

Truth-In-Lending Plea Opposed By Retailers

SALEM (UPI) — A plea for "truth-in-lending" was met by charges of "technical difficulties" at a hearing Monday night before the Senate Committee on Financial Affairs.

An issue was a bill that would require retail outlets to disclose the annual rate of simple interest charge.

Sen. Don Willner, D-Portland, sponsor of the bill, said if it passes, "consumers will know how much interest they actually are paying."

The bill was supported by the Oregon Savings and Loan Association, six credit unions, the AFL-CIO, the Grange, and the Oregon Farmers Union.

Retailers opposed it. They said it was unnecessary, would confuse the public, and would be "impossible for dealers to administer."

J. D. MacEwan, speaking for a group of Portland retailers, said it is "normal business practice" to quote interest on a monthly rather than a yearly rate. He said retailers would experience "technical difficulties" in changing the ways they describe interest.

Willner said the public is confused by five methods currently used in figuring interest.

Clarence Brooks of the Grange added the bill only seeks "open faced truth."

Charles Wentworth of the Oregon Auto Dealers Association replied it would be impossible to figure auto contracts on the basis of simple annual interest.

Frank Geiger of Meier and Frank stores said the bill would penalize reputable dealers in an effort to reach a few unethical ones. He said it would be a big job for Meier and Frank to figure annual interest rates for people who buy items each month on the revolving charge account system.

Willner conceded a bill before the U. S. Congress, sponsored by Sen. Paul Douglas, D-Ill., would make an Oregon law unnecessary. But, he said, "No one knows if the bill will pass."

Mt. Everest Plan Claims OSU Grad

KATMANDU, Nepal (UPI) — Hopes of conquering massive Mt. Everest and two towering sister mountains ended in tragedy for a Jackson, Wyo., climber, it was learned today.

The State Department said it had received word from Nepal that John Breitenbach, 27, a graduate of Oregon State University, was killed after he was buried under an ice fall at the base of Mt. Everest 78 miles from here Saturday.

Breitenbach was on a team of 20 crack mountain climbers engaged in setting up a base of operations for the assault on 29,028-foot Everest scheduled for May 1. Informed sources said the accident happened as Breitenbach was improving a trail across the Khumbu glacier.

The glacier must be crossed by any mountain climbing team seeking to scale the world's highest mountain from the south side. The trail Breitenbach was improving had been carved out the day before, and the team was to move up from a base camp.

Breitenbach was the operator of a ski shop near Snow King Ski Area at Jackson.

The expedition left here in mid-February.

Breitenbach graduated from Oregon State in 1961 with a bachelor degree in science and was an honor student. His widow, Mary Louise, also attended OSU in 1961.

Club Mulls Deer Issue

DUNSMUIR — The declining buck kill in Siskiyou County is the major concern of the Dunsmuir Rod and Gun Club in its evaluation of last year's deer season, according to Paul Carter, club statistician.

At a special meeting March 22, over 50 members of the club tabulated 3,270 deer tags representing the kill in Siskiyou County according to date killed, general location, and antler points. This compares to 4,545 deer tags for the Siskiyou County deer season the previous year.

Extension of the deer season into November and other game management policies are contributing to the decrease in the Northern California mule deer population, the club membership contends.

The club is advocating closing the California deer season on Oct. 20 this year to help preserve the remaining deer.

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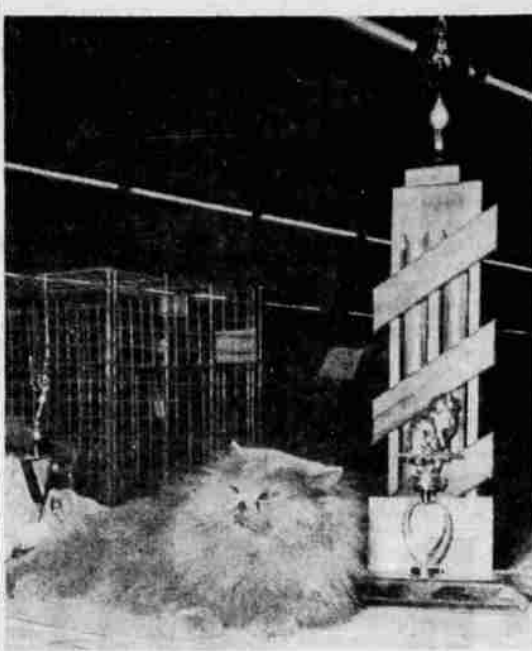
Sportsmen Plan Political Move

DUNSMUIR — The Inter-County Chamber of Commerce of Northern California will seek alignment of Northern California sportsmen's group in a fight to have state fish and game commissioners elected rather than politically appointed.

At its last meeting in Alturas, the ICCNC passed a resolution endorsing election of the fish and game commission and empowered J. D. Proctor, Siskiyou County guide and ICCNC delegate for the Scott Valley Chamber of Commerce, to push for legislative recognition of the resolution. The ICCNC represents chambers of commerce in six counties in Northern California.

The thinking of the membership is that fish and game policies are too important to the welfare of Northern California to be overlooked by business and industry interests, Proctor said.

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ARISTOCRATIC CAT — Relaxing in regal manner is Blu Acre Jeremy, blue Persian champion cat belonging to Mrs. Wanda Scott of Independence, Mo. Trophies won by the cat are also shown. More than 150 exhibitors from 12 states and Canada showed 250 cats at the Greater Chicago All-Breed Cat Club's second annual Royal Merit All-American Cat show held last weekend in Chicago. — UPI Telephoto

Committee Told Tax Boost May Break State's Lone Winery

SALEM (UPI) — Fears that increases in beer and wine taxes might drive Oregon's one brewery and one winery out of business were voiced at a hearing of the House Tax Committee Monday.

The committee is considering proposals to double the present 23 cents a gallon wine tax, and \$1.30 a barrel beer tax to produce an additional \$1 million a biennium.

Distributors, labor organization and brewers opposed increases in the tax.

John Barnick of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission said he would oppose the tax increases.

"If it would hurt" Oregon's one brewery and one winery.

William Wessinger of Blitz Weinhard said the proposed tax hike would cost his company \$255,000. "Such an increase in our costs would have a very serious effect upon our ability to remain in a competitive position or even to stay in business."

George P. Todd of Honeywood Winery said the tax hike "would seriously aggravate an already critical situation."

LUNCH ON BEATS

PORTLAND, Maine (UPI) — Policemen have been ordered either to bring their lunches or dine at restaurants on their beats.

The new edict was issued Tuesday because some patrolmen had been abandoning their posts for a half hour to lunch at home.

DETERGENT DETERRENT

WHITTIER, Calif. (UPI) — Detergent is a deterrent to traffic at a busy intersection here.

Corrective legislation was suggested Tuesday when it was learned suds from the Whittier Narrows waste water reclamation plant often flooded an intersection and driving was hampered when passing cars stirred up bubbles.

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