



Drop A Tear Here

Had you looked in on the legislature any afternoon during the first three weeks of the present session you would have seen a scattering of members, say 10 or 12, giving a good imitation of the leisure class. A Miami back-drop would complete the illusion and raise taxpayer blood pressure higher than it will go when the long-suffering punters hear what happens to the budget.

What you could not see, however, was the other 80 members grinding away at long stretches of nerve wracking committee work. They are working for the state, and their doctors, who will have more stomach ulcer patients soon after the session if not sooner.

As yet little legislature has been passed that will shorten the session except the big truck bill allowing wartime weights and lengths.

Headlines and radio comedy relief flared when the gorgeous overstuffed furnishings of two lounge rooms for the senate and for the house were discovered. President of the Senate Cornett ordered the Renoir tinted furniture "out". Speaker Hall was a close second with his ouster. Within two hours two big Meir & Frank trucks backed up and carted the Esquire decorators dream back to Portland.

New Legislative Bills

Bills introduced the past week provide minimum salary for teachers of \$2400 a year based on a nine month school year, transfer of receipts of racing commission to general fund instead of to county fairs, authorizing school boards to purchase houses for teachers, creating a wheat commission with administrator at a salary of not more than \$10,000 a year, increasing from 25 years in penitentiary to life the penalty for kidnapping, limiting number of retail beer

licenses to one for each 1,000 population of locality, forbidding cosmeticians to advertise to perform work at reduced prices, increasing state income tax exemption for dependents other than husband and wife from \$300 to \$500, minimum of \$50 monthly for old age pensions, full amount of insurance be paid when a building is fully destroyed and banning the use of fireworks excepting when licensed.

Parolees Improve

The state board of parole and probation acted on 307 cases during the six-month period ending January 1, 1947. Of these 259 cases involved penitentiary sentences and 48 jail sentences and fines, Director H. M. Randal reveals. Favorable action was given or recommendation made to the governor on 123 cases including 91 orders for parole from the penitentiary, 1 commutation of sentence, 30 county jail paroles and 1 remission of fine. There are now 523 parolees with 431 under supervision. It was found necessary to order 37 revocations making an unusually low record of 8.6 per cent.

Going is Gummy

Terms by which the state of Oregon might acquire for \$1 the \$600,000 Klamath barracks have been unanimously rejected by the state board of control and a counter proposal submitted to the war assets administration requesting either a reduction of the 25 year period in which the government demands the property shall be used for educational purposes only or retain the 25 year provision and permit the state to use the property for other purposes unnecessary.

Recent Legal Rulings

United States forest roads, when open to the public, are "public highways" within the meaning of the Oregon fuel tax law.

Municipal judges, who are ex-officio justices of the peace do not have authority to commit girls to Hillcrest state school of correction.

Where action for false arrest is brought against a district attorney or sheriff in their official capacities, the county court has authority to employ counsel for defense, and pay reasonable fees out of county funds.

Corporations cannot be licensed as chiropractors or to render such services in a corporate capacity.

A newspaper to be qualified to publish legal advertisements must be printed in the county where the action, suit or proceeding is pending, or is to be commenced or had, or in which a notice, summons, citation or other legal publication is required, by Oregon law under section 1-609 O.C.L.A.

H.E.C. Meeting Attended Wed.

KEASEY—Mrs. Otto Bittner and son, Lloyd, were in St. Helens Thursday on business.

Those attending the H.E.C. club meeting from Keasey route were Mrs. Marie Christenson, Mrs. Elsie Baker, Mrs. Margaret Miller, Mrs. Blanch DeWitt, Mrs. Eva Gillham, Mrs. Hilda Keasey. The meeting was held Wednesday at Mrs. Peterson's home on Timber route.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Miller from Rainier were visitors at the O. B. Bittner home recently.

Mrs. May Mulkins and daughter, June, and a relative from Portland were visitors at the O. B. Bittner home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald McDonald and nephew, Tanie, Delmar McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bergerson and Hulan Thacker spent Thursday evening at the Herb Counts home.

Mrs. Hazel Dusenberry, Mr. and Mrs. Art Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Doyle were visitors at the D. R. DeVaney home Saturday evening.

Charles McDonald, Jack Solburg, Clyde Lamping, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Counts and daughter, Betty, were visitors Sunday at the Ronald McDonald home.

Mrs. Georgia Jones and daughter Janella, were week end visitors at the O. B. Bittner home. Mrs. Jones is Mrs. Bittner's sister.

Tantalum has been discovered in quantity by prospectors near Ross Lake, Northwest Canada. This hard metal with a high melting point has attained an important place in chemistry, medicine, and electronics.

FISHING FOR BARGAINS? DROP YOUR LINE IN THE CLASSIFIED COLUMN.



Propaganda Warhead

Within the past week or so some 15,000 newspapers, radio stations, magazine shops, and mediums of public news and opinion have been mailed—at government expense—units of the propaganda warhead of a government agency. All is paid for by your money and mine.

Other warheads of propaganda for a program to break down a vital part of the system we live by, so that America can be made over into some new order from the pieces, will be mailed to women's clubs, Granges, labor unions, school teachers, pastors—to persons and mediums that will reach millions.

The government's blast at a giant department of American industry will be heard on the Farm and Home Hour and other radio programs, and will be seen in the movies. No more ardent moocher of free space, free time and free screening than the federal government exists.

All this is being done by one of the government's swarm of so-called divisions of education and information. Congressman Harris Ellsworth of Oregon has already denounced the weapon, the attack, and their purpose. There will be more criticism of this kind. No doubt House Appropriations Chairman John Taber will turn his keen appraising eye on this latest propaganda discharge from the old Wallace-Tugwell arsenal of make-America-over. It is high time for an appraisal.

Education Starved

The crime is not so much in attacks on the American system at the taxpayer's expense, but in the gross neglect of the real function of government's education and information divisions. Few are as derelict in this duty as the one I'm shooting at. (I am leaving it nameless because of my respect for the technical men, the true service men, of the agency concerned.) But most are ready to leave education for propaganda at the drop of a flash bulb. The work is not hard and it is far more exhilarating.

In Washington, D. C. alone, the Department of Agriculture has about a thousand persons working full-time on publicity and publications, with a thousand more serving part-time. The totals run into tens of thousands out in the field. Even the highest technicians are subject to propaganda orders.

Turn to the department's forestry agency for contrast, and

you find that there is the pitiful number of 150 foresters serving as mentors for the 3 and one half million farm forest owners of the country. These farmers operate roughly 30 per cent of the country's commercial forest land. There, according to the Chief Forester himself, is where the main problem of destructive cutting and of forest fires exists. And he confesses that the other broad area of the problem, that of the tens, of thousands of small forest owners who are not farmers, is getting no benefit of government education and information at all.

The guiding slogan seems to be "Millions for propaganda; nickles for education."

Hope Dawns

The specific identity of the groups under fire here is outside my purpose. That has been taken care of by a congressman who knows the facts, and the facts will certainly be carefully scrutinized by the proper authorities. The point for us to worry about, is that a government agency, using public money given it to educate and inform the public, neglects that function for tremendous propaganda drives on business.

We can hope that the present Congress cleans the Pravda boys out of Washington, D.C., and orders the education division to get in there and educate.

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