

New Equalization Scheme Talked

By MELVIN PAUL
The Frontier's Statehouse Correspondent

LINCOLN—The rumblings of discontent from one of Nebraska's most heavily regulated industries—the liquor business—continued this week.

The matter was brought out in the open when the Nebraska Beer Wholesalers association had an informal meeting with the state liquor control commission at the statehouse.

Although the 53 wholesale dealers who showed up said they wanted to know how they could increase their prices, it soon developed that they were also interested in talking about commission rule 46.

That rule was passed last November and has been the subject of controversy ever since. It did not set up a regulation so that only a small discount can be given by wholesalers and retailers and required wholesalers to post their prices with the commission.

Two members of the commission, Carl Linn of Hastings and

Nathan Pont of Stanton, helped pass the rule and have stood by it since. They say it has cut out many abuses of the past when wholesalers gave big discounts to some dealers and not to others. This amounted to subsidizing some dealers at the expense of the others, they explain.

The newest member of the commission, Chairman Tal Conrad of Sargent, who was appointed only last February, has voiced his opposition to the rule. He has called it a "wholesaler's rule" because it fixes things so the wholesaler doesn't have to give anyone a bargain rate. He has argued it is futile to control prices this way because the retailer and the brewer or manufacturer isn't touched.

So when Jack Devoe of Lincoln, attorney for the association, told the commission that his group wanted the rule repealed as far as the beer industry is concerned, he could have set off a firecracker. Reason for this sudden opposition is because for the first time rule 46 may be working against the wholesalers.

Here's what has happened:

A few of the major brewers have increased the price of beer by 14 to 16 cents a case. Naturally this is going to be passed all the way along the line to the eventual consumer.

But the beer retailers say they are going to charge a nickel a bottle more for the beer. The wholesalers fear this is going to cut down volume. So they figure they need more of an increase than just the plain 14 to 16 cents a case extra that the brewers are charging them.

Already several applications have been sent in asking for 25 to 30 cent increases.

But the commission put out the word that these increases wouldn't be granted unless the wholesaler dealers "justify" the extra increase they are asking.

The wholesalers at the meeting told the commission that freight rates are higher, that the increased price will cut volume and that the tax situation is uncertain.

But they maintained that the commission has no business asking them for "justification". They claim that rule 46 doesn't give them this power.

Then they launched into an attack on rule 46.

But Conrad, who doesn't like the rule himself, quickly shut off the debate. He said it would call a public hearing to do anything about the rule and that this wasn't the time and place. He said that the commission might be divided on the worth of the rule but that it certainly wasn't divided on how to apply it.

The meeting ended with the necessity for "justification" firmly established despite the muttering of the beer men.

Tax Suggestions—

New answers to the tax question were being sought as the problem looms as perhaps the major issue of the coming election year. Gov. Robert Crosby, taking a tour of state institutions, paused to tell courthouse audiences that while he wasn't necessarily against a sales tax, he didn't think it would answer all the problems as some seem to think it would.

He also blamed businessmen who failed to turn in correct inventories for tax purposes for some of the "shift" of the tax burden to real estate this year.

At the statehouse there was some talk of a scheme to adjust the state tax levy from county-to-county instead of demanding equalized assessments. Thus a county which assessed at 50 percent of value might get only a 3-mill state levy while a richer county which only needed a 25 percent assessment to get enough revenues would be handed a 6-mill state levy. Thus, equalization would be had between counties, it was contended.

Opponents charged this would be only a subterfuge to cover up the need for equalization, would solve nothing, and would require a constitutional amendment.

Appointment—

Governor Crosby announced that James Dising, young Omaha lawyer, will be his administrative assistant, replacing Max Denney. Denny is returning to Fairbury to work in the family law firm. Some observers found in the Dising appointment a move to mend political fences with Omaha which reportedly felt Crosby hasn't handed enough appointments its way.

Dising is state chairman of the Young Republican organization.

