

In The Legislature

By GEORGE C. FLITCRAFT

The first step towards some indirect relief for local property taxpayers was taken recently by the House when it approved a House Education Committee report recommending a 15 per cent increase in basic school support funds. Several more important steps in the process remain—the principal one being the approval of the committee on ways and means.

H.B. 1273, introduced by Rep. John Mosser, Washington County Republican, calls for an appropriation for each census child ages 5 through 16 (12 age groups). The bill specifies an appropriation amount of \$175, which amounts to approximately a 15 per cent increase over present amount.

In the past, the appropriation has been based on school census ages 4 through 19 (16 age groups). Present law calls for \$120 per census child (on the 4 through 19 basis). A total of \$175 on the new schedule is approximately equal to \$140—hence the approximate 15 per cent increase.

Proponents of the change claim that the 12 age group method is more realistic and will present a more accurate picture of state support of education.

It should be emphasized that the bill makes no change in the distribution formula—it changes the amount (an increase) of the appropriation and the method of determining the amount of the appropriation.

Another change embodied in the plan is the repeal of the property tax offset provision. Although this may sound alarming at first, it is merely a change in procedure so the basic school support funds will be shown as "estimated receipts" on the budget.

Under existing law, many school districts present a budget for approval by the voters that is far in excess of the actual amount raised because basic school support funds are used partially as a property tax offset and cannot be shown in the budget. If the plan becomes law, taxpayers will vote on the actual amount to be levied, rather than a higher amount.

Citizens who have been critical of the power of the rural school board in the matter of school district boundary changes, will be interested in S.B. 287.

Under existing law, a boundary board decision in most instances cannot be challenged or upset except by a citizen taking the matter to court. If the board decides that area "A" should be removed from school district "X" and joined with district "Y," school district "X" has no choice in the matter—except in administrative districts, where a vote of the people is available if a remonstrance is filed.

S.B. 287 provides that a remonstrance may be filed by people from any of the areas affected in any kind of a district. If such a remonstrance is filed, a favorable vote of the people is necessary before the change can be made.

The measure will standardize procedure for boundary changes and place the laws all in one section of the code. Most people familiar with school law admit that the present code is a conglomeration of laws with different procedure for different kinds of districts. Several public hearings have been held, and in-

formed sources indicate that the bill has wide support and is likely to secure approval of the Senate Education Committee after a number of minor amendments are adopted.

Among visitors at the Capitol this past week were Isabelle Bricker, Dorothea Buck, Diana, Helen Ann and Ray Hunsaker; a group of junior high Camp Fire Girls, Sydney Kennedy and Sandra Palles (who served as honorary ladies in the House), Ruth King, Mr. and Mrs. Truman Runyan and son, Mr. and Mrs. Gracie Sanders, Mrs. Joseph Soto and Ramona Soto, Bill Sweetland Jr., Mrs. Adolph Zamsky, Valerie and Steve and John D. Voth.

CAPITOL MEMO

Board Of Control Divided On Prison Labor

SALEM (UPI) — Convicts today were busy building the new women's unit at the state penitentiary here while members of the Board of Control remained divided over such use of inmate labor.

Gov. Mark Hatfield was outvoted last year by Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. and State Treasurer Howard Belton when the board authorized use of convict labor to build the unit.

Organized labor brought suit to halt the work, but the case was thrown out of court by a three-judge panel. The judges ruled la-

bor did not have the legal right to sue the state.

When asked by United Press International if he had changed his views because of the state's tight money situation, Hatfield said "there has been no change in my basic philosophy."

Hatfield said he voted against the use of prison labor because "I felt I had an obligation to our law abiding citizens to create jobs."

"I felt this took precedence over my obligations to the convicts," he said.

Appling held firm to his view.

"I think inmates should be used productively as fully as possible, so long as it is for the direct benefit of the state, not for sale on the open market," he said.

"The program of providing productive and rehabilitative employment for Oregon penitentiary inmates is proceeding undeterred."

