

Elmwood

MRS. GRACE PLYBON, Correspondent

Royal Neighbors met on Friday afternoon with Mrs. Luey Lyle. The usual business session and social time was enjoyed.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Pyle and children arrived Saturday, coming from Seattle, Washington, for a visit with relatives.

Virgil Miller and his assistant, Mr. Johnson, of Weeping Water, were working with electrical fixtures here on Saturday.

Bryce Quellhorst is enjoying a furlough from the army with his wife, Mary Alice, and daughter, Nancy, and other relatives and friends. He was here for a short time at the holiday season, also.

Mrs. Bertha Fitch and Miss Ahlene Fitch have been having some extensive improvements made in their home interior. The ceilings have been lowered in two rooms, the upper glass windows removed, and three fluorescent lights installed along with other changes. Ahlene won the largest light for a poem she wrote.

Mrs. Dorothy Reeve Mills is in a Lincoln hospital for a minor operation.

Eldon Oehlherking is now serving as rural mail carrier as an assistant to Earl Horton, and Eldon has been carrying the mail most of the time since the snow storms.

Rev. Val Johnson, County President of the Cass County Fellowship Association, Rev. C.

E. Wilcox and eleven others from Elmwood, attended the meeting at Union on Sunday evening.

TINY ISLE SHELTERS A-BOMB REFUGEES

Washington, (AP)—A tiny island covered with coconut palms has become the Pacific home of the Bikinians.

Kill, in the southern Marshalls, is one mile long but is sufficiently fertile to provide the 181 displaced persons of the atomic bomb test with food, drink and shelter. The island was once a valuable coconut plantation operated by Japanese and German holders, according to the National Geographic Society. It also grows breadfruit.

Although the Bikini atoll measures over 21 miles, its former inhabitants chose minute Kill in preference to 11-mile-long Wotho, which was recommended by the Navy. They also preferred Kill to Rongerik, which is larger than Kill but which they feared because of an ancient curse, thought to have poisoned the fish in surrounding waters.

The new settlers of the little island have begun their simple tropical life which centers around the coconut tree. It will supply them with nuts, milk and leaves and is expected to yield a greater harvest of copra than they were able to gather on Bikini.

Americans visiting Italy, whether tourists or business men, will need only passports hereafter, no visas being required, it is announced by the Gdynia America Line.

Unicameral Echoes

By Bernie Camp
Director of Information
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Federation

Tax Increases Proposed
Monday, January 31, was the last day during which new legislation could be introduced to the Unicameral, except on the request of Governor Val Peterson, or by majority consent of a legislative committee and of the legislature as a whole.

During the twenty legislative days, a total of 529 bills was introduced for consideration. One hundred twenty-three measures were submitted on January 31.

Not the least of the measures submitted were those having to do with taxation and fees for the financing of the state government and its agencies.

Senators Dwight Burney, Hartington, and William Metzger, Cedar Creek, on January 19 submitted a two percent sales tax bill (LB 234) which would provide the state government with an estimated \$20,000,000 a year.

On January 25, Senator Lester Anderson, Aurora, introduced LB 300, an income tax bill which, he estimated, provide \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 annually.

January 31 saw the introduction of a number of tax measures. Senators Arthur Carmody, Trenton, Otto F. Prohs, Wading, and Victor Anderson, Lincoln, introduced a bill (LB 399) to increase the state gasoline tax from five cents to six cents per gallon. This bill was introduced at the request of Governor Val Peterson. Senators Fay Wood, Seward; Lester Anderson, Aurora; and Don Hanna, Valentine, introduced a measure (LB 401) to increase auto license fees from three and five dollars to ten dollars per year, with graduated increases on farm and local trucks, closely approximately commercial fees on trucks rated over three tons by manufacturers. Senators Fay Wood and C. C. Lillibridge, Crane, proposed a highway use stamp (LB 402) to be invoked by the state highway engineer when additional funds are needed to match available federal highway funds. The state engineer would be authorized to set the value of the stamp between \$1 and \$5 depending upon the needs for matching.

The sales tax bill provides for a tax of two cents on every dollar for purchases over 15 cents. Its proponents claim it would be one way of equalizing the tax burden and distributing it to all citizens of the state. Opponents argue that such a measure would work a hardship on low-salaried people.

