Labor Commissioner Appointment Measure Sent To Floor Of House

SALEM (UPI)—A bill giving the governor the power to appoint the state labor commissioner was sent to the House floor Wednesday.

At the same session, the House Labor and Management Committee delayed final approval of a bill revising the state's apprenticeship program. There were indications at least one more major change might be made in it.

The two bills are closely connected in a battle that has been raging over the apprenticeship program.

That fight has pitted Labor Commissioner Norman Nilsen against apprenticeship Director Charles Hoffman, craft unions against industrial unions, and nonunion employers against unions and union employers.

The bill making the labor commissioner's office appointive was approved 6-5 after a hearing at which all seven witnesses testified against it.

Whelan Backs Bill

The bill was proposed by Rep. Edward Whelan, D - Portland, after the committee decided to give the labor commissioner increased authority over the apprenticeship program.

Republicans quickly supported it as a means of carrying out part of Gov. Mark Hatfield's government reorganization program.

Whelan is secretary-treasurer of the Multnomah County Central Labor Council, but organized labor has traditionally opposed making the commissioner appointive.

Committee Chairman Joe Rogers, R - Independence, said he thought the bill had a good chance of passing the House.

Until its fate is decided the committee plans to hold the apprenticeship bill. Republican leaders of the committee indicated it might be amended to take away part of the commissioner's authority, or even tabled if the labor commissioner bill is defeated in the House.

Aside from revising the administrative structure of the program, the apprenticeship bill would expand it to trainees in industrial trades and to public employes.

Opponents of the present program say the craft unions and Hoffman have discriminated against industrial unions, minority groups and non-union employers.

* * *

House Approves Two Civil Rights Measures

SALEM (UPI) — The House passed two civil rights bills Wednesday providing increased penalties for discrimination in housing and public accommodations.

One of the measures would provide recovery of civil damages of up to $1,000 for a victim of racial or religious discrimination in the sale, lease or rental of housing.

The companion measure would increase the limit from $500 to $1,000 on actions rising out of discrimination in public accommodations, resorts or amusement establishments.

The housing bill passed 47-10 after the house defeated an effort to send it back to committee. Rep. William Gallagher, D-Portland, said such discrimination was a "very common" practice and the victim had no recourse.

The present law outlaws such discrimination, but does not allow recovery of civil damages. Opponents said that measure was working well.

The Bureau of Labor received 45 complaints last year, of which one went as far as conciliation and one was taken to court but settled before it came to trial.

Gallagher insisted that complaints to the Bureau of Labor were "futile."

The public accommodations measure passed 44-15 with little discussion.

Band Stops Solons' Talk

SALEM (UPI)—The Medford High School band broke up a session of the House Wednesday.

The lawmakers had plenty of warning Tuesday from Rep. Edward Branchfied, R-Medford, who advised them that the band would begin a rotunda concert promptly at noon.

But debate was still going on when the strains of the National Anthem sounded through the chamber. The legislators came to attention and then tried to resume their talking on a resolution urging the highway commission not to condemn private land for parks.

Rep. Stafford Hansell, R-Hermiston, said a few words, then stopped and shrugged his shoulders.

"I have enough competition in here," he said of the not always quiet House.

Speaker F. F. Montgomery agreed and accepted a motion to adjourn after disposing of some routine business.

Cosmetic Queen Succumbs At 94

NEW YORK (UPI)—Helena Rubinstein, the multimillionaire cosmetics queen, died early today at the age of 94.

Miss Rubinstein died of natural causes. She entered New York Hospital on Tuesday.

Cig Venders Rap 'Round' Tax Figure

SALEM (UPI) — Spokesmen for the vending machine industry told a House committee Wednesday night that a 5-cent cigarette tax would be more harmful to it than a 4 to 6-cent tax.

David Barrows, representing the Oregon Automatic Vendors Association, pointed out that any price increase in round numbers, such as 5 or 10 cents, left the machine operators no margin to absorb increased costs.

He said alterations of the machines to fit a new price and to accept two coins instead of one would be costly.

The price of cigarettes would jump from 25 to 30 cents per pack with either a 4 or 5 cent increase, association President Fred Conrad, Medford, said. He said a price of 35 cents in vending machines would not be accepted by smokers, who would turn to buying cigarettes over the counter.

The committee originally was considering a 4-cent tax, but the Republican majority amended it to 5 cents Monday night.

Franks Sell Interest To LA Firm

PORTLAND (UPI) — The Aaron Frank family Wednesday announced it had sold its shares in Meier and Frank Co., Oregon's largest retail outlet, to Broadway-Hale, Inc., Los Angeles, for a reported figure "in excess" of $10 million.

John J. Higgins, an attorney representing the Franks, said the shares represented some 22 per cent of the outstanding issue.

The move took the Frank family out of direct ownership in the store for the first time in its 108-year history. Both Aaron Frank and his son, Gerry, remain on the board of directors.

Following the announcement, Broadway - Hale said the bloc, along with other shares acquired by the firm, would be voted against a proposed merger of Meier and Frank into May Co., department stores of St. Louis.

The May Co. merger was approved by the boards of directors of both stores Monday. A two-thirds vote of the stockholders is required to effect the merger.

