

New Constitution Preserves Past, Protects Future

Editor's Note: The House is scheduled to act Monday on what some consider the session's greatest challenge: A proposed new constitution. It both preserves the past and looks to the future.

By ANN H. PEARSON
United Press International
SALEM (UPI)—The proposed constitution's treatment of the legislative branch is, in effect, a vote of confidence in the system that has evolved over the past century.

Unlike its treatment of the executive branch, where it looks to the new, the document ratifies the legislative branch pretty much as it is.

The new constitution does, however, rely more on the legislature to implement its provisions than the present one.

The Constitutional Revision Commission proposed two main changes in the legislative branch: Annual sessions instead of one every two years, and an apportionment plan to bring representation in the legislature even closer to "one man, one vote."

The House and Senate Committees on Constitutional Revision decided to make annual sessions optional.

Future legislatures will be able to decide whether to meet yearly.

And the House committee, in a departure from its Senate counterpart, decided to stick with Oregon's present apportionment plan, still considered the nearest to "one man, one vote" in the nation.

If the document gets the two-thirds vote it needs to pass the House, the apportionment difference with the Senate will have to be ironed out. The Senate committee has chosen a plan not too far from the present one, but allowing a slightly larger House and Senate.

On the legislature in general, the commission said it should be "effective, responsible, visible."

The legislative committees, which have been revising the commission's draft, agreed with this goal, even though rejecting the commission's more extreme recommendations.

For example, with an eye to efficiency at some future date when Oregon has more legislative business, the House committee added a provision for a consent calendar to speed action on non-controversial bills.

And in a constitution that is supposed to give a "framework for the future," language was reworded so that legislative voting might some day be recorded by machine.

Like the rest of the new constitution, language in the legislative article is simplified and some procedural details are transferred into the laws.

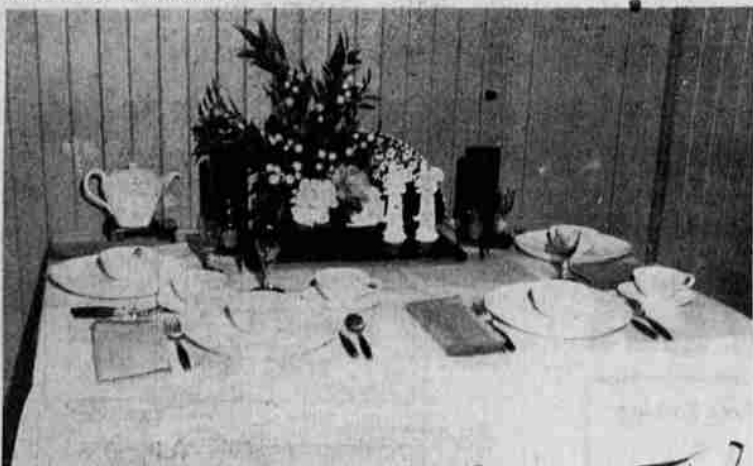
While the proposed constitution does not make many changes in the legislative branch, it does look to the legislature with new emphasis in another way.

The new document basically does four things: Makes substantive changes, sheds the obsolete, retains the time-tested, and shifts many procedural details to the statutes.

Thus it will be up to the legislature to implement the new constitution. The document provides a framework. Within that, it gives the legislature the flexibility to react to changing times.



COORDINATION IN COLOR — Mrs. Bell used an unusual color combination of blue, light turquoise, and shades of lavender on this table. The handsome china was Spode in the Geisha pattern, complemented by blue milk glass by Imperial. Flatware and the footed bowl and candlesticks were sterling by Gorham. Tapers and flowers were in shades used for placemats.



LOVELY ORIENTAL THEME — Rice China from Japan, used for this interesting table setting at the Homemaker's Festival, was one of several arranged by Mrs. Ed Bell of Garcelon's for the enjoyment of the many women present. Whole grains of rice were used as a design during the firing process which exploded with the extreme heat making a raised surface on the all-white china. Stainless steel flatware made shining marks against the shades of orange in cloth and napkins. An arrangement of tiny orange fruits, and white Oriental figurines on a teakwood base, were backgrounded with a colorful open fan.

Sheriff Goes After Man

Sheriff Murray "Red" Britton departed from Klamath Falls for Monroe, Wis., Tuesday to take into custody Ed Marsh, who has been sought by the sheriff's office since March in connection with the theft of an automobile, it was disclosed Wednesday.

Marsh was apprehended last weekend by the Green County (Wis.) sheriff's office and is being held there for the local sheriff.

The sheriff's office said Britton will return with the prisoner on Wednesday or Thursday.

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