The income tax measure provides a tax of one percent on net incomes up to \$5,000; two percent, \$5,000 to \$7,500; three percent, \$7,500 to \$10,000; and four percent for all over \$10,000. Corporations doing business in Nebraska would pay two percent on net income. Exemptions are provided for. Proponents point out that such a measure would tax people most able to pay and who do not in many cases own real property. Opponents argue that a state income tax invades the domain of federal taxation.

An increase in state gasoline taxes is an integral part of the Governor's Highway Advisory Committee long-range highway program. This tax would provide the highway department with an additional \$3,600,000 a year for "matching federal funds." Opponents of the measure, among them the state's farm organizations, insist the highway department does not need additional funds, but needs more efficient administration. Present highway funds, they declare, are sufficient for matching and carrying out a long-range program if well handled.

The increase in automobile and farm and local truck license fees is another proposal from the Governor's Highway Advisory Committee, suggested to give the highway department added funds for the long-range program. It would provide an estimated \$2,500,000 in added revenue.

The highway use stamp is another medium for giving the highway department added funds. It would put an added \$3,000,000 in department funds at \$5 based on 1947 registrations. Opponents argue that this measure most certainly would be invoked to increase department funds and at the maximum figure. There are, they insist, no real guarantees under the law that the stamp will be used only as an emergency measure. The stamp fee is very similar to the federal automobile use stamp imposed by the federal government during the war.

The motto of Washington State is Al-Ki, meaning By and By.

Rural Leaders Plan Homemakers Program



When Chamber of Commerce Secretaries from outstate Nebraska convened in Omaha recently they met with Omaha leaders to plan the third annual Leadership Recognition program for Rural Homemakers. Planning the program (left to right top row) E. E. Hawley, Nebraska City; Harris V. Osterberg, Norfolk; Robert Garey, Hastings; A. Eugene Haylett, Scottsbluff and L. J. Bible, McCook. (Bottom row) Penelope Anderson, May Yard, Bertha Schmitt and Inez Coppon, all from the Womens Division of the Omaha Chamber. Recognition of rural homemakers will be given at 13 district meetings, with a final three state meeting in Omaha on May 6th. Women from all Nebraska counties, 22 Iowa and 12 Kansas counties will vie for leadership awards.

EIRE STARTS OPERATING OWN MERCHANT FLEET

New York, (AP)—The maiden voyage to New York of the S. S. Irish Pine, the first of five new ships, inaugurates a new venture in world trade under the Irish flag. The new fleet with its accommodations for passengers and the latest cargo handling facilities, will maintain a regular service between European and American coastal ports. The Irish Pine of 7,500 tons and 16 knots speed, will be followed shortly by the S. S. Irish Cedar, S. S. Irish Oak and S. S. Irish Alder, operating in conjunction with the State Marine Corporation, New York. Until recently, Eire had no deep sea tonnage under her own flag and her trade was mainly in the hand of Britain and foreign powers.

11-TON CARRIER PLANE TESTED BY NAVY

Quonset Point, R. I. (AP)—An 11-ton airplane, one of the heaviest ever designed solely for carrier duty, is being tested off the Atlantic coast.

The Navy said the craft combines the heaviest concentration of torpedoes, rockets and machine guns ever set on a single-engine, carrier-based plane.

The new plane, known as the Martin AM-1 Mauler, is being tested on the U. S. S. Kearsarge.

North Carolina's death rate is the lowest of all the states east of the Mississippi (7.9 per thousand).

CAPITOL NEWS

(Compiled by Nebraska Press Association)

Lincoln, Neb.—The Nebraska legislature shifted into high gear this week, and settled down to the job of handling the 529 bills before it.

Senators may drop legislation into the hopper at will during the first 20 days of the session. Thereafter, however, an affirmative vote of 22 members of the unicameral is required before any additional bills may be added, and the legislature traditionally is reluctant to have its agenda lengthened to any great extent.

The \$500,000 storm emergency fund requested by Gov. Val Peterson was enacted, but the expense of bringing relief to the stricken counties already had accounted for that sum. Peterson said it was impossible to give a dollar-and-cents report on the costs of helping Nebraska farmers and ranchers shovel themselves and their livestock free of the disastrous blizzard.

