

Capitol News

By Melvin Paul
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Srb is one of the busiest men in the Statehouse during the 6 months every other year that the lawmakers are in session in Lincoln.

He has plenty to do when the solons go home, too.

Immediately after the session adjourns, Srb supervises cleaning up unfinished business, gets the session laws printed and then

concentrating on getting the Journal-daily record of legislative motions and votes — completed.

The Journal is expected to be ready for distribution soon.

In between sessions the 59-year-old Srb, who is popular with the state senators, gathers information for individual lawmakers, makes speeches on the Unicameral, and handles mountains of correspondence from other states on the Unicameral and some of its unique procedures.

Srb is qualified to discuss the Unicameral as compared to the old 2-house Legislature. He served as a senator and as secretary of the senate before the one-house body became effective in 1937.

Since that time he has continuously been renamed by the lawmakers.

Usually the senators give the clerk some task to handle between sessions. This time, Srb is studying ways to most accurately and economically record debate of lawmakers on the floor. He must recommend suggestions to the senators when they convene again in January, 1961.

No Lull

The Christmas holiday week is not the traditional quiet time in the statehouse.

The expected serenity was shattered with the resignation of State Engineer Roy Cochran and his deputy, Henry Schlitt. This came after Cochran was told the governor wanted Schlitt fired because there had been delay in progress of planning and right-of-way acquisition on the Interstate Highway.

Cochran took out after Brooks in strong words.

For the governor to want to fire a top official under a department head's immediate jurisdiction without the department head's knowledge creates an "intolerable" situation, Cochran said.

The blowup was not unexpected. There had been recurring reports in the capitol and in the road construction business of a rift between Cochran and Brooks.

A former three-term Democratic governor, Cochran also had twice been state engineer.

He was appointed by Brooks a year ago. Cochran said he almost quit twice before after directives on road building were issued from the governor's office.

Cochran said he "almost never" saw the governor during his year as state engineer and felt this was without precedence in Nebraska governmental operation.

It was known in the capitol that Cochran did not like the orders on road building planning coming from the governor's office although both Cochran and Robert Conrad, administrative aide to Brooks, had publicly denied any difficulties.

Boyle-Morrison

The segment of the Democratic party which follows Frank Morrison of Lincoln is taking out after the faction headed by Bernard Boyle of Omaha.

Morrison has filed as a Democratic candidate for governor. He charged that Boyle, the party's national committeeman, has a "political machine" and is trying to dominate state government.

Further, Morrison charged that Boyle had "hand-picked" Robert Conrad, administrative assistant to Gov. Ralph G. Brooks, to run for governor.

Nebraskans, Morrison said, will decide in the May, 1960, primary whether to turn government over to the "Boyle political machine."

Boyle fired back at Morrison and said he was not surprised by the Morrison attack.

Boyle also said it was the first time he had heard of someone who is a candidate "beginning to complain of his defeat before an opponent has entered the race."

The committeeman also said he has taken a hands-off attitude on candidates in the primary and that there are several who would make good governors, including Conrad.

New Chairman

Two state groups have new chairmen. Joseph J. Brown now heads the State Railway Commission and Jess Quinn of Gothenburg, the State Aeronautics Commission.

Chairmanship of the three-member railway commission is rotated. Brown succeeds Richard H. Larson who has been head of the commission the past two years.

Quinn succeeds Chet Filesbach of Scottsbluff. Filesbach's term ends March 1. State Aeronautics Director Jack Obbink said the aeronautics department has recommended the governor reappoint Filesbach because of his interest in aviation.

Moscow's clean streets reflect the zeal of thousands of broom-wielding women. Noting the faithful use of sidewalk trash cans, an American visitor reported, "There are no litter-bugs in Russia."

Keep Faith 'Shiny' Throughout Year

This is the time of year when the whole family gets up early and the little ones are wishing to see what Santa has delivered. That their dreams will come true. You see, little ones have Faith. Dreams of toys piled beneath the Christmas tree. For parents, there is the Faith that somehow they will make

this the most wonderful holiday the children have ever known. Not merely by the showering upon them of gifts. Not alone by the glories of the shining tree. Not alone by the turkey and the mistletoe.