An attorney for the Portland-based firm, Abe E. Rosenberg, said approximately 55 per cent of the company stock is pledged to the May Co. offer.

Meier and Frank has two stores in Portland and one in Salem. The firm does an annual gross of more than $70 million.

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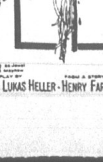

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Weather Roundup

Temperatures during the 24 hours ending at 4 a.m. PST today.

	High	Low	Pcp.
Astoria	60	42	.09
Baker	68	37	..
Brookings	60	48	.02
Eugene	66	46	.10
Klamath Falls	**60**	**36**	**T**
Lakeview	68	39	T
Medford	68	49	.60
Newport	58	44	.01
N. Bend	60	48	.04
Pendleton	69	46	..
Portland	70	44	.25
Redmond	63	45	.02
Salem	67	44	.36
The Dalles	74	50	T
Chicago	36	33	.02
Los Angeles	58	—	..
Phoenix	85	—	..
San Fran.	60	50	.37
Seattle	60	41	.21
Washington	46	30	..

Northern California: Occasional rain.

Portland - Vancouver: Partial clearing tonight, fog Friday morning, rain in afternoon; highs 50-55; low 35-40.

Roseburg: Partly cloudy tonight and Friday, increasing clouds late Friday; highs 52-58; low 38-43.

The Dalles and Hood River: Partly cloudy tonight and Friday; gorge winds west 20 - 30; highs 56-62; low 35-48.

Baker and La Grande: Scattered showers tonight, partly cloudy Friday; highs 50 - 58; lows 33-38.

Bend: Variable clouds and showers tonight, partly cloudy Friday; highs 55-60; lows 30-35.

Western Oregon: Partly cloudy with fog patches tonight, some rain likely coast and north Friday; highs 52-60; low 40-45.

Eastern Oregon: Partial clearing tonight, partly cloudy Friday; highs 50-60; low 32-42.

Tatoosh to Blanco: West to northwest winds 12-22 becoming south to southwest Friday; occasional rain.

AGRICULTURAL FORECAST

Cooling trend next few days, with recurring periods of rain or snow. Field work outlook poor.

CRATER LAKE

High yesterday, 51. Low this morning, 29. Three inches new snow; 130 inches on ground. Chains advised headquarters to rim.

STICKER ON SALE

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The new $7 recreation-conservation sticker for admission into federal recreation areas goes on sale today.

The sticker is good for national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests and other federal recreation areas where an admission fee is normally charged.

Steel Companies Rap Union Demands

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — A strike deadline in the steel industry became more significant [illegible] ing the United Steelworkers union (USW) with seeking "cradle to grave security."

Negotiators for the nation's "Big 11" steel producers and the USW have until May 1 to reach a contract or experience a shutdown that would hobble the nation's economy.

Industry bargainers told the USW Wednesday that its new wage contract demands were preposterous. They asked the [illegible] als.

Neither the union nor the industry would disclose the USW demands. But sources close to the negotiations said they were far in excess of concessions won by the union from the can industry in a strike-settling agreement reached last week.

It was reported, however, that the union demands would cost about a dollar an hour.

The steel industry had outl[illegible] would be based generally on the can settlement which the USW estimated was worth about 45.7 cents per hour over the 40-month term of the contract.

"What they have presented to us, however, sounds like a demand for cradle to grave security," one industry source said.

Bargainers had planned to meet in joint sessions Wednesday afternoon but the schedule was changed at the request of industry. Both sides held separate meetings.

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LBJ Willing To Enter Viet Nam Peace Talks

PARIS (UPI)—The United States told its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies today President Johnson is willing to take part in Viet Nam peace talks—but only if Communist aggression ceases.

U.S. Undersecretary of State George W. Ball assured the NATO Permanent Council this remains Washington's policy. But he said that so far the Communists have shown no readiness to negotiate themselves.

Ball gave the council a 30-minute report on American policy in Viet Nam.

NATO sources said that there was general agreement among council members that means for opening peace talks should continue to be explored. The sources said it also was agreed that the risk of Communist expansion in Southeast Asia remains higher.

French NATO delegate Pierre de Leusse said his government also still favors Viet Nam peace negotiations. He added that desire for peace is high among the Vietnamese people who have been at war continuously for 25 years.

NATO sources said Ball gave the council a full rundown on the U.S. government's position on Viet Nam as it already has been made known in statements by Johnson and other government officials.

The sources said Ball reiterated Johnson's willingness to negotiate if the Communists ceased aggression. But they said he gave no new information beyond what generally was known.

British Disarmament Minister Lord Chalfont was reported to have announced the British government's strong support for the United States in Viet Nam.

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Eagles Women Planning Party

The Eagles Auxiliary will entertain at a Secret Pal Party in the lower FOE Hall, Saturday, April 3, at 7 p.m. Secret Pals will be revealed and new ones will be drawn for the next year. Anyone wanting a Secret Pal is requested to be there.

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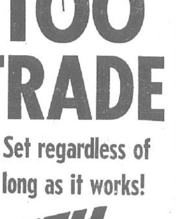

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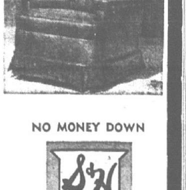

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