

# Oregon Progresses Far In Civil Rights

## Field Says Report To Federal Commission

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights was told by its Oregon advisory committee today that the state "continues to make progress in protection and respect for civil rights."

The committee, headed by Charles A. Sprague, Salem publisher and a former governor, said, "The latest step forward is the enactment by the 1961 legislative assembly of a measure to ban discrimination in the sale of goods or performance of services on the ground of race, religion or national origin."

On voting, the committee said, "No discrimination is known in Oregon as far as exercise of the voting franchise is concerned. In 1960 the people adopted an amendment to the Constitution which will enable persons of short residence to cast ballots for President and Vice Presidents."

It noted that public schools are open on a non-segregated basis. "Indian children for the most part attend public schools in the districts of their residence. In Portland, where the largest part of the Negro population resides, there is a concentration of Negro students in particular grade or high schools. That is due to the fact that they reside in the urban areas."

State institutions of higher learning are open to all persons properly qualified, with no distinctions as to race, creed or ethnic origin. On-campus housing is non-discriminatory. The state Board of Higher Education has set a time limit for fraternities and sororities to remove discriminatory provisions in their constitutions.

The report said Oregon's fair employment practices law is "adequate" and enforcement by the state Department of Labor "is satisfactory and prompt."

Discrimination against housing applicants for employment with a state agency or for employment with a private employer is prohibited by law. The report said Oregon's fair employment practices law is "adequate" and enforcement by the state Department of Labor "is satisfactory and prompt."

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On housing the committee said it believes the state law prohibiting discrimination in housing has "greatly strengthened the hand of the enforcement agency," the state Bureau of Labor's civil rights division.

It said the law has resulted in the opening of regular channels to minority group buyers or renters.

"It still is possible for the owner to refuse to sell, but in doing so the listing now becomes a discriminatory one and must be dropped by the agency."

In Portland the better rental properties, including the more modern and better situated apartment houses, continue to be largely occupied by whites only. If Negroes apply they are likely to be told there is no vacancy.

"Before a report and an investigation can be made, the apartment will be occupied. Thus, believing that their tenants generally would oppose mixed company, the owners sidestep the law."

The commission noted that outside of the Portland area, where there are more Negroes, "it appears that there is somewhat less awareness of the law and little change in the situation of two years ago."

It said that upstate, Eugene has the largest number of Negro families, about 30, and Klamath Falls has "perhaps 30."

"No case is any restriction reported in regard to other minorities, and in the case of Japanese in Ontario, where they constitute a third of the population, their housing is characterized as superior."

But, the report continued, "That serious problems do exist in the state is illustrated by the situation in Salem. This third largest city and the capital of the state, only 20 miles from Portland, has traditionally been known for its racial 'purity.'"

"In approximately 12,000 civil cases involving housing in Salem last year were found to be Negroes. It said all had local difficulties obtaining adequate housing."

The report concluded: "The Negro is still a long way from equal access to adequate housing of his own choice in the state as he is a long way from

achieving first-class citizenship generally, but we believe that we can report progress."

"It will take time, however, to erase prejudices and make certain that these rights will be respected in practice. It must be realized that the population of Oregon is overwhelmingly white—97.9 per cent, with only 2.1 non-whites."

"Thus the intergroup contacts are relatively few and the chances for inter-group friction less numerous. If the non-white ratio should rise markedly, social strains might develop."

Other members of the Oregon Advisory Committee are: David Robinson, Portland; Mrs. Ulysses G. Plummer Jr., Portland; Dr. Joel V. Berberman, Eugene; and state Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Milwaukie.

### GRANGE NEWS

#### SCOTT VALLEY

Scott Valley Grange members met in the grange hall Aug. 16 with Wayne Ralston, district deputy, acting as master for the drill team that initiated Arland Costa, Mrs. Mary Black and Louis Peterson in their third and fourth degrees.

Degree team members were Frank Hayes, overseer; Dorothy Grune, lecturer; Alpha Hayes, treasurer; Mazie McFall, secretary; Bernice Neiman, chaplain; David Mallow, steward; Robert DeNure, gatekeeper; Bonnie Eastlick, lady assistant steward; Beryl Sheffield, cress; Sadie DeNure, Jora and Myrtle Brown, porters. Pauline Mallow was pianist.

#### SANTA VIEW

Bert Mitchell, overseer, presided at the regular business meeting of Santa View Grange Sept. 1. John Reithier, master, was vacationing.

Mary Lou Lindsay reported the public address system had arrived but the turn table was not here as yet. Della Wryn asked grange members to help the

### Mobile Unit Proves Good

SALEM (AP) — A state mobile fire weather unit already has paid its way by providing accurate forecasts that enabled crews to contain the 1,700-acre Grande Ronde fire in the Coast Range west of Salem a few months ago.

The state Forestry Department 1½-ton truck is equipped with two-way radios, weather information teletypes, facsimile map receiving equipment and weather-gathering data devices.

It cost little to put together because government surplus equipment was used. The guiding engineer for the job was Ernie Black, who installed the equipment in an old truck.

When the unit went to the Grande Ronde fire, Clifford Watkins, Robert Kirkpatrick and Bruce Bowers, all meteorologists, went to the fire scene too. They put out wind speed measuring devices and humidity gauges on the hills and in the canyons around the fire.

The next step was to provide two lighters with accurate, on-the-spot weather forecasts for the immediate area.

One major device Ron Smith, fire boss, faced was whether to establish lines close to the fire or drop back.

"If we had had to drop back out of the canyon, we would have put much good timber up against the fire," Smith said.

