

Malheur Legislators Discuss Busiest Week of 1965 Session at State Capitol

By STATE SENATOR ANTHONY YTURRI and REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT F. SMITH

The seventh week of the legislature has been the busiest of the session. Much of the important legislation is now seeing floor action in both houses. The great amount of time and effort put in by legislators on some of these proposals is demonstrated by the fact that more than 900 man-hours were put into the Fish and Game Merger bill just this session.

It has been before the various legislative sessions since 1929 and has been recommended by several interim committees. We are pleased to report that the House of Representatives was able to pass this proposal, which should provide more efficient protection and use of Oregon's natural resources.

The Workmen's Compensation bill, another major issue that has been around for many sessions, has received more than 2,000 man-hours of work by legislators. It was reported out of the Labor and Management committee of the House today (Feb. 26).

Saturday Hearing Planned

The House Taxation committee is holding a Saturday committee hearing to discuss 12 bills making changes in our tax laws. This gives people who have difficulty getting away from work during the week an additional opportunity to appear before the legislature to testify on matters that concern them.

Much of the news of this week has revolved around a Supreme court decision concerning the payment of taxes by corporations headquartered outside of Oregon. A 1957 law allowed such corporations to use their personal property tax payments as a partial offset against their other tax payments to the state.

\$4½ Million Revenue Available

The court in disallowing such an offset made an additional \$4,500,000 in revenue available to the general fund. Such taxes could be collected back to 1957, when the law was adopted, but many legislators and Governor Hatfield feel that collection of such back taxes would impair Oregon's industrial development program. Several plans calling for the collection of the taxes for less than the eight-year period are being considered.

Another engagement in the national battle over legislative reapportionment was fought in the State Senate this week. Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, which provides for consideration of some factor other than population in drawing legislative districts providing the districting plan is referred to a vote of the people, passed the Senate. The bill is now in the House Elections and reapportionment committee.

Textbook Bill Considered

A major floor debate occurred Wednesday on the passage of the "Free Textbook bill." This proposal would allow local school districts to furnish free high school textbooks if they wanted to.



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Hospital Staff Holds Yearly Award Dinner

Staff members at Malheur Memorial hospital held their annual award banquet Feb. 20 in the Victorian room at Vale.

Dr. Augustus Tanaka served as master of ceremonies during the evening. A trio comprised of Phyllis Talbot, Helen Peterson and Lois Luther presented vocal selections accompanied by Mrs. Kinsey Keveren on the piano.

Other musical numbers were given by Karel Obenchain and Carol Haney, candy striper girls, with guitar accompaniment provided by John Wohlcke.

Awards were presented to Mrs.

BASEBALL-FOR-KIDS MEET SLATED TUESDAY EVENING

Ed Mason, chairman of the Baseball-for-Kids program, announces that there will be a meeting of all coaches, parents and other interested patrons at 7:30 Tuesday evening, March 9. The session will be held in the Nyssa Co-op office, located at 18 North Second street.

Nellie Jenkins who received a citation for five years service as a member of the kitchen staff. Mrs. June Patterson, registered nurse; Mrs. Helen Peterson, record librarian; and Ewen Chard, custodian, all received pins for 10 years service.

SHERIFF'S POSSE DANCE SLATED SATURDAY NIGHT

The sixth annual dance, sponsored by the Malheur County Sheriff's Posse, will be staged Saturday night, March 6, in Boulevard Grange hall at Cairo junction.

Music will be furnished by Del Smith and his orchestra. A beef will be given as a door prize and the individual whose name is drawn need not be present to win. The public is cordially invited to join members of the Posse and their friends for an evening of dancing fun.

Journal Classifieds Bring Results!



THE JOURNAL'S APOLOGIES go to this young man who is Douglas Garner. In last week's issue he was pictured with other winners in the recent NJHS science fair. In the photo he was given the name Douglas Farmer. The only resemblance (if there is a Douglas Farmer in the area) is the sound of the names as heard through ears of a Journal reporter.

NYSSA HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 5-6—District wrestling tournament at Nyssa.
March 6, 5 to 8 p.m.—PTA International dinner in cafeteria.
March 8, 7 p.m.—Tri-Hi-Y initiation.
March 9—National Merit qualifying tests for all junior students.
March 9, 8 p.m.—FFA meeting.