But he pointed out 300 bulldozers were operating in the state for eight days before the appropriation bill cleared the legislative machinery, even under the speed-up allowed by the unicameral. The cost of operating the gigantic dozers has been estimated at \$10 an hour, and the machinery has been used as much as possible.

Added to this is the expense of the national guard, called out in different parts of the state to aid in the emergency.

And many senators are unhappily aware that in addition to this emergency expense will be the cost of repairing roads once all traces of the "Blizzard of '49" have melted away.

This may bring support to the proposal of Sen. Norris Schroeder, Hoskins farmer, for a change in the formula which counties

share of gasoline tax collections are distributed. The state and the counties split the revenue, 50-50.

Under present law, 45 per cent of the counties' share is based on motor vehicle registration, a similar amount on farm population, and 10 per cent on one-farm population. Schroeder proposes this be changed, with the amount of money coming under the non-farm, or city, population classification to be governed by the number of open miles of roads in each county, exclusive of state and federal highways.

"It isn't reasonable that any county should continue to receive county gas tax money to support roads which are now supported by the state and federal government," he said, labeling the present formula "unjust."

"Many counties are virtually excluded from participation in the 10 per cent classification based on city population. This is unfair."

Nineteen counties would lose under the Schroeder formula, while all others would gain. The 19 losers: Adams, Buffalo, Burt, Cass, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Gage, Hall, Jefferson, Lancaster, Lincoln, Madison, Otoe, Richardson, Sarpy, Scotts Bluff, Thurston, and Washington.

Sen. Don Hanna, Valentine rancher, offered a bill to save the state an estimated \$87,477 a year. He wants to repeal the "vicious discrimination" under which the Board of Control is forbidden to serve butter substitutes at any state institutions but the penitentiary and the women's reformatory. But the agriculture committee killed the bill, by a 6-to-3 vote.

Hanna said he would try to raise the bill on the floor of the legislature.

Opposition to his proposal generally is based on the argument that present law requires Nebraska-made butter to be served at the institutions. Oleo is manufactured of products not grown in the state, and repeal of the law, therefore, would be an under served slap at the dairy industry. Since farmers make up the bulk of Nebraska taxpayers, the argument goes, they are entitled to preferential treatment at the lawmakers' hands.

Hanna countered it would be as logical to forbid the institutions to serve dried prunes which also are not grown in Nebraska. In fact, he said, if his butter bill is defeated he may introduce a "prune bill."

Both factions concede the money involved would not affect the dairy industry in any way.

Finding smoother sailing in the unicameral is Sen. Ed Hoyt's proposal to remove the 3.5-mill ceiling imposed in many counties, and allow all to levy up to the constitutional five-mill limit. The McCook senator said many are forced by necessity to violate the law, and the legislators apparently are willing to go along with his move.

The deadline for introducing bills brought a flurry of proposed measures dropping into the hopper. Chief among them were recommendations for putting the state in the wholesale liquor business, at an estimated

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profit of \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000 a year; creation of a Nebraska Civil Defense department, to enable the state to cope with disasters such as the current blizzard, as well as enemy action; the requirement that university, college and public school teachers take loyalty oaths.

Another bill would establish an advisory commission for the

state highway department. Commissioners, appointed by the governor, would help the state engineer plan highway development and the allocation of federal funds. The proposal appeared on the same day as one to appoint a businessman head of the department, over the state engineer. Neither has come up for public hearing yet.

BONUS OFFER!

