

By Bob Bruce

Capital News Bureau

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SALEM (Special)—Sen. Walter Pearson of Portland introduced a bill that would create a legislative watchdog committee to keep an eye on the rules and regulations established by the many departments, agencies and commissions. The committee would be empowered to suspend any regulation that it felt was contrary to the intent of the legislature. The legislature would then review the matter in its next session. Both Speaker of the House Clarence Barton and Senate President Ben Musa voiced approval of the idea and both specifically pointed to the Department of Education as an example of a department that was "growing too big and too powerful."

There is considerably more here than meets the eye, for it brings into the open the fact that lawmakers realize that they have, in some cases, been circumvented, after they closed up shop and went home. It also serves notice that they are not going to stand for such practices. Many board and commission decisions result in rules that have the effect of law, but were never reviewed by the lawmakers.

A legislative uprising may be in the making that could be far-reaching, for once again, several bills have been introduced to build highways with a bonding program that, in effect, circumvents the Highway Department that does business on so-called dedicated or earmarked funds like gas taxes. Since the Highway Department has been concentrating on Interstate Freeway systems because of the 52 per cent of cost paid by the federal government, other areas of the state not on these freeways, have become known as the "have-nots."

Speaker Barton states it thusly: "The legislature represents the people, and if the people do not get what they want and need from the Highway Department, they naturally look to the legislature for it. Governor Hatfield has opposed such bonding for highways because of interest cost. However, this is just another sign that lawmakers resent rubber-stamping the highway commission budget when the folks back home can't get needed highway improvements."

Sen. Alfred Corbett of Portland was not one of the many senators and representatives who signed Senator Pearson's watchdog committee legislation. He feels, rather strongly, that the creation of such a committee might well be putting the legislature in an area

where it ought not to be. He points out that it is the legislature's job to make the laws and the judiciary department's province to define them.

Gov. Mark Hatfield hastens to point out that legislative concern over the rule making authority of these boards and commissions is eloquent testimony of the need for reorganization whereby the autonomous agencies would be responsible to the chief executive. The last session of the legislature turned down such a proposal. The proposed new constitution, however, calls for just such a strong executive branch of government, which seems to indicate that some of the 17-member commission who drew up the new constitution agree with the governor in that respect.

Senator Pearson's bill has an excellent chance of becoming law. It may be that it is not constitutional but whatever the outcome, the legislature has served notice on the many boards, departments and commissions that they do not intend to sit idly by and see abuses of the power they have granted.

Henley Starts Decision Study

Approximately 70 Henley High School juniors and seniors are participating in student Great Decisions study groups.

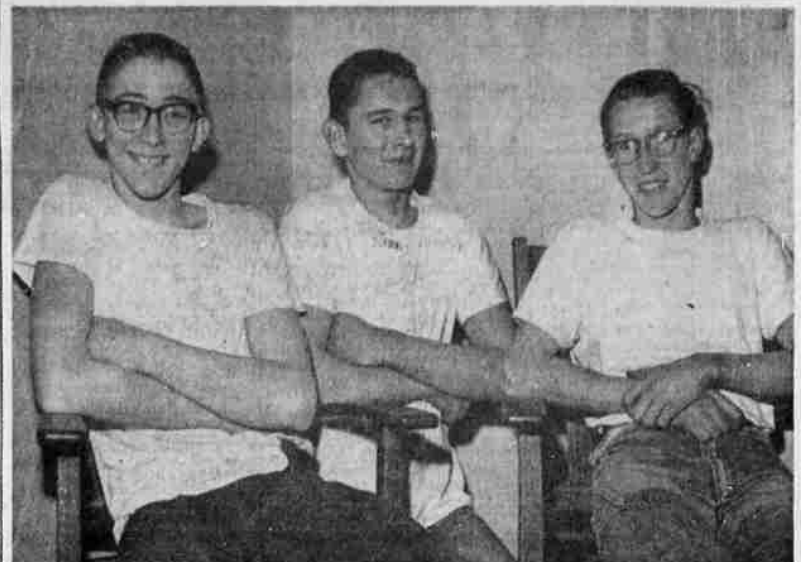
The Great Decisions program, held annually all over the country in February and March, was introduced to Henley this year for the first time by Richard Pastega, American history and American problems teacher. The idea of having student groups as well as adult groups is the first of its kind in the county, and the students have shown surprising interest in it.

The Henley students, in five groups, will meet once a week for eight weeks, taking a different discussion topic each time.

