

Legislator Pledges Fight To Save Battered Civil Defense Program

SALEM (UPI) — A powerful move to save Oregon's much battered civil defense agency was promised today by Rep. Winton Hutton, R-Woodburn, chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee.

"Somebody will have to get the air cleared, and I think this committee will do it," Hutton told United Press International after an hour-long meeting of his committee Monday.

The committee met to hear discussion of a bill to limit liability of owners of buildings used as fallout shelters.

What it heard instead was a moving plea for the committee to urge the Ways and Means Committee to restore threatened cuts in the state's civil defense program.

Rep. John Dellenback, R-Medford, backed by former state civil defense director Col. Arthur M. Sheets, and present CD Director Robert Sandstrom, urged the governor's full budget request be restored.

Hutton has called for \$195,000 from the general fund for a civil defense budget which included federal funds for a total of \$410,000 for a 20-man agency. A Ways and Means subcommittee rejected

that request, and instead proposed a \$50,000 three-man agency.

This sparked Hutton to levy charges of "meat cleaver" budget cuts and resulted in the governor promising a "bare knuckle" fight to save civil defense.

In his appearance before the House committee Monday Dellenback defended both Hatfield and the CD agency.

"The state is obligated to plan for disaster," he said. "It is imperative that basic planning be done to prepare for a real disaster."

He said through civil defense there was a "fundamental program in Oregon that was prepared to face either a major disaster or military attack."

He said it was up to the state of Oregon, through its civil defense agency, to bring "order out of chaos" regardless of what other states do.

He said civil defense has been subjected to "undue blame because of the Columbus Day storm."

Dellenback said his feelings had "nothing to do with partisan politics."

"If we emasculate our civil defense program so it no longer can make plans, we are making a serious backward step."

"I defend this program, and the governor's stand. The governor has spoken out on a program that is vitally needed. The legislature must provide the framework for disaster planning."

Dellenback reminded "this is the only committee in a position to make a recommendation to Ways and Means against cutbacks in civil defense."

Colonel Sheets Sheets commented, "I agree completely with everything Rep. Dellenback has said. The welfare and safety of our people is the responsibility of our government."

The former civil defense direc-

tor termed it a question of "individual and national survival," that involved "every hamlet and every state."

He said Oregon's civil defense program ranked among "the top three of four in the nation."

He discussed the Roseburg explosion disaster at length and said the coordination of all disaster activities followed planning established by the state's civil defense program.

He blamed the lack of warning during the Columbus Day storm disaster on the Salem weather bureau.

"We are on the alert list of the weather bureau, but we were never alerted because they have never admitted it was a hurricane."

"We had several people in the office that afternoon, and if we had been alerted we could have alerted the entire state."

"We did not get any such alert. When the storm struck it was too late. The storm took the communications system with it."

"Our communications network operated throughout the storm, but receiving sets in cities and counties throughout the state were wiped out."

He said state civil defense operated effectively throughout the storm period, and reminded committee members that 11 civil defense power generators were in use to keep state institution power and water systems operating.

He denied published reports that radio communications were inoperative because a technician was on vacation. "Everybody on the staff knows how to operate those transmitters."

By the time the hearing ended, most committee members had left to attend other meetings. But Chairman Hutton said he believed the full committee would vote to urge the full civil defense budget be reinstated.

Portland Plans 1972 Games Try

PORTLAND (UPI)—Boosters of Portland for the 1968 Olympic Games said Monday they felt they had made some progress despite the choice of Detroit as the United States nominee.

A joint statement by Mayor Terry D. Schrunk, Mel Gordon, chairman of the Multnomah County board of Commissioners, and Paul B. McKee, president of Portland Metropolitan Future Unlimited, Inc., said:

"In spite of the fact that the U.S. Olympic committee reaffirmed its nomination of Detroit as the United States city to compete for the 1968 games before the International Olympic Committee, we are determined to proceed with the development of the \$48 million Delta Park recreation project."

"We shall again seek the nomination for the 1972 Olympic games when we will hope to have the facilities in being."

McKee's PMFU group was the sponsor of Portland's campaign to be nominated for the 1968 games and arranged Monday's presentation before the Olympic committee in New York. They based their pitch on Portland's "image" as a typical American city without vast traffic problems and with good weather.

Olympia Eyes Watershed Pact

OLYMPIA, Wash. (UPI)—Backers of the Columbia River interstate compact Tuesday initiated a second effort to add Washington's name to the list of states which have ratified the agreement.

Sens. John Cooney, D-Spokane, and Marshall Neill, R-Pullman, introduced in the Senate a bill identical to the ratification measure which came close to passage during the regular session of the legislature, which ended Thursday.

The measure died in the Senate Rules Committee when time ran out on the regular session.

The controversial measure was approved by the House during the regular session after a bitter debate.



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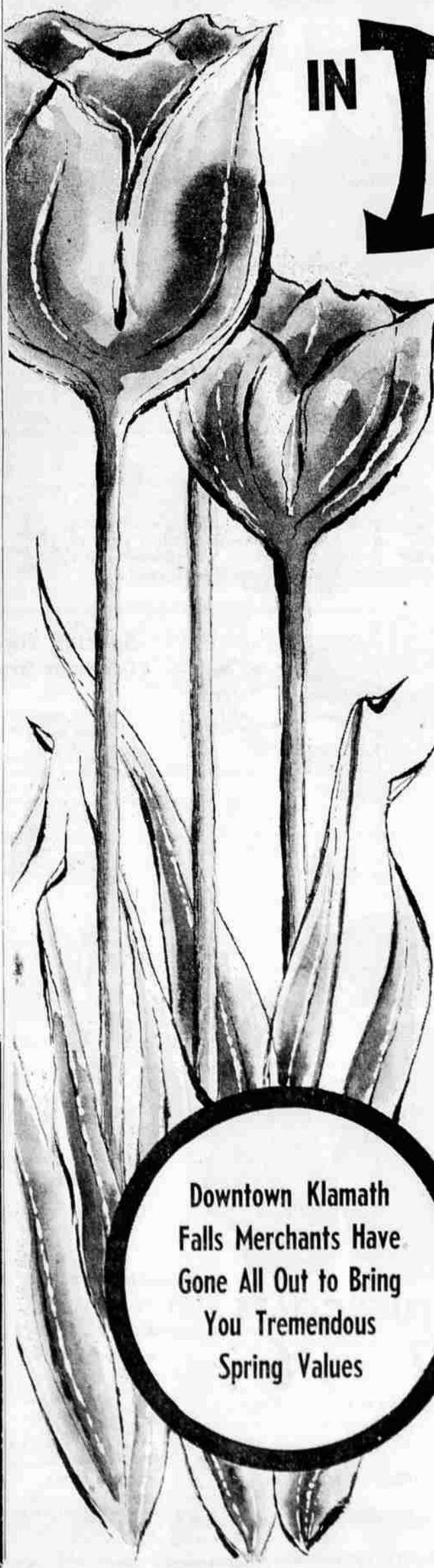
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