Drought—

A letter to President Dwight Eisenhower concerning drought conditions in Hitchcock county brought a quick reply to Crosby. The governor was informed that his predecessor, Val Peterson, has been assigned to make an investigation of conditions. Peterson is now federal civil defense administrator in Washington, D.C.

Museum—

A former part of the statehouse, the State Historical Society museum, now has a home of its own. A fine new building at 15th and R, on the edge of the University campus, was dedicated with ceremonies and opened to the public. Dr. James Olson, museum director, says the new museum is arranged in the most up-to-date fashion to help visitors get a graphic picture of the various historical periods in Nebraska's great history.

Rally Day Rites at Hillside Church

CELIA—Hillside chapel, Mrs. Lawrence Smith, pastor, held rally day services Sunday with an all-day meeting. There was a basket lunch at noon. A large crowd was in attendance.

Reverend and Mrs. Phipps and three sons of Atkinson attended the afternoon "singspiration" service.

The Phipps sons were supper guests that evening at the Joe Hendricks home.

62 Registered Herefords, Holt County Herefords, Sale, October 24, O'Neill, Nebraska. Write for catalog. 23p50

Other Celia News

Alex Forsythe left Friday evening for Villisca, Ia., to visit relatives there and in several other Iowa towns. Clarence and Bill Focken are doing chores while he is gone. He plans to be gone a week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Doster, who have spent the past 10 days visiting Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg, left Monday morning for their home in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dobias and sons were Sunday dinner visitors at the D. F. Scott home.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Doster of Kalamazoo, Mich., spent Saturday at Lake Andes and Sunday at Lake Andes and Saturday at Lake Andes and Sunday at Lake Andes and Sunday at Lake Andes.

Mrs. H. R. Rouse and son, Marvin, and Miss Mildred Keyes of Inman helped Daryl McKathnie celebrate his second birthday anniversary Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Maple and two sons of Royai were Sunday visitors at the home of her brother, Roy Fullerton.

Earl Schlotfeld was a Sunday visitor at the O. A. Hammerberg home.

Mrs. Joe Hendricks and Nina were last Thursday afternoon visitors at the Mark Hendricks home.

Alex Forsythe and Eddie Walnofer cabled in hay for O. A. Hammerberg Monday and Tuesday.

Frank Kilmurry and daughter, Patricia, were Friday morning visitors at the O. A. Hammerberg home.

Mrs. D. F. Scott was a Friday morning visitor at Butte. Cpl. and Mrs. Gerz Livingston left Sunday morning for Hastings where he will be stationed for a few months.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kilmurry and daughters were Sunday dinner guests at the P. W. Kilmurry home. Theresa Kilmurry, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kilmurry, celebrated her first birthday anniversary at the P. W. Kilmurry home.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Doster of Kalamazoo, Mich., were last Thursday visitors at the Jim DeLaming and Merrill Smith homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Hitchcock were last Thursday evening visitors at the Gene Livingston home.

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Scott were Tuesday afternoon, September 29, visitors at the P. W. Kilmurry home in Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fullerton spent Sunday, September 27, in Neligh with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Fullerton.

Mrs. D. F. Scott was a Tuesday morning, September 29, visitor at the O. A. Hammerberg home.

Mr. and Mrs. August Troshynski were Wednesday evening, September 30, visitors at the

Frank Kilmurry home. Mr. and Mrs. Louie Lauridsen and family and Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen and sons went to Lincoln Friday for a weekend visit. They were expected home Monday.

Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg and Mrs. W. E. Doster were Tuesday, September 29, visitors in O'Neill. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heiser and son, Gerald, were Saturday visitors at the Duane Beck home.

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Regional Scouts to Participate in Fair Here

Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from Ewing, Page, O'Neill, Chambers, Amelia, Spencer and Butte are to participate Sunday evening, October 18, in a Boy Scout county fair at the O'Neill American Legion hall from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Games, exhibits and demonstrations will highlight the program.

The purpose of this activity is

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