

Indian Bills Cause Furor

The turmoil surrounding Indian jurisdiction bills introduced in the state legislature was settling somewhat this week, though the Oroville chamber of commerce announced it would seek a "full explanation."

During the uproar, the Oroville chamber charged "secrecy," Senator David C. McMillan of Colville suspected "ulterior motives," and Rep. Joe Haussler of Omak said second district legislators ought to get together once in a while.

Log Bill Starting to Move

OLYMPIA — With the legislature moving toward the close of its regular session, Senator Wilbur G. Hallauer reported this week he had helped move Initiative 32, restricting log exports, out of the senate committee on natural resources.

But he warned: "Much opposition exists and only a few days remain for consideration."

The initiative has been favored by the Omak, Oroville and other chambers of commerce to help protect the local logging industry. Senator David C. McMillan also favors the bill.

☆ ☆ ☆
Senator McMillan said there is a "tremendous grass roots interest" in his Senate Joint Resolution 13 which would place a constitutional limit of 25 per cent of true value on property assessments.

He said he felt SJR 13 should be considered separately rather than being tied to Governor Evans' tax package or other measures.

☆ ☆ ☆
Rep. Joe Haussler has been named a member of an interim committee on state public pensions.

☆ ☆ ☆
A Senate memorial urging Congress to provide that Indian tribal rolls should be open to all members of the tribes has passed the Senate unanimously. It was sponsored by Senators Hallauer, Jerry Hanna of Wenatchee, and Perry Woodall of Coppenish.

☆ ☆ ☆
Legislation modernizing the state apple commission act also passed the senate without a dissent. One of its provisions declares that at least one grower member shall be from Okanogan county. The act also provides that the nine grower members may include persons who are executives of a corporation, firm or partnership.

☆ ☆ ☆
Senator Hallauer's SB 433, banning all types of trading stamps, was unanimously endorsed by the Omak chamber Tuesday on motion of Claire Entz and second by Dr. A. P. Ratrude. Currently, trading stamps may be redeemed in cash but not by merchandise. SB 433 would eliminate them altogether.

☆ ☆ ☆
A constitutional amendment providing for annual sessions of the legislature squeezed past the senate 33-13 and has gone to the house. A two-thirds vote was required. The count stood at 13-13, one short, when Senator Hallauer, who had been absent, returned and voted for the measure.

College Course Registration Is This Weekend

Registration for Omak women's classes, an extension of Wenatchee Valley college, will begin this Friday and Saturday in the old Omak memorial hospital building. Registration Friday will be at 10 p.m. and registration Saturday will be early at 7 a.m.

The fracas began two weeks ago when Senator Wilbur G. Hallauer of Oroville assailed Senate Bill 478 as a measure intended to disrupt the existing law enforcement situation on the Colville and other Indian reservations.

After years of confusion, Hallauer said, legislation was passed in 1963 enabling reservations to request full state civil and criminal law enforcement. Two years later the Colvilles requested and were granted state enforcement.

Hallauer said the present system would be wrecked by a passage in SB 478 providing "that the criminal and civil jurisdiction assumed by the state by virtue of this act shall not be exclusive and shall not diminish or reduce the inherent or other jurisdiction of the Indian tribes as to the same matters."

THE COLVILLE Confederated tribes promptly assailed SB 478, sponsored by McMillan and two other senators, as "returning the tribes to a condition of complex and confusing law and order jurisdiction." The tribes asked why they had not been consulted.

The Oroville chamber labeled the bill a "calamity" and charged McMillan was not representing the people of Okanogan county when he introduced it.

The Tonasket chamber of commerce also opposed SB 478.

Startled at the uproar, McMillan declared his bill had been introduced "at the request of a number of Indians themselves."

He said he had been given to understand the bill was a minor matter intended chiefly to clarify jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency and that he had no intention of upsetting existing enforcement policies.

"This bill has been attacked in the local press and I'm concerned about the motives of those leading the attack," McMillan said. "There must be an ulterior motive involved as . . . I wouldn't support any legislation the Indians themselves don't want."

McMillan also pointed out his bill was identical to House Bill 605, sponsored by Rep. Art Arvey of Kettle Falls and co-signed by Haussler, and that HB 605, introduced earlier, had attracted no repercussions.

THE OROVILLE chamber, through president Dan Webber and Mrs. Ruth Scofield, chairman of its Indian affairs committee, then took after Haussler.

The chamber said it had seen no mention of HB 605 in announcements from Olympia and declared, "We will be looking forward to an explanation of the secrecy surrounding this bill."

Haussler replied, "At the request of Rep. Arvey I co-sponsored HB 605 which was intended to broaden and clarify the state's authority in Indian law enforcement and was not meant to repeal or weaken it."

Haussler said he had helped pass the 1963 Indian jurisdiction bill, which he still favors.

He said as soon as he discovered what might have been an "injurious sleeper" in HB 605, he prepared an amendment eliminating the clause and asked a committee chairman holding HB 605 to give it the "deep freeze" treatment.

"I had no knowledge that Senator McMillan had introduced the same bill," Haussler said. "The entire matter could have been settled here in Olympia in two minutes if the legislators of District 2A and 2B had gotten together to discuss the proposed legislation."