

State Capitol News —

## Highways, Revenue and Education Top List of Unicameral's Post-Easter Agenda

LINCOLN.—Nebraska's legislature this week returned from its Easter recess to plunge into a crowded agenda with highways, revenue and education topping the list.

The holiday weekend did little to cool tempers on either side of the red-hot issue of creating a state highway commission. The proposal was still alive this week only because Sen. Norris Schroeder, of Hoskins, withdrew his motion to kill it. Minutes earlier, a motion to advance the measure to select file lost, 16 to 20.

Debate on the bill brought forth some of the session's most heated language. The measure would establish a state highway commission with a \$7,500-a-year business manager responsible to the state engineer. The seven members of the commission would be appointed by the governors.

Sen. Arthur Carmody, of Trenton, bitterly attacked opponents of the bill "who haven't the nerve" to offer amendments. Senator Carmody is principal introducer of the bill, LB 425.

"Others," the Trenton senator said, looking at Senator Schroeder, "seek to ride into the governor's office on the coat tails of somebody or something."

Schroeder reddened, and protested: "I want you to understand that I have no political aspirations. I voted myself out of that long ago. I am surprised at the personal attacks."

Then Senator Carmody turned to Senator Louis Holmes, of Grand Island, and asked why he did not offer an amendment, rather than vote to kill the bill. Holmes replied he had offered a bill on reorganization of the highway department but it had been killed in committee.

"And the little boy who had his bill killed is now crying," Carmody retorted. Schroeder withdrew his motion to kill when backers urged it be kept alive for amendments.

Meanwhile, Gov. Val Peterson's highway program continued to make legislative headway.

Latest action was the advancement to the floor of LB 401 raising vehicle registration fees.

The amended bill provides for upping passenger car permits from \$3 and \$5 to \$8 and also hiking commercial truck registration fees. Researchers estimate the new schedule of fees would produce an annual revenue of \$6,894,817. The safety patrol would get a five percent, leaving 6 1/2 million. Of this, the highway department would get \$2,600,000. Counties

and municipalities would share in the remainder.

Thus, four bills were before the senators this week, designed to increase revenue for the state highway department to about \$6,500,000.

The other bills—to hike the gas tax one cent, to provide for a highway use stamp, and to increase the equalization fee for diesel vehicles—were among the more important pieces of legislation on the week's schedule.

The highly controversial two percent sales tax bill is also likely to come up for consideration this week. The measure, by Sen. Dwight Burney, of Hartington, has been reported to the floor by the revenue committee.

Legislative leaders have shown an unwillingness to support a state sales of income tax unless there is no other way to finance mounting government costs.

Burney's bill, LB 234, would become effective October 1 of this year. It would levy two cents on every dollar's retail sale except sale of personal services, transportation, rent (except in hotels), tickets to fairs, or to charitable activities.

Also exempted would be gasoline, on which a state tax has already been paid and articles like liquor and cigars on which the state now collects more than a two percent tax.

Purchases under 16 cents would be tax-free with a penny tax on sales between 16 and 65 cents, and a two cent tax on sales between 66 cents and \$1.15.

Observers were frankly puzzled on the chances of the bill's success.

On the subject of education, the legislature this week had on general file LB 388 which provides a blanket tax levy on all property in the elementary school district.

The levy would not be more than four mills but would be enough to raise two-thirds of the costs of operating the schools of a county.

The measure was introduced by Sen. Glen Cramer, of Albion, who told the unicameral his bill would:

Discourage operation of districts with less than five pupils; relieve the teacher shortage by encouraging districts to merge or contract for instruction, and make all property bear education costs.

Sen. George Weberg, of Pender, offered a motion to kill the bill, but he was quickly defeated without debate.

Earlier, the senators passed by a 31-to-5 vote a school re-districting bill with a home rule provision. It was LB 27, by Sen. Williams Metzger, of Cedar Creek.

The measure calls for organization of county committees of from six to ten members. A majority must be from rural elementary school districts and there must be at least one lay member.

The county committees

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would meet once a year to study the advisability of re-districting. The county group need not act if its members vote against reorganization, but it must report to a state committee of five, appointed by the governor.

The bill provides for public hearings on reorganization plans, with a majority of all electors within each unit required for approval. Rural territories and high school districts would ballot separately.

Meanwhile, there were two developments on the primary election front.

Governor Peterson signed in to law the bill of Sen. John McKnight, of Auburn, giving Nebraska a chance to mark their first and second choices on presidential and vice presidential nominees.

McKnight said the bill will make voting in the state "a more accurate picture of grass roots sentiment," and will eliminate the device under which a favorite son candidate, with no chance of winning the nomination, uses the prestige of a state primary victory to influence the choice of another candidate.

And on general file this week, and apparently destined for select file before the week is over, was the much-amended state pre-primary convention law.

Amendments approved last week allowed convention endorsement to any number of candidates who gather 35 percent of the vote of the delegates voting. The law as it stands now limits endorsement to two. Earlier amendments to the present bill set the number at four.

Sen. Charles Tvrdik, of Omaha, asked the ceiling be lifted. He was at odds with Sen. Earl Lee, of Fremont, on the manner in which state convention delegates would be elected. Tvrdik wants the present method left intact, while the legislature has approved amendments by Lee providing they be elected at county conventions ten days prior to the state convention.

### CHAMBERS NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Art Dexter and boys visited in the Darrel Couch home Monday evening.

Rev. and Mrs. L. A. Dale and Sharon were Sunday supper guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Walters and family.

