gallons of moonshine, 100 hidden under several hundred bushels of dry ear corn in the crib.

John Baker, 37, owner of the farm, was charged with possession of unstamped whiskey and an unregistered still.

NORWAY FATALITIES

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Norway had 309 traffic fatalities last year, a 5 per cent increase over 1959.

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Advertising is the pulse of the business cycle. Advertising tells you about new products and services and shows you how to enjoy them. It stimulates sales. New sales accelerate production. Greater production creates more jobs. Advertising encourages more people to enjoy more, so that more people may produce more . . . so that everyone may live better for less.

In monetary veins, advertising absorbs costs of newspapers, magazines, literature. It pays for the programs you watch, the music you hear, the news you receive through sight or sound. And it defrays costs of much of the entertainment you enjoy outside the home.

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Yet, because advertising is public, it is exposed to hypercritical sniping. A cough of criticism about it often spreads to epidemic proportion. Good thing advertising is healthy. Healthy enough not only to build its own immunity, but to fortify the economy with the nutrients of progress.

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