

Senate President Says Legislature Hardest Working Of Any Assembled

Editors note: The following review of the 1963 Oregon Legislature was written expressly for UPI by Ben Musa, D-The Dalles, president of the Senate. His view: "Sessions will continue to be long."

By BEN MUSA

Written for United Press International
SALEM (UPI)—Having served in the Oregon Senate since first in 1949 I believe the 1963 Legislature has been the hardest working of any which has assembled. The 90 men and women of the House and Senate have worked long and hard in considering the legislation which came before them. They have given the public the best reception it has ever received. Hearings have been more numerous than any previous session, and even minor bills received thorough consideration.

As I have stated on previous occasions, it is just as important not to pass bad legislation as it is to pass good legislation. But here is where the casual (or the caustic) observer pays no heed: It takes just as much time to consider (and finally determine) that a bill is bad as it does to determine the merits of a good bill.

The news media (particularly in their editorial comments) along with many special interest groups, say we spend too much time on

non-essential bills and proposals. However, if we would even on one single occasion disregard their petition or plea, we would immediately be castigated for our indifference and autocratic attitude.

As far as our accomplishments for this session, time will be the better judge. We have had a grave responsibility, even prior to our convening: Increased spending for desired and probably necessary needs; all within the framework of insufficient revenues under present tax programs. If there are two things a legislator does not like to do — at least not both at the same time — they are: 1. Increase taxes, and 2. Reduce accepted public services. This was the burden and the heartache of this session. Herein lay our long hours of work.

I can truthfully say not one of the 90 legislators wanted to add to the taxpayers' burden unless there was no other way out. Here came the clashes of philosophies. How to change the structure without too greatly disturbing the accepted present system and formulas and still get more individuals into the fold of active direct taxpayers.

The governor had a radical and ill-advised tax proposal he submitted in his inaugural address;

but when the chips were down, and his bill was before the House there were only eight members of his party out of a membership of 29 who would vote for this stupid and misnamed "net receipts" tax. Whether the people will buy the final tax bill adopted, we will know within the next 90 days.

We have been criticized in many places for a too-long session. Unless Oregon citizens want to be governed by political hacks, sessions will continue to be long. There are those who want to decide all policy matters and legislate by party machine caucuses. Oregon has been pretty free from this kind of money business.

Sure we have differences of opinion in our membership — but they are honest differences. A legislator who thinks for himself is more to be trusted than a hand-picked lackey of a political machine and collectively will make fewer bad judgments. Our state was founded and developed by the free thinkers and people of independent judgment.

Let us face up to the reality of the times—legislation covers more area than 50 or 40 years ago, or even 20 or 10 years. To perform these tasks reasonably and properly takes time. Let us not make haste here and prove the old adage — "Act in haste and repent in leisure."

In reference to the long and unfortunate violent disagreement of the last few days of the session, this was attributable to one group of special lobbyist interests: The Board of Higher Education, in trying to upset the conclusions of the joint House and Senate appropriations committees. In all my years down here I have never before witnessed so much undesirable political pressure exerted on so many individual legislators. It was an unfortunate situation and not becoming to an otherwise well respected administrative department of our state.

I have only one regret—but I guess in partisan politics one should expect these things — and that is when the governor calls us a do-nothing legislature and looks upon us with scorn as a "faceless group of 90 persons."

We were more charitable to him. My contacts with the other 89 members convinced me that each one of them worked hard and diligently for those things in which they believed. I respect their divergent views and opinions, even if I may be in disagreement with some of them. I feel highly honored I was one of them! They have my thanks as well as my affection and my blessings. As President Washington so ably said so long ago: "If to please the people, we offer what we ourselves disapprove, how can we afterwards defend our work?"

Congressmen Jean Chappel Honored At Dunsmuir Graduation Refuse JFK Tax Request

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The House Ways and Means Committee refused today to approve any part of President Kennedy's request to raise taxes on income from stock dividends by \$460 million a year. The vote was 14-11.

The committee also rejected 12-12 a proposal by Republicans that all taxpayers be given the same tax incentive to buy health insurance which is now available for taxpayers who are 65 or older.

The votes were taken behind closed doors as the committee continued work on Kennedy's tax-reduction and -revision program. The administration package is designed to provide a net reduction of \$10.4 billion in personal and corporate income taxes, staged over three years.

Kennedy had urged that income from stock dividends be taxed at the same rate as wages, rents and interest.

At present, the first \$50 in dividends (\$100 in the case of married couples filing jointly) is exempt from tax. Dividends received by any taxpayer in excess of that amount are taxed at a rate which is four percentage points below his regular tax rate.

DUNSMUIR — Jean Chappel, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Chappel of Dunsmuir, won two honors at graduation ceremonies at Dunsmuir Joint Union High School Thursday night.

She was announced the winner of the Dunsmuir Rotary Club scholarship valued at \$250 and the winner of the \$50 National Honor Society and California Scholarship Federation scholarship.

Both awards are from funds raised locally and are determined on the basis of scholarship, citizenship, and character. Miss Chappel plans to attend Chico State College in preparation for a teaching career.

Mike Fawcett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fawcett, shared scholarship honors as the recipient of the second \$50 National Honor Society and California Scholarship Federation scholarship. Mike plans to study medicine.

A silver medal was presented to Gene Landoe for qualifying for seven athletic letters. Block D awards went to Tom Tucker, Cedric Kessler, and James Moore for four athletic letters each. Those who had perfect attendance for four years of high school were

Mountain Climbing Expedition Rests From Rigors Of Prolonged Outing

KATMANDU, Nepal (UPI)—Members of an American mountain-climbing expedition which made a record three conquests of Mt. Everest rested here today from the rigors of their 110-day outing.

