

Judge Quits Welfare Commission

SALEM (AP)—County Judge Raymond A. Lathrop, Grants Pass, resigned from the Oregon state Welfare Commission, it was announced today. He is the second member whose resignation has been announced this week.

Commission Chairman Joseph E. Harvey Jr. resigned earlier, saying it might pose a conflict of interest to remain. He is president of Oregon Physicians Service, an arm of the Oregon Medical Society which is submitting a plan of

private insurance for medical care to the needy aged not on welfare.

Warne Nunn, administrative assistant to Hatfield, said that Lathrop resigned two weeks ago but no announcement was made publicly.

"It is with the utmost regret..." Lathrop said. "My doctors advise me that it will not be possible to carry this responsibility longer."

"I have greatly appreciated the honor of being selected by you to serve on this commission and sincerely wish it was possible to complete my term."

Hatfield replied: "It is with sincere regret that I received your resignation. Your service on the commission has been invaluable."

"The advantages of having a member of a county court serve as a commissioner have proven to be all and more than we expected."

This left only two veteran members on the seven-man body. They are the only non-Hatfield appointed members, Mrs. Lee Patterson, Portland, and Mrs. Nell Irby, Baker.

Replacements for Harvey and Lathrop have not been named. Nunn said it is likely that a replacement for Lathrop will be a member of a county court. He said the governor would like to have the county courts represented because they work closely with the Welfare Commission.

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Medicare Proposal Runs Into Opposition

SALEM (AP)—The state Medical Society proposal to take over the medical care for the aged program ran into opposition today.

Andrew Juras, acting administrator for the state Welfare Commission, expressed his concern in a letter to Dr. Max Parrott, Oregon Medical Society president.

Parrott had proposed the society take over the medicare program for needy over-65-year-olds not on welfare, absorbing costs out of the fees paid its members. The law specifies that the program must go into effect Nov. 1.

"The only cost to the state of Oregon would be physicians' fees at the full value of the Public Welfare Commission's fee schedule, plus hospital and nursing home costs at rates to be determined by the commission," Parrott said. He said that would save the state \$200,000 a year.

Juras told Parrott that state welfare fees paid at 100 per cent are above the current prevailing rate of payment to persons covered under Oregon Physicians Service medical insurance which pays only 68 per cent of its doctor members. OPS is an administrative arm of the society.

"Stated more precisely," Juras said, "payment at 100 per cent of the printed welfare fee schedule is about 10 per cent above payment of 68 per cent of the 1959 printed OPS schedule."

Juras said that Joseph Harvey, OPS president, proposed to finance OPS administration of medicare through a 10 per cent discount from the amount paid physicians.

Harvey resigned this week as Welfare Commission chairman to avoid any conflict of interest charges in connection with this proposal.

"In other words," Juras said, "a 10 per cent rebate from the physician to the OPS has been proposed as the way of meeting OPS administrative cost."

For example, in the case of an appendectomy the doctor would get 68 per cent of the \$175 OPS cost of \$119. Under the full payment according to the welfare schedule he would get \$131.50, which would leave \$118.35 after 10 per cent was rebated to pay for administration.

Under the present welfare fee payment to physicians so much is allotted to a county. This is divided proportionately among doctors submitting bills.

A commission spokesman said these payments run 65 to 70 per cent of the present welfare schedule. At 70 per cent this would mean a doctor would get \$94.05 for an appendectomy.

Juras said that in the accounting all administrative costs will have to be clearly identified for federal matching money.

Oregon's legislature provided an \$11.5 million medicare program to cover some 55,000 aged Oregonians. About 52 per cent comes from the federal government. The balance is paid 70 per cent by the state and 30 per cent by the county.

Juras said if the program is contracted out, and under law all medicare cases must be covered under any contract, it should be done through competitive bidding. He said certain unavoidable ad-

Reapportionment Law Illegal

SALEM (AP)—Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said today in a brief to the Oregon Supreme Court that the reapportionment law passed by the last legislature is unconstitutional.

Thornton contended that the law shorted Multnomah County two representatives, Lane County one and Jackson County one. He contended it also shorted Multnomah County two senators and Lane County one.

The court will hear oral arguments on reapportionment Monday and must decide the issue by Oct. 1.

The brief by the attorney general was filed as a friend of the court. Other briefs contending the law unconstitutional were filed by Sen. Vernon Cook, D-Troutdale; Rep. Edward N. Fadel, D-Eugene; and Mrs. Eleanor P. Kalloury, Portland housewife.

A brief in support of the reapportionment plan was filed by Clay Myers, Portland, who served on a 12-member Republican committee that helped draw it up.

The law changes very little the present make up of the legislature. It gave Washington County another senator at the expense of Polk County. It gave Clackamas County a fourth representative, taking one away from Columbia River counties just east of the Cascades.

Cook contended it is the duty of the reapportioning body to so combine counties so the reapportionment formula will work.

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