Not alone by any of these things—but by the recognition that this season is a holy season. Thinking parents will want the rapture of the Christmas Faith to remain brilliant throughout the year. These are the parents who have discovered that one holy hour a week can make seven happy days.

Now, while parents are so aware of the strength and the joy that comes through Faith, now is the time to resolve to keep that Faith "shined up" throughout the year. We can do this by worshipping regularly at our Church or Synagogue. There we can find the strength for our lives. There the shining light of Faith, which now burns more brightly than at any other time of year, may be seen and may be captured for ourselves and for our children. Worship together this week... and every week.

Duxbury explained the questionnaire requests data on 1959 income and anticipated income for 1960 under the law which stipulates that any person whose annual income exceeds \$1,400 without dependents or \$2,700 with dependents shall not be entitled to pension.

He added that any V. A. Office, or County or Post Service Office are available to assist veterans or their dependents in completing the questionnaires.

Asia, biggest of the continents, covers nearly a third of the earth's land surface and holds more than half its people. The population of the huge land mass is 1,675,579,000. It is increasing by 30,000,000 a year.

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Norma & Bill Spradlin



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 AND
 HOTEL RESTAURANT



Joy to the World

It is with a great deal of sentiment and joy that we extend to all our friends our greeting and best wishes for a Truly Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Mr. and Mrs. August Gall



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 "Have a Gay Holiday...!"

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 And APPLIANCE STORE



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MARGE & ELMER'S

CPPD Sets Record Budget For Equipment

COLUMBUS. — Consumers Public Power District's board of directors Friday approved a 1960 budget which includes a record \$21,966,899 for construction and equipment. The total covers \$14,695,000 for the 100,000-kilowatt "Sheldon Station" conventional steam power plant and the related nuclear power facility being built near Hallam.

Wayne E. Barber, CPPD president from Norfolk, pointed out that \$3,695,000 of the Hallam project money is being carried over from 1959 as part of the '60 budget. Funds for the completion of the Hallam work, Mr. Barber said, will come from a \$23,300,000 revenue bond issue sold last month.

The steam plant will be in operation in April, 1961. The sodium graphite-type nuclear power facility is scheduled for testing in late 1961 and to become a power producer in 1962.

R. L. Schacht, CPPD general manager, discussed the highlights of the 216-page budget which feature this financial picture:

Operating expenses—\$14,838,058 for the Eastern System (Eastern two-thirds of the State) and \$1,902,650 for the Western System. In addition, \$3,083,788 is budgeted for principal and interest payments on outstanding revenue bonds for the statewide operations.

Operating revenues—\$20,669,372 (Eastern—\$18,080,282; Western—\$2,578,090).

Mr. Schacht pointed out that the operating revenues as projected in the 1960 budget show a 6.24 per cent gain over 1959. He said the operating expenses total a 7.96 per cent advance.

Other highlights of anticipated 1960 operating expenses, other than the construction and equipment investment, include the largest of \$8,279,000 for the purchase of power in the Eastern System where CPPD buys nearly all of its power (CPPD produces its own power in Ogalala and Scottsbluff in the Western System); \$786,467 is tabbed for "in lieu of tax payments."

A break-down of the construction budget, outside of the Hallam expenditures, shows: high-voltage transmission line work—\$2,677,400 (this includes a 62-mile 115,000-volt line from Crawford to Scottsbluff); \$2,008,690 for electric distribution work (CPPD serves 299 communities in a 71-county area); \$1,812,149 for sub-station projects (new and also additions to present ones).

Many communities, rural and urban, are ticketed for annual improvements on their local distribution systems, including some sub-station work, street lighting, "beefing up" of transformer capacity, expanding service for industrial and residential growth and new or improved "rolling stock" and service equipment.

V. A. Urges Quick Returns of Income Questionnaires

Annual income questionnaires will be mailed this month to more than 11,000 Nebraska veterans, widows, dependent children and parents receiving Veterans Administration non-service-connected disability or death pension.

A. H. Duxbury, Manager, V. A. Regional Office, said the questionnaires will be placed in the mail no later than December 31, and urged those receiving them to fill in all entries and return the completed form without delay.

He warned that regulations require VA stop pension payments in any case where the questionnaire is not returned to the Lincoln Regional Office within 30 days.



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will bring comfort and peace to all mankind at Christmas...

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