L. J. Ekdahl went to West-on to visit his parents over the weekend.

Rev. and Mrs. L. A. Dale and Sharon, Mr. and Mrs. August Swager and Fritz and Elmer were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rolie Huntley and sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Daas and Joanne and Tom Salem drove to Orchard Sunday to see Mrs. Daas' mother, Mrs. Nellie Leihman.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Geeser and Mr. and Mrs. Keith Newhouse and baby son, of Lincoln, were weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Newhouse. They returned home Monday.

Marlen Rasmussen, formerly of Three Hill, Canada, is here visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Rasmussen, and family.

### EMMET NEWS

Mrs. John Conard and daughter, Mary Lou, visited Mr. and Mrs. Rommie B. South, at Inman on Saturday.

A very large crowd attended the Wm. Luben farm sale, 1 1/2 miles South of Emmet, on Monday, April 18. Mr. and Mrs. Luben have sold their farm to Elmer Schaff, of Atkinson, and will move to O'Neill where they will make their home in the near future. Lunch was served on the grounds by the Emmet WSCS.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mullen and family visited at the Joe Winkler home Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Dusatko and son, Jimmie, of O'Neill, were Sunday guests at the Joe Babl home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill O'Connor and daughters, Helen and Mary, visited at the Hansen home in O'Neill on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Weichman, of Stuart, were Sunday afternoon guests at the Joe Winkler home.

Owing to its great dependence upon monsoon rains, India is more liable to crop failure than any other country.

**The Jack & Jill CORNER**  
Needs Good PHOTOGRAPHS

The Frontier's Jack & Jill Editor told us just the other day that MORE photographs — good studio photographs — are needed for use in the Jack & Jill Corner. Each week The Frontier publishes two or more pictures of children under school age. Why not arrange for a sitting now? And your child's photo will appear soon in the Jack & Jill Corner.

**O'NEILL PHOTO CO.**



**RISKING LIFE AND LIMB . . .** Beatrice Dante guides one of her trained chimpanzees along a ropewalk in a breath-taking, hair-raising, death-defying act at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus in New York's Madison Square Garden. The steel-nerved chimp thrills thousands with this perilous performance.

### Teen Tattler —

## Revival of Boy Scouts May Stop a Lot of 'Wrong Doings' Going on in O'Neill

By PAT BRENNAN

Hi everyone! Now that Easter is past and things are getting back to normal, I suppose you hated the thought of going back to school. The last month of school is usually the hardest. Let's make our motto, "The last is the best."

It sure was good to see the ex-high-school-graduates during Easter vacation. They certainly added life and color to the many Easter activities.

Last April 13 nine Holt county high schools — St. Joseph's, Atkinson, Ewing, Page, Chambers, Inman, Stuart, St. Mary's and O'Neill took over the county government for the day. It was so successful that they may have it again next year. It was the first time that this was ever done in Holt county and one of the few times ever done in the state.

Friday and Saturday, April



Pat Brennan

### Mrs. White Feted —

CELIA — Mrs. Ed White was guest-of-honor Sunday at the Elmer Coolidge home. The occasion was her birthday anniversary. Those present were: the W. E. Ragland family, the Coolidge family, and the honored guest.

22 and 23, is the fine arts festival. There are 11 teen-agers going from O'Neill—Ivalyn Brady, Wally Shelhamer and Kiffie Golden on instrumental; John O'Neill, Claude Cole, Shirley Johring, Nancy Beha, Marilyn Funk and Millie Larson for voice; Ila Carter, and Dottie Her for speech, good luck!

The O'Neill high junior-senior banquet will be on May 10. St. Mary's date has not been decided yet, but it will be between May 10 and 15. The mother-daughter Girl Scout banquet will be on May 17.

It has been heard that the Boy Scouts are being started up again. This organization, like that of the Girl Scouts, will offer the boys many advantages. It will train them to become better citizens and stop a lot of the "wrong doings" that have been going on recently.

I certainly hope the new leaders of this organization have loads of good luck in starting up the Boy Scouts once more. I'll be seeing you.

### Soil Conservation District Begins Tree Planting in County

The Holt county soil conservation district office will be open on Mondays and Thursdays during the season of grass seeding and tree planting for the convenience of farmers and ranchers who want to pick up grass seed and trees.

Since Monday trees have been planted for Joe Pongratz, Joe Wagon, George Shrunck, George Collins and Rollo Berry, all of Atkinson, and Fredrick Wilson, North of Stuart. District officials urge all farmers and ranchers who want trees planted, to prepare the ground as soon as it is dry enough, if it has not already been done. Farmers and ranchers intending to have planting done will be advised a day or so in advance regarding the arrival of the planter.

**Child Honored —** REDBIRD — Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson entertained relatives Friday evening, April 8, at their farm home in honor of their little son's first birthday anniversary. Billy Jim was presented with several gifts. Ice cream and cake were served.

An ancient remedy for fever was to wash water over the patient and onto a frog, to which the fever was supposed to pass.

## Holt Track Meet To Be Held Today

ATKINSON — The annual Holt county high school track and field meet will be held today (Thursday) at Atkinson.

Originally the meet was scheduled for last Thursday, but had to be postponed because of a wet field, according to Atkinson high's coach, Randall Smith.

Schools entered are: O'Neill high, Stuart, Ewing, Chambers, St. Joseph's hall and Atkinson.

The Balers entered the Sand Hills relays Tuesday at Bassett.

### EAGLES ARE 7th

O'Neill high school placed seventh in the Sand Hills relays at Bassett Tuesday with 25 points. Thirteen schools competed. O'Neill placed second in the mile relay; third in the freshman relay; and fourth in the shuttle relay. Tom Sullivan won third place in the high jump and Don Calkins won fourth in the broad jump.

### MOBIL OIL

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Swerl	28c
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