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Irv Blumenfeld, Director

TO: Click Relander, City Editor

FROM: Information Services

Yakima Daily Republic

TELEPHONE _____

Message, Comment, or Reply

Date 9/9

Attached are the photos you requested. Also enclosed are two news releases that may be of interest. No plans have been made as yet for the replacement of the building.

[2 photos removed, "meany"]

NEWS SERVICE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105

Telephone: 543-2570

FOR RELEASE

Immediately

[Enclosure. 9 Sep]

Meany Hall

Meany Hall was constructed in 1909 as a "semi-permanent" auditorium to serve the needs of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and the University for a period.

Because a comprehensive engineering study has determined that Meany Hall at the University of Washington is no longer safe for public assembly, University President Charles E. Odegaard today ordered the immediate closure of the 56-year-old structure.

(June 30, 1965)

Over the years, temporary improvements were made in the building so that it could be used.

The action was taken upon the receipt of a report by the engineering firm of Worthington, Skilling, Helle and Jackson, who were retained by the University to survey the structural condition of the building following the April 29 earthquake.

In the report, the engineering firm stated that the building is now unsafe when earthquake forces are considered and that its non-conformance with modern fire resistance standards must be considered a further hazard.

After outlining the minimum improvements necessary for the continued use of the building, the report states:

"The building has served beyond its intended useful life and the cost of remodeling to meet the Uniform Building Code and sound construction practice would certainly approach and might exceed the replacement cost of the building."

In view of the engineers' findings, Dr. Odegaard said it was unlikely that any attempt would be made to repair the building.

"Because of its importance in campus life, Meany Hall should be replaced as soon as possible," he said.

The immediate effect of the closure of Meany Hall must be the rescheduling of all events planned in the building. Five concerts, two operas, one operetta and a public lecture scheduled for the auditorium during July and August must be moved to other locations, either on or off the campus. Various offices now occupying the lower floor also must be re-located.

MORE

Meany Hall
Add 1

Meany Hall was constructed in 1909 as a "semi-permanent" auditorium to serve the needs of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and the University for a period of time thereafter. The building is constructed of unreinforced masonry exterior walls with a steel frame supporting portions of the roof and main ceiling. Floors, galleries and ceiling of the balconies and main floor are of wood construction.

Over the years, temporary improvements were made in the building so that it could continue to be used. Many years ago, the second balcony was condemned because of lack of adequate fire egress and a concern over its structural integrity. The first balcony was closed after the earthquake this year when plaster damage occurred and the timber framing in the stairwells was twisted and damaged.

Because of this damage, the engineering firm was retained to give the building a thorough inspection and to analyze the structure with respect to its capability to resist earthquakes, as well as general safety conditions.

A new auditorium has been in the University's long-range plans for many years, but the urgent need for instructional facilities has taken precedence over the auditorium in the allocation of building funds. Studies will start immediately toward planning of the building and methods of financing. No funds for the construction of an auditorium are provided in the 1965-67 capital budget. Such a structure is expected to cost more than \$4 million.

6 30/65
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Contracts

A contract for the demolition of Meany Hall at the University of Washington
(August 6)
was awarded Friday by the Board of Regents to the Mt. Hood Excavating Co. of
Sherwood, Ore. for \$16,440.

Work will start immediately, with completion scheduled by the opening of
the University late next month. The building was condemned recently when an
engineering report found the 56-year-old auditorium was not safe for public meetings.

Other contracts were awarded to the following: Eberharter and Gaunt,
alterations to Clinical Research Center of King County Hospital, \$217,490;
Eberharter and Gaunt, alterations to Health Sciences Building and University
Hospital, \$76,577; O'Leary Construction Co., alterations to Architecture Annex
1 and 2, \$24,967; Donald W. Close Co., Tennis court and golf driving range
lighting and tennis court resurfacing, \$33,965.

The Regents also authorized calls for bids on alterations to the Oceanography
Barge to provide additional space needed by the Department of Oceanography and for
the relocation of Graves baseball field.

8/6/65

lsb

MEMO

Enclosed is the final statement and recommendations of the Pacific Northwest Regional American Assembly on "State Legislatures in American Politics," which was held December 8 to 10 at Alderbrook Inn, Hood Canal, Washington.

About 75 leaders of business, industry, government and education from Washington, Oregon and Alaska attended the seminar to discuss various phases of the legislative process. Also enclosed is a list of participants.

The Conference was sponsored by the University of Washington and the American Assembly of Columbia University. The American Assembly is a national non-partisan educational organization which regularly sponsors meetings on vital current topics at the international, national, regional, state and local levels.

Irv Blumenfeld
Press Services
University of Washington

The Northwest Regional American Assembly
Alderbrook Inn
Union, Washington

PREFACE

This pamphlet is a report of the consensus reached at the Northwest Regional American Assembly following the deliberations of 81 citizens from the states of Alaska, Oregon and Washington who met at Alderbrook Inn on Hood Canal in the State of Washington on December 8-11, 1966 to consider the role and performance of state legislatures in American politics.