The state's institutions now operate a furniture shop, mattress factory, tailor shop, laundry, auto repair shop, print shop, sign shop, do maintenance work, cooking, and manage a complete farm program which produces beef, milk, hogs, eggs, and other crops used to feed wards of the state.

Appling has long believed prisoners should be used on projects such as making signs for the State Highway Department.

He said the Kennedy administration has specifically approved the use of prison made signs on federally-sponsored highways.

Appling does not believe prison labor poses any threat to free labor.

"If we worked all 1,500 prisoners on a 40-hour week they would still make up only a tiny fraction of one per cent of the labor force in this state," he said.

labor is now being considered by the Senate Public Buildings and Institutions Committee. The measure was introduced by Sen. Ed Fadeley, D-Eugene, at the request of the AFL-CIO.

The bill was sent to the committee Feb. 29. No action on it has been taken.

Appling pointed out that state law requires use of prison labor as a rehabilitation measure, and that the Board of Control has operated the institutions with that thought in mind for decades.

A bill to restrict use of prison

Two Hours Of Variety Acts Slated For Show

More than two hours of variety acts will be featured at the all-youth talent contest slated to be staged 8 p.m., Friday, March 29, at the Mills School, according to Lawrence Bullard, director of the show.

Contestants will be judged in one of three categories, including youngsters of pre-school age through the fourth grade, children from the fifth through the seventh grades, and the remaining group from the eighth grade through high school. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each group. Proceeds collected from the contest will be used to provide scholarships to children, Bullard said.

The show is being sponsored by the local Fraternal Order of Eagles. Tickets are available at the Klamath Music Center, Bowden's Music Store, and Anderson's Photography Studio.

HANDSOME ANIMAL
Because it is spotted, the leopard often is called the tiger cat or the leopard. This animal is considered one of the handsomest of cats.

PAGE 6-A HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Ore. Thursday, March 28, 1963

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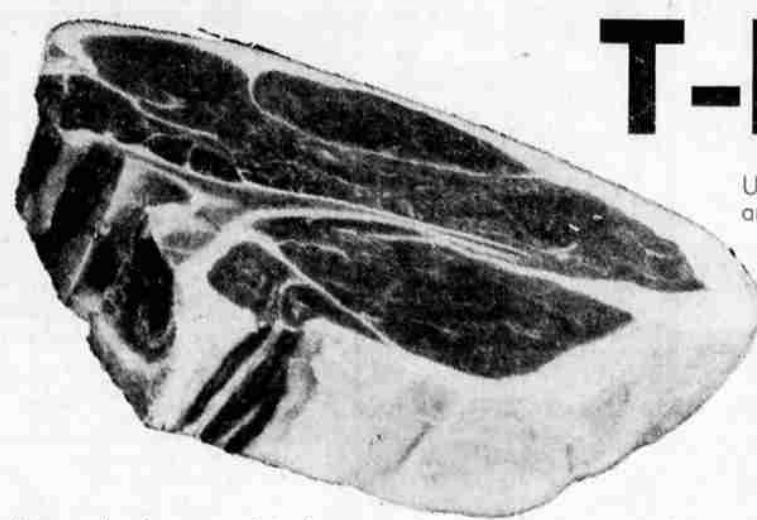
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Help Available For Yard Work

Do you have springtime yardwork and farmwork that needs to be done now? If so, the Oregon State Employment Service reminds housewives, farm employers and everyone needing qualified workers to call their local state employment office now.

There are a number of applicants waiting for farm jobs such as cultivating, thinning, pruning and general farm work, the State Employment Service reports. Also for spring domestic cleaning, there are a number of workers registered for housework, yardwork, fix-up and clean-up jobs around the house, painting and gardening.

The Oregon State Employment Service urges householders and farm employers to call their local employment service office today and register their spring worker needs.

ANTONOMASIA

The figure of speech which uses a proper name to describe a characteristic, such as a "Solomon" for any wise man, is antonomasia, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

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