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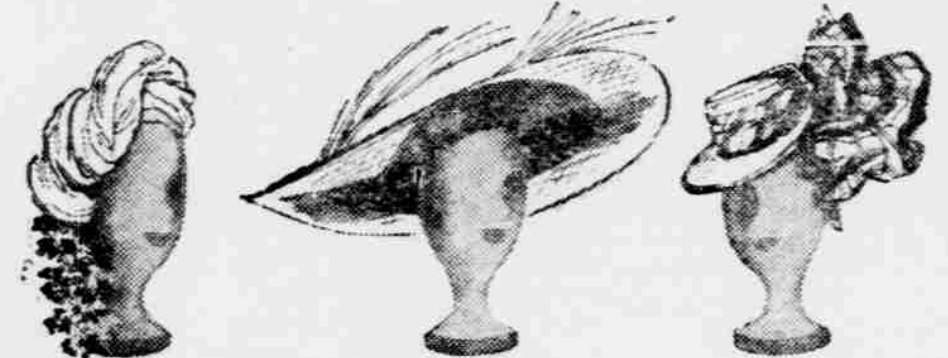
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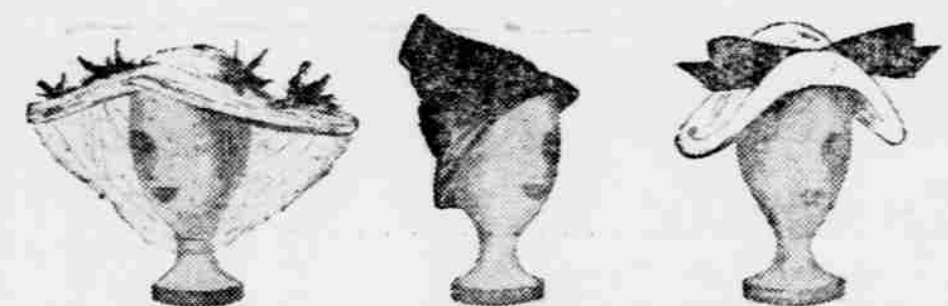