FINAL REPORT

**The Northwest Regional American Assembly
on
State Legislatures in American Politics**

The first two and one half days of the session were devoted to four small group discussions of the issues raised by certain background materials and from the various experiences of the participants. The principal background materials were:

1. State Legislatures in American Politics (ed., Alexander Heard) Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1966.
2. The State Legislatures of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington (ed. Ernest H. Campbell) The University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 1966.

The final session was a plenary session in which all of the participants reviewed a statement of findings and recommendations prepared by the drafting committee.

The Northwest Regional American Assembly, University of Washington in cooperation with the American Assembly of Columbia University December 8-11, 1966, Alderbrook Inn, Union, Washington and with some modifications to the statement which appear in the following pages was approved as the consensus of the Assembly.

Donald H. Webster
Director
Northwest Regional American Assembly

The Northwest Regional American Assembly
Alderbrook Inn
Union, Washington

P R E F A C E

This pamphlet is a report of the consensus reached at the Northwest Regional American Assembly following the deliberations of 81 citizens from the states of Alaska, Oregon and Washington who met at Alderbrook Inn on Hood Canal in the State of Washington on December 8 - 11, 1966, to consider the role and performance of state legislatures in the American political system.

The first two and one half days of the session were devoted to four small group discussions of the issues raised by certain background materials and from the various experiences of the participants. The principal background materials were:

1. State Legislatures in American Politics (ed., Alexander Heard)
Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1966.
2. The State Legislatures of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington (ed.
Ernest H. Campbell) The University of Washington, Seattle, Washington,
1966.

The final session was a plenary session in which all of the participants reviewed a statement of findings and recommendations prepared by the drafting committee under the chairmanship of Hugh A. Bone. After careful consideration and with some modification the statement which appears in the following pages was approved as the consensus of the Assembly.

Donald H. Webster
Director
Northwest Regional American Assembly

INTRODUCTION

Government at all levels has become increasingly significant in American life. Modern technology, the revolution in communication and transportation, the spectacular growth of urban areas, and the population explosion have borne down particularly hard on state government. An increasing sensitivity to the role, efficiency, and operations of state government becomes necessary for coping with present problems and anticipating and planning for those on the horizon. To this end interested citizens are discussing the revitalization of state government and making more effective the performance of the states in the American system.

Citizens and public officials from the states of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington in a regional American Assembly in December, 1966, analyzed the role and operation of their legislatures and reached certain conclusions. In order for representative bodies to meet the challenges of the times more effectively, it was agreed that action is necessary along four fronts. First, additional talented and dedicated persons must be attracted to running for the state legislature and with a willingness to serve more than one term. Second, the machinery of state legislatures must be modernized to facilitate legislative action. Third, increased facilities, staff, and better equipment are required for the legislators. Fourth, greater citizen interest and participation in public affairs, as well as improved attitudes toward the state legislatures, are essential to accomplish the first three recommendations.

Although recognizing political, social, and economic differences between the three states, we offer the following statements and suggestions for renewed efforts in each state to improve its legislature.

Hugh A. Bone
Editor of the Proceedings

FINAL REPORT
of
THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL AMERICAN ASSEMBLY
on
STATE LEGISLATURES IN AMERICAN POLITICS

At the close of their discussions the participants in the Northwest Regional American Assembly on State Legislatures in American Politics reviewed as a group the following statement. The statement represents general agreement; however no one was asked to sign it, and it should not be assumed that every participant necessarily subscribes to every recommendation.

The problems of state legislatures are growing both in number and in complexity. Qualifications of persons needed to cope with these problems are not limited to, but would include, knowledge of public problems, intelligence, integrity, sensitivity to popular demands, and the ability to formulate ways of accommodating to them. At the moment in this region the part-time legislator is able to handle these problems, provided that a number of highly experienced persons can be induced to run and remain in office. Both the initial election and re-election of properly qualified persons are dependent upon:

1. Citizen attitudes which encourage persons to be interested in seeking state legislative office and which will inspire support and aggressive recruiting from political parties, private groups, and individuals.
2. Adequate campaign resources, financial and otherwise.
3. The availability of leaves of absence for persons in business, industrial, and professional firms, including

educational institutions and governmental agencies, to serve in legislative office.

4. Adequate compensation being paid state legislators so that serving in the legislature will not result in significant personal sacrifice during the time they hold office.

At the present time there does not appear to be a serious problem of conflict of interest or abuse of the lobbying privilege in the Northwest region. Nevertheless the public would be better protected and the public image of the legislature less open to impairment by:

1. Constant legislative awareness of the need for self-enforcement of proper ethical conduct both individually and collectively.
2. Timely preelection as well as postelection reporting and publicizing of political contributions to campaigns and of campaign expenditures.
3. Development of methods to help defray the costs of campaigning.
4. The enactment by the legislature of reasonable provisions for compulsory disclosure of a pecuniary interest by any legislator, codes of ethics, and an adequate lobby registration law.