Leader Norman G. Dyhrenfurth, 44, Santa Monica, Calif., brought the party down the last few hundred feet of trail Sunday to be greeted by a cheering crowd at Banepa, the expedition's starting point. He was accompanied by his wife, who had hiked out to meet him.

The men were in high spirits and good health, including Luther G. Jerstad, 26, Eugene, Ore., who suffered frostbitten toes while participating in the unprecedented May 22 double assault on the 29,028-foot peak, the world's highest. His frostbite apparently was minor.

They were welcomed by Henry E. Stebbins, U. S. ambassador to Nepal, and then got into cars and Jeeps for the short ride into Katmandu.

Two members of the expedition already were here, William F. Unsold, 36, Corvallis, Ore., and Barry C. Bishop, 30, Washington, D. C. They were flown here by helicopter May 27 from the slopes

of Mt. Everest to be treated for frostbite. They had spent a night in the open at 28,000 feet May 22 with Jerstad and Dr. Thomas F. Hornbein, 32, San Diego, who apparently suffered no ill effects.

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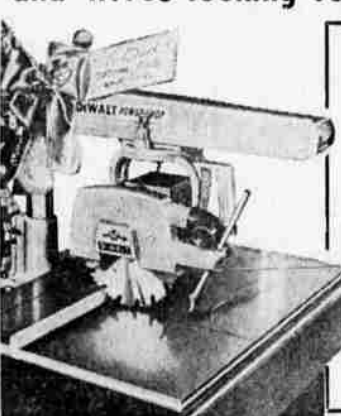
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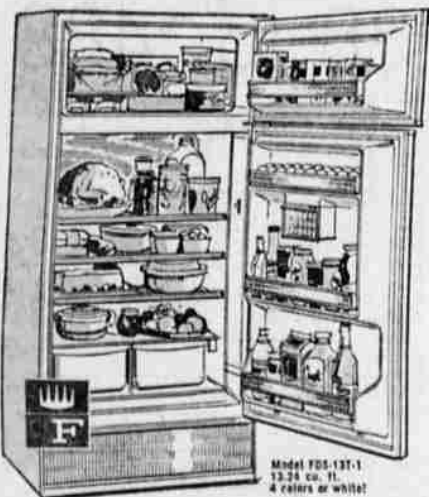
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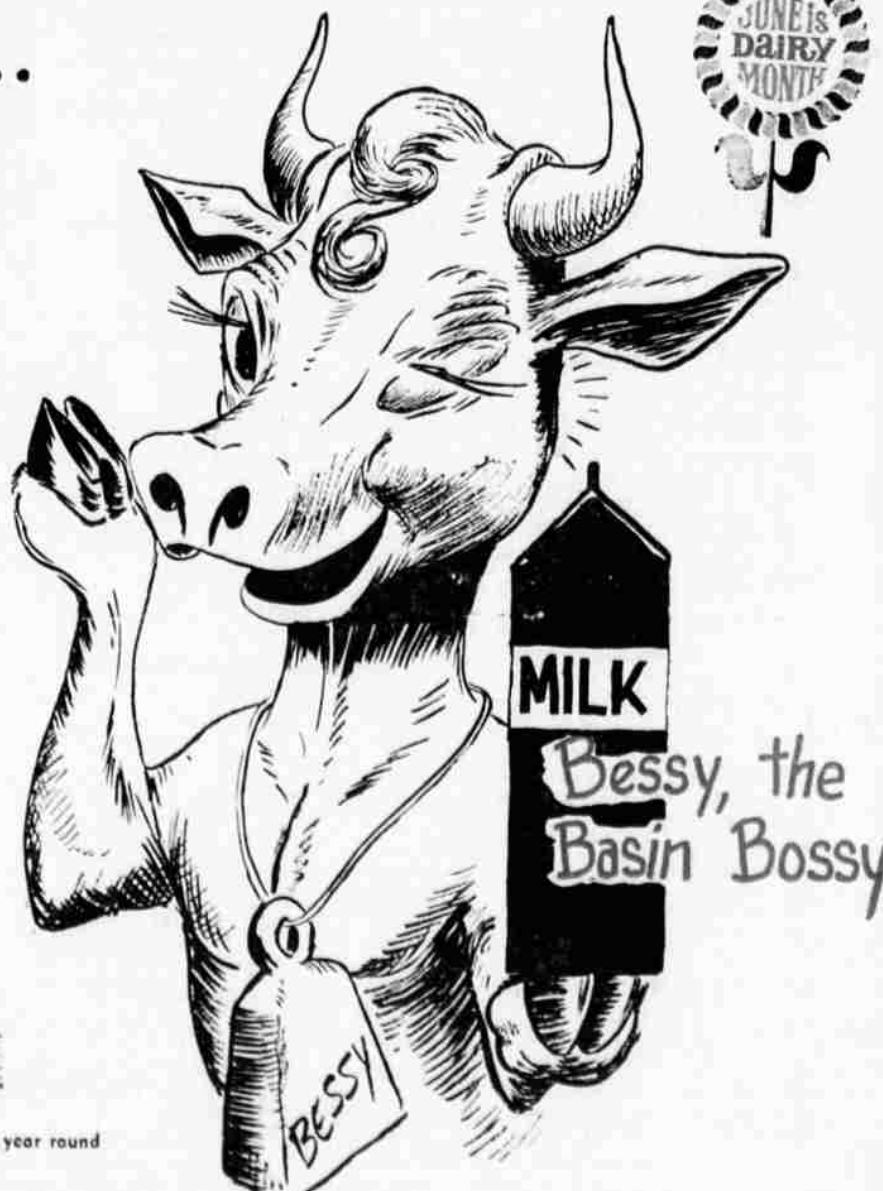
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