He said that in making the decision to establish hand lines at the fire edge because of a weather prediction for fog, timber valued at 10 times the truck's value was saved.

Building Association clean the grounds surrounding the hall.

Home Economics Club chairman Myneelah Cline announced they plan a pancake supper Sept. 24; she also reported on the Pomona meeting held at Bly.

Lecturer Edith Dyer announced Mildred Norman, State Grange secretary, would be the main speaker for Booster Night Sept. 15.

During the lecturer's program, members and guests drew topics and gave one-minute impromptu speeches. At the close of the meeting, refreshments were served by Wanda Oden.

#### BLY

Grange members who attended the recent Klamath County Pomona Grange meeting enjoyed the visitation of Mrs. Josie Cross, Home Economics Club chairman, of Madras.

Mrs. Cross gave an informative talk on grange home economics clubs and club projects.

Mrs. Zetta Sullivan, Pomona Home Economics extension chairman, introduced the honored guest and Francis Flowers welcomed her on behalf of the members present.

### 4-H NEWS

#### SPEEDY WEEDERS

The ninth meeting was held at Linda Kent's on Aug. 15 at 2 p.m. President Benny Brown called the meeting to order. Aileen Weeks and Linda Kent said the pledges. The leader checked our record books. Bill Brown gave a report on manners at the fair.

We discussed and asked questions about the fair and any other problems.

The meeting was adjourned and Mrs. Kent served ice cream, cookies and punch.

James Stewart, News Reporter.

MALIN PORKERS

The 10th meeting of the Malin Porkers was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Petrask on Aug. 3. On this evening we discussed plans for the fair and we also cut out wooden hogs to be used at the fair to be put on top of our hog pens with our names on them.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by Mrs. Petrask.

James Stewart, News Reporter.

#### WOOD RIVER WRANGLERS

Four members of the Wood River Wranglers attended the State Fair Aug. 30-31 and the three who participated in the competitive events came home with awards.

Linda Stanley was adjudged state champion in the junior class horsemanship division and was given a purple and red ribbon for showmanship.

Kenneth Scott won a blue ribbon for showmanship and a white ribbon for horsemanship, while his brother, Wayne, was given a red ribbon for showmanship and a white ribbon for horsemanship.

Judy Stanley did not participate in the events.

Members were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Bertland Stanley.

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FLOWER ROYALTY — Eric Wakkuri, flower king, for the second successive year, and Jean McClay, garden queen, elected for the third year, ruled over the 4-H Fall Fair garden and flower exhibits this year.

Tasmania, an island 130 miles south of Australia, is about one-half the size of Florida.

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## Military 'Muzzling' Probe Eyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Backed by a flood of protest mail, Sen. Strom Thurmond, D-S.C., appears likely to win a fight for a further investigation of Pentagon censorship of military officers' speeches.

Unless signals are changed, the Senate Armed Services Committee is expected to decide this week that its Preparedness subcommittee should inquire into Thurmond's charges that some officers have been "muzzled" in expressing anti-Communist sentiments.

Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., heads the subcommittee. Presumably Thurmond would be added to the membership.

Democratic leaders hope the inquiry can be held to a low key. The understanding is that the investigation would be carried out largely behind closed doors. Public sessions would be held only after the committee had looked at all the evidence.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara obviously convinced a majority of the armed services group in testimony earlier in the week that the Pentagon is not trying to soften the policy line against communism.

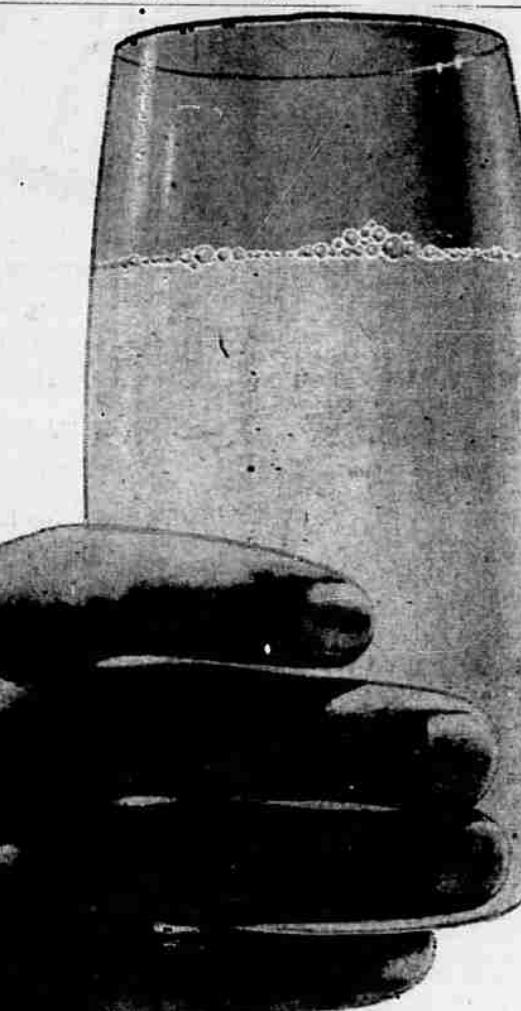
McNamara conceded that some phrases regarded as provocative had been deleted from military men's speeches at times, such as when efforts were being made to obtain the release of the RB47

fighters captured in the Soviet Union. McNamara told the committee that Pentagon policy did restrict the public utterances of military men but kept them from involvement in politics thus preventing confusion over national policy. But senators said they were laying through further investigation.

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