Legislatures have been reluctant to provide adequately for their work, in part, because of fear of public opposition and misunderstanding. Broadly constituted citizens' groups and the communications media can be of assistance in preparing the public for the following types of improvement:

1. Additional personal tools and services such as secretarial help, office space, telephone allowances, and travel expenses connected with their legislative work.

2. Institutional support including research staff for committees, reference bureaus, bill drafting services, and physical facilities, both during and in the interval between legislative sessions and data processing necessary to decision making.

State legislatures should be encouraged to utilize fully all of their present powers to proceed with efficiency and effectiveness. The legislature should not be hamstrung by unduly limiting constitutional provisions and restrictions; the state constitution should be a genuine "basic document."

With this in mind we recommend that:

1. Constitutional prohibitions on the attachment of emergency clauses to tax measures be eliminated.
2. State constitutions not limit the forms of taxation open to legislative consideration and possible enactment.
3. Legislatures have greater flexibility in regard to methods of proposing, and with respect to the scope of constitutional amendments than is currently available.
4. Constitutional restriction upon increasing compensation of public officers during their term of office be eliminated.
5. The legislature have maximum flexibility to meet its fiscal responsibilities. The constitutional dedication of funds for specific purposes is unsound in principle.

The legislature should, through statute and constitutional amendment, grant a larger measure of autonomy to local governments, subject to the removal of such powers by the legislature by general law, so as to relieve the legislature of many burdensome housekeeping bills, so long as local action does not conflict with general state policy. At the same time the state legislature must continue to play an affirmative role in helping solve local problems, and should take positive action to provide both financial and technical assistance

to local governments with respect to federally assisted programs. It can supply leadership in achieving dynamic balance between local initiative and autonomy backed by adequate fiscal resources, thereby freeing the legislature from handling trivial local details. In view of the multiplicity of local units of government, their consolidation and the establishment of minimal service standards should be encouraged, and by doing so the legislature will strengthen local government.

In order to discharge their responsibilities, legislatures need improved ways to receive timely information about federal aid programs from both the federal government and state agencies.

Legislatures should exhibit greater interest in interstate agreements for the solution of metropolitan and other problems common to two or more states.

Of the numerous other aspects of legislative organization and procedure, we make these observations and suggestions:

1. State legislative business has now become so voluminous as to require more frequent sessions without constitutional limits on the subject matter. Legislatures should be empowered to convene themselves in session or recess to a time certain. The state legislature can best do an adequate job and a part-time citizen legislature can be retained by meeting at regular intervals throughout its term, and maintaining a small number of permanent standing committees with a full-time professional staff.
2. Legislators should be compensated in accordance with the increased degree of public service required.
3. Staff, research, secretarial, physical, and reference facilities should be expanded to meet the needs of the legislature. A highly competent staff is a particularly critical need for the legislative committees, as well as for the legislative service agencies.

4. Although minority sentiment was expressed in favor of unicameral legislatures, a majority favored the retention of the bicameral system.
5. Presession orientation for new members, prefiling of bills, and the constitution of committees well in advance of the session would be most helpful in permitting the legislature to get an early start on its business.
6. The number of standing committees should be kept to a minimum and careful study made of the alternatives for performing the highly important interim work through the legislative service agencies and certain joint or other interim committees such as budget and highways. The organization of the legislature is its responsibility but parallel committees and joint hearings should receive serious consideration.
7. Accountability as an essential of democratic government would be furthered by a public record of "yes" or "no" votes of each member in all committees, including the rules committee or their equivalent.
8. There is need for greater legislative involvement in the post-audit function. The best method for performing this function can be determined by the legislature.
9. The use of the initiative and the referendum for statutory enactments should be retained, but there is need for reviewing the requirements for placing a measure on the ballot. A majority advocates that the initiative process be available for proposing constitutional amendments and for calling a constitutional convention. Signatures for constitutional issues should be more numerous than for statutory propositions.

10. State legislatures should act expeditiously to establish an automatic system whereby, if the legislature or other assigned reapportioning agency should fail to reapportion periodically in substantial compliance with the standards enunciated by the United States Supreme Court, such reapportionment and redistricting can be accomplished. Reapportionment and redistricting, when accomplished by legislative enactment, should not be subject to the Governor's veto.
11. A viable two-party system is essential to the proper operation of state government. Because a strong opposition party in the legislature is important to legislative effectiveness and in providing closer scrutiny of proposed legislation, minority party committee assignments should approximate proportional representation and should be made by the minority party.
12. The need for greater public understanding of the meaning and purposes of government and for increased interest in its operation cannot be overemphasized. State government activities in the Pacific Northwest deserve more attention in the mass media than they have received in the past. The flow of information from the legislature to the public is insufficient; the legislature itself can do much to improve communication between its members and the electorate and between its members and the news media.

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Northwest Regional American Assembly
December 8-11, 1966

STATE LEGISLATURES IN AMERICAN POLITICS

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