

TO: Denny Miles
FROM: Bob Oliver 
DATE: December 11, 1979

SUBJECT: Thrills of Victory, Agonies of Defeat

Let us bear ourselves so that ^{if} this State of Oregon should last 1,000 years, men and women then still would say, "That was their finest hour!"

Legislation.

When the Legislature adjourned, 327 bills which had been passed by both Houses had been presented to the Governor for his approval or rejection