March 9, 8 p.m.—Grade school music concert in cafeteria.
March 11, 8 p.m.—PTA meeting.
March 12, 2:30 p.m.—National school assembly.
March 12, 8 p.m.—Junior high dance.
March 12—District basketball tournament in La Grande.
March 12—State wrestling meet at Corvallis.

Spring Food SPECIALS



Folger's—Regular or Drip COFFEE

3-Lb. Can \$ 1 99

Treasure Valley—46-Oz.—Assorted FRUIT DRINKS

4 Cans For \$ 1 00

Nestle's—Chocolate-Flavored QUIK

2-Lb. Can 59¢

Scott's—Assorted Colors TISSUE

Four-Roll Pkgs. 2 for 69¢

Pillsbury—Buttermilk

Biscuits Tube 10¢

Treasure Valley—Top Quality TUNA FISH

4 Cans For 89¢

American Beauty—Four Varieties

Egg Noodles 2 Packages 59¢

FRESH GROUND BEEF 3 POUNDS \$1

Finest Quality MEATS

Fresh—Tender Pork Roasts Lb. 29¢

Ocean-Fresh Red Snapper Lb. 39¢

PRODUCE

New—California CABBAGE 2 Heads 19¢

Crisp—Fresh LETTUCE 3 Heads 25¢



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Debate on the bill indicated that high school students paid, on the average, \$9 a year for their books, and that if all school districts adopted the "free textbooks" it will add \$1,200,000 to school district budgets. Opposition to the bill came from those who felt it would shift an additional tax burden to property taxpayers.

A long-smouldering controversy over the role of the Joint Ways and Means committee in the legislature has flared anew. The Ways and Means committee, charged with the examination of all bills that call for appropriations, consists of equal numbers of senators and representatives, seven from each body.

Seek Curb in Power

They meet together to hear testimony and examine agency budgets, often line by line and item by item. Critics of this committee said it is "policy making," and its powers should be curbed. One proposal to do this would prohibit the House and Senate committees from meeting jointly.

It is utterly naive to think that a committee charged with deciding how much money an agency can spend does not make policy. Any decision about expenditures must be policy making, and there is no way to avoid it.

The move to prevent the committees from meeting jointly will only result in additional costs of thousands of dollars to the taxpayers of Oregon and will not prevent the committee from doing its job of examining proposed expenditures and determining policy concerning them.

Would Also Take More Time

It will cost the taxpayers in two ways. One is that agency and department heads will have to appear twice to discuss the same budget items. A second cost would be the substantial increase in the length of the session required for separate consideration of budgets. The legislative fiscal staff would have to be expanded also.

Another significant bill that passed the House of Representatives this week was the long-range study of Oregon's water needs. Desert states like California and Arizona have long coveted our abundance of water, and serious proposals are now being advanced to channel part of the Columbia and/or Snake river south to these states.

The purpose of this long-range study is to ascertain Oregon's water needs 100 years from now, so we will be prepared to defend the amount of this precious natural resource that Oregon's increasing population and industrial development will require.

Yturri-Smith Bills Endorsed

Two bills carrying the names of Yturri and Smith were endorsed by the Rules committee Feb. 26 for introduction. One bill, which Judge Lytle of Vale brought to our attention, would provide a method for validating water rights which are technically illegal because of the 1931 Statute.

The second bill would provide that the Malheur county auditor may be appointed by the County court for an indeterminate amount of time. Those people in Malheur county who believe that a county auditor position should be combined with another, or that a county auditor should be eliminated, could then present their views to the County court for final action.

Action was also taken Feb. 26 on Senate Bill 29, which would provide for a simplified method of filing for gas tax refunds by farmers and ranchers. This is the bill that we sponsored through the Highway Interim committee and has passed both houses of the legislature.

Bill Passes With Ease

It will become law only after the governor's signature. We are proud this bill was passed with ease and that a simplified approach will be effected for gas tax refunds so that many people will now be able to claim refunds who have been prevented in the past because of filing restrictions.

Salem was a popular place this week for Malheur county people. Visitors included Joe Saito, who had been to Salem for a Department of Agriculture meeting and dropped by to discuss legislative matters. Madge Flegel of Ontario and Bob Lytle of Vale were both visitors during the past week.

Mamuro Wakasugi was in Salem discussing legislative matters, including legislation which would provide that alfalfa seed should be protected as grain is protected under the grain warehouse act. We have introduced a bill which will alleviate this problem.