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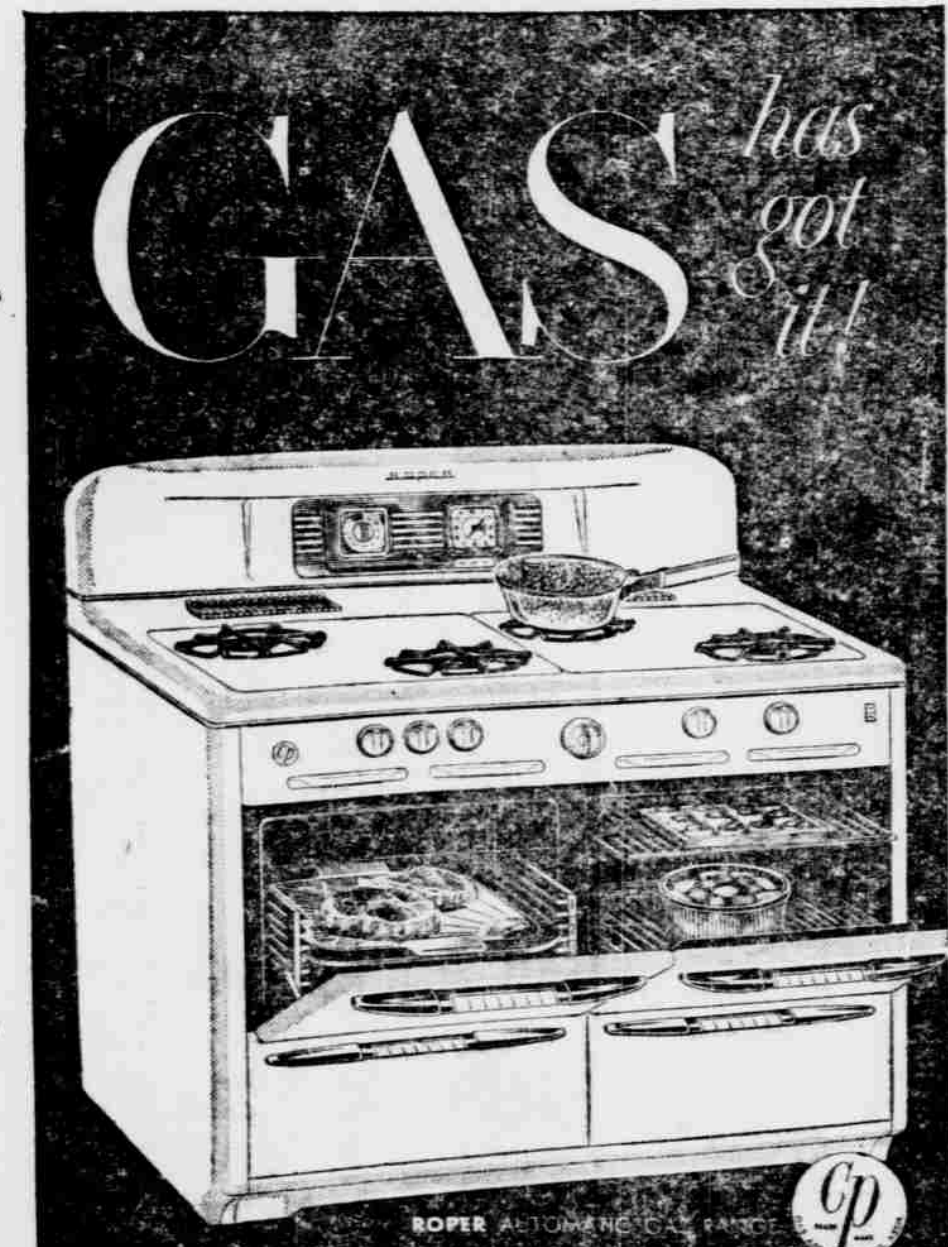
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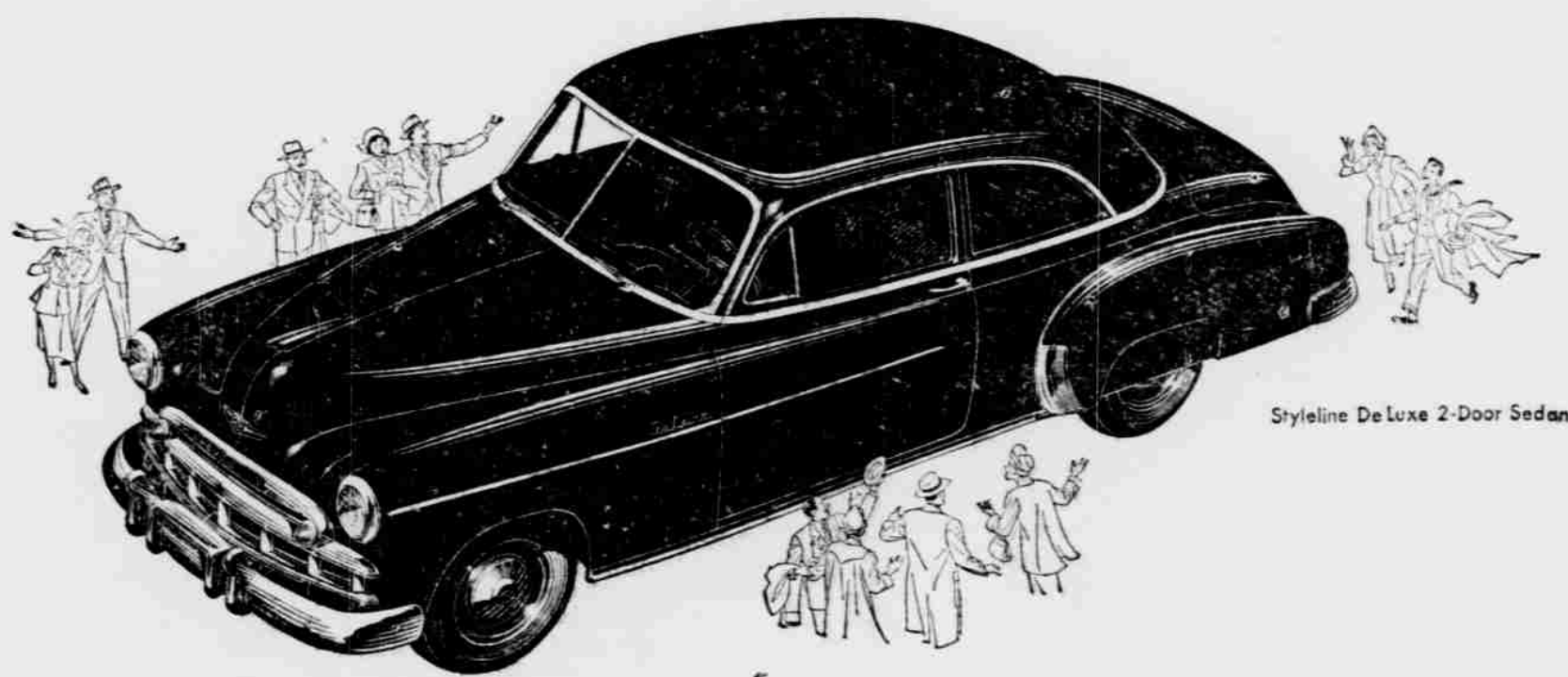
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