

OREGON TODAY

By Don Willner

The 1971 Oregon Legislature passed more major consumer bills than any legislative session in the history of Oregon. The key bill was a complete rewrite of the Consumer Protection Law which gave the district attorneys and the Attorney General authority to prevent deceptive trade practices.

What will be the major consumer legislation before this session? The number one priority of the Oregon Consumer League is a landlord and tenant law based on model legislation proposed by the Uniform Code Commissioners. If you buy a product such as a car or a radio, there is an implied warranty that the product is fit for the purpose for which it is sold. Unless special arrangements are made between the buyer and seller, the car must run and the radio must play. On the other hand, if you rent an apartment, there is no requirement in Oregon law that the premises be fit to live in. If you complain to the Health Department about unsafe con-

ditions, you can be evicted. The Landlord and Tenant Bill would provide some new rights for the tenant.

In his consumer message to the Legislature, Governor McCall listed as his first priority a bill to give the corporation commissioner authority to regulate franchising. An increasing number of the small businesses in Oregon are nationally franchised and many Oregonians have lost their life savings by investing in a misrepresented franchise business.

The Educated Consumer Food Council places the highest priority on open dating of packaged foods and unit pricing. Most packaged foods now contain the date upon which they were packaged but always in code so that the seller knows the date, but the consumer does not, and many stale foods get bought. Open dating would make the date beyond which the food product is no longer fresh available to the consumer. Unit pricing would better allow the housewife to do comparative

shopping since it would require stating the price per unit in understandable terms.

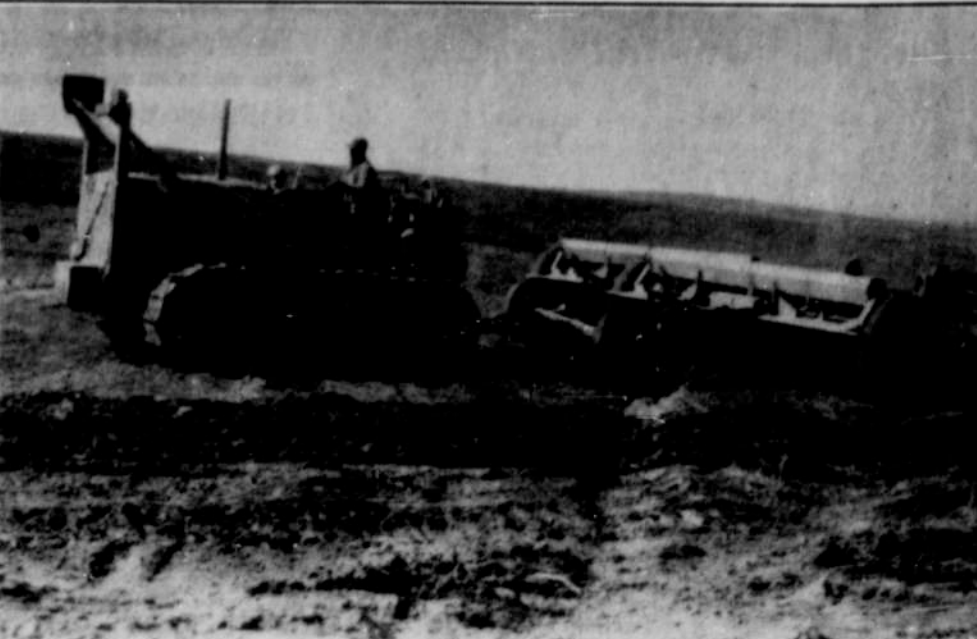
There will probably be major controversy before the Legislature concerning bills to limit the interest rate on retail installment sales. At the present time in Oregon a merchant (other than an automobile dealer) can charge any interest rate he wishes to sell a product on the installment plan, while in the neighboring state of Washington, the maximum interest rate for such sales is 12%.

Both the House and Senate have special committees dealing with consumer problems and the 1973 session in its focus on consumer needs.

The Old Timer



"The political pot never boils much. The old apple sauce is only warmed over." "A loafer is a person who is trying to make weekends meet." (Anonymous)



RANGELAND DRILLS are used by the Vale District BLM in large rehabilitation projects in Oregon and Idaho. The drill shown here is seeding north of Harper. George R. Gurr, manager, said that several new and improved modifications have been made on the rangeland drill, a much larger and heavier counterpart to the grain drills used in normal farming operations. Each seed arm is individually suspended, allowing each arm to roll over a large rock or other obstruction without braking while the rest of the arms are still seeding. The rangeland drill was made especially for use on the rough, rocky grazing lands of Oregon, Idaho, and other western states.

The Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time by a man named Nixon.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Rep. D.E. (Denny) Jones

TWO OF THE PRINCIPLES of the forthcoming TVCC production of South Pacific are shown here rehearsing. Sally Seller plays Nellie in this James A. Michener creation, and Clint Bellows, the part of Emile. The play will be staged in the Ontario High School auditorium the evenings of February 22-24. Check with the TVCC switchboard for ticket information.

The bills are really coming in now, as 5 p.m. on Monday, the 12th, is the deadline for being able to introduce bills without going through a committee or without using a priority. Each legislator has a three-bill priority, so if they have some special bill they want introduced they can still introduce it after the deadline is passed.

Of course, the big news down here this week was the vote on the Equal Rights Amendment yesterday, which, no doubt, you have all heard about by this time, and the outcome of it. The vote was 50 in favor, 9 opposed, and one absent. I hope the women of this State of Oregon get what they think they're getting. I voted in opposition to this bill because I felt that the women were giving away too much and that some of the things that they were trying to get done wouldn't be accomplished anyway because I think it will be up to the employer whether he wants to pay a woman the same salary as a man gets, or change the working conditions to fit the woman, or things of this nature, and I would just like for women to continue to be women.

Hearings have been concluded on the Governor's tax proposal. However, the committee itself is working almost around the clock. The members have been excused from attending other committee meetings so they can devote all their time to the Governor's tax proposal. I understand this is to be on the floor for a vote on Wednesday, the 14th. I would expect that it will pass the House on that day; however, there is some doubt as to what will happen to it in the Senate. One thing I would like to point out to the people of my district and also Oregon is the fact that when we vote on House Joint Resolution #3, to change the Constitution to allow the levying of a property tax by the State of Oregon for school finance--when this is voted on and if it passes, then the other two House bills, HB 2004 and HB 2005, will not have to be voted on by the general public. They will go into effect automatically, so I just hope the general public doesn't get the idea that they will get a chance to vote on 2004 and 2005 if the amendment to the Constitution passes.

Hearings have been started on the big, thick Senate Bill 77, which is an environmental and land use bill, and of course, because of the thickness there is a mountain of work to be done on it, so this will take some time. However, I did sit in at the Senate Environment and Land Use Committee meeting in the Senate, introduced a bill, Senate Bill 218, which would protect us from implied consent or adverse possession of people using our ranches as an access to get to other lands. In the past there has been some fear that if you used an access for ten years you develop possession of it, and this bill would eliminate that and make it so we can sleep at nights and not worry about the general public developing a right to our ranches. This bill was passed out of the Senate Environment and Land Use Committee yesterday with a "do-pass" recommendation, so this is really a step in the right direction for us, and I don't see any problem for it over in the House.

There seems to be quite a lot of activity in regard to the Steelhead bills, as they're called down here. These are bills to attempt to do away with commercial fishing in the Columbia and also in parts of the ocean. These bills normally would have gone to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; however, they have not been sent to our committee--they have been sent someplace else, so I have no idea of the outcome of them. I think some of these bills probably are real controversial as far as we're concerned, and as I've said before, the commercial fishing industry here is a large industry, and by statistics they are not depleting the fish supply; in fact there has been more fish the last three years than there was before. So, I'm opposed to eliminating commercial fishing on the Columbia, and also, in the ocean itself, until such time as they come up with statistics that show we are damaging our fish.

If I can be of any assistance to you, don't fail to contact me. Rep. D. E. (Denny) Jones, District 60, House of Representatives, State Capitol - Salem, Oregon 97310. Telephone: 378-8834. Office: #18-8.

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BLM EMPLOYEES LEARN FIRST AID

Red Cross first aid instruction was given to 25 members of the Vale District BLM staff at the American Legion hall Friday. Instructors were Pat Barden and Dave McKee, both of the Boise Interagency Fire Center.

Class instruction was divided into four separate areas and trainees spent considerable time in the actual practice of treating for shock, bandaging of various types of injuries, learning to transport injured victims and several methods of artificial respiration. In addition, much study time was devoted to care and treatment of poisons, including manmade chemicals, insect and animal bites, and infectious wounds.

First Aid classes for remaining personnel are tentatively scheduled for the latter part of April.

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