Given Exam

McMINNVILLE (UPI)—Accused slayer Larry Richard Walbel, 17, has been returned to the Yamhill County jail here after undergoing 45 days of psychiatric examination at the Oregon State Hospital at Salem.

Walbel is charged with first degree murder in the fatal shooting of Mrs. Mae Pinnell, 69, Carlton, at her home last Dec. 13. He is scheduled to appear in Circuit Court at McMinville next Monday.



RUNAWAYS TOP RECORD — These three runaway boys took President Kennedy's physical fitness program too seriously. They walked 82 miles from their homes in The Dalles to Portland. After arriving, the trio, left to right, John Dethman, 15, Alex Bachellor, 16, and Gene D. Emmett, 15, stowed away on a ship that was bound for the Orient. The three left The Dalles Sunday and were discovered aboard the vessel at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. — UPI Telephoto

Kennedy's Ailing Back Still Ails Despite Focus On 50 Mile Hikes

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The White House accent on vigor has been so focused recently on 50-mile hikes that the public virtually has lost sight of a continuing problem, President Kennedy's ailing back.

His back had gone without major public notice for some months until his sister-in-law, Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy, raised the subject in the current issue of Look magazine.

"His back is a problem," said the wife of the President's younger brother and new senator from Massachusetts. "He can barely pick up his own son."

This was a reference to John Jr., the 2-year-old, 35-pound son of the Chief Executive and his wife, Jacqueline.

Almost everywhere he goes—from the after deck of the yacht Honey Fitz to the glittering banquet dais of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York—the President is accompanied by a specially constructed, black leather chair which gives the lower portion of his back extra support.

This chair approximates the support and comfort of the straight-backed rockers placed in almost every room which he frequents.

Another piece of constantly present equipment when he travels is a specially constructed horsehair mattress. He has several and seldom, if ever, sleeps on anything else.

When he is moving about or getting up and down out of chairs frequently, the President, as do thousands of sufferers from the same chronic weakness of certain muscular and skeletal areas of the back, wears a small corset or girdle.

The more acute phases of his back trouble date back to a football injury received during his freshman year at Harvard. Actually, the condition was noticed earlier when he complained of back trouble at summer camp prior to college days.

His back was injured again in the famous PT-boat incident during World War II. Dangerous and painful surgery was necessary during the 1950s.

The attraction of gravity causes things to have weight.

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Ned Olallie Ridge Natural Area Established

Establishment of a new Natural Area on the Willamette National Forest has been approved by the chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

The 720-acre area has been named the Olallie Ridge Natural Area. It brings to 18 the number of such areas in the Pacific Northwest region since their selection began in 1931. It was established in line with recommendations made by J. Herbert Stone, regional forester, and Robert W. Cowlin, director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station.

Natural areas are established with the aim to represent all important forest and range types that occur on the national forests. They are managed in an undisturbed virgin condition for scientific observation and research on forest and plant succession, biotic associations, and other related natural phenomena. This particular area was set aside to represent the Pacific silver fir-mountain hemlock forest association, a major forest type on the upper slopes of the Cascade range. Olallie Ridge lies south of the McKenzie Highway about 50 miles east of Eugene. The natural area is in two parcels and includes the summits of Horsepasture and O'Leary mountains.

The natural area is in the same vicinity as five special recreation areas established recently by the forest service. Those special areas, totalling 1,966 acres, are the Lamb Butte and Yankee Mountain Scenic Areas, the Lower Mountain and Rebel Rock Geological Areas, and the Quaking Aspen Swamp Botanical Area.

The geology of the Olallie Ridge

Natural Area is representative of the Eocene and Miocene ages and is typical of the old or western Cascades. The geologic structure is apparent on the south side of O'Leary Mountain. Taylor Castle and Lamb Butte, about one mile south of Horsepasture Mountain, are composed of the younger volcanic rocks of the Pleistocene age similar to the high Cascades to the east of the area. The proximity of the two geological periods is of particular significance in geological study.

Timber types vary from Douglas fir with white fir understorey at the lower elevations through true fir and mountain hemlock and, ultimately, to small areas of subalpine species on the mountain tops. Main species of conifers are mountain hemlock, Pacific silver fir, and alpine fir.

Upper elevations are characterized by open areas with shallow soil. South slopes in these openings are of interest to botanists because they support flora which normally exists only in drier climates.

Establishment of the area reduces by one-tenth of one per cent the annual allowable harvest of timber in the McKenzie Working Circle of the Willamette National Forest.

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