

REPEAL OF OLD RIVER CONTROL LAW INCLUDED

MEASURE ASKS STATE TO AID COUNTIES; POLICE, PATROL CRITICIZED FOR ACTIVITIES DURING STRIKES

OLYMPIA, Feb. 14.—(U.P.)—An act appropriating \$1,000,000 from the state treasury to aid counties and cities in flood control work and creating a state division of flood control was filed today by Senator Keiron W. Reardon, D., Snohomish.

The measure was a companion bill to flood control measures filed in the senate yesterday by Reardon. They were drafted and sponsored by the Puget Sound Flood Control council.

The program provided for repeal of a 35-year-old river control law that never has been used and two bills setting up machinery for state-county administration of future flood control projects.

The bill filed today provided the new division of flood control would be under direction of the state department of conservation and development. County engineers would be ex-officio the local flood control engineers, acting under the state supervisor.

Local engineers would make the expenditures for flood control, which would consist of half local money and half state funds from the \$1,000,000 appropriation. The state would match only money used to maintain rivers in their natural beds, not for maintaining dams. River patrolmen would be hired by the local authorities.

A bill by Rep. John W. Isenhardt, R., Chelan, would levy an assessment of 40 cents a ton on all cull apples grown and harvested in Washington in 1939. Culls were defined as all apples graded lower than the "C" grade, including those infected.

The assessment would be paid to the director of agriculture at the time of shipment or delivery of the culls to any processor. Sixty per cent of the fund would accrue to the agricultural department for enforcement of fruit regulations, and 40 per cent would go to the state apple advertising commission for research work.

Senator Earl Maxwell D., King, filed a bill that would appropriate \$146,250 from the state general fund for construction of a naval and marine corps reserve armory at Seattle. Another bill by Maxwell provided for dissolution of commercial waterway districts when the obligations thereof have been paid.

A measure by Senator Robert T. McDonald, D., King, would authorize counties to set aside certain tax-acquired property for parks and recreational sites. Maxwell introduced a joint resolution that would direct the governor to designate a week to be observed as flag week.

Criticism Heard

Criticism of police and state patrol activities in subduing strike meetings and picketing at Yakima and Bellingham featured a public hearing before the senate public morals committee last night.

The committee was considering SB 168, by Sens. N. P. Atkinson, D., King, and Frank L. Morgan, D., Grays Harbor, which would outlaw

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Flood Control

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ordinances against public meetings, parades, picketing and handbill distribution. It also would require owners of public buildings to rent them to anyone regardless of religion, color or political affiliations.

William Thompson Harry Olsen and Harvey Thompson, all cannery workers of Yakima, complained to the committee that the Yakima city council had passed an ordinance barring them from distributing handbills calling meetings to organize their workers. They declared they were put in jail for such activities although police did not bother persons distributing political candidates' dodgers.

Sen. John H. Ferry, D., Chelan, chairman of the committee, said the Yakima ordinance was a "vicious ordinance."

Olsen declared the Associated Farmers was a vigilante organization sponsored by big canneries and packing interests. He charged the workers' organization meetings at different towns of the Yakima valley were broken up public halls denied them and the organizers told to leave.

"Yakima valley does not know the constitution exists," he asserted. T. D. Dexter, Yakima, complained that the workers were given no police protection against the Associated Farmers and were mistreated before state patrolmen who refused to aid.

Bertil J. McCarty, executive secretary of the International Woodworkers of America, and Eugene Dennett, also a union official, attacked use of the state patrol to break up picket lines at Bellingham. McCarty complained "a group of super-patriots is tearing down the American principles of freedom."

Senator Atkinson said he had numerous reports that peace organizations around the state were meeting with opposition when they tried to hold meetings. He said his bill would guarantee them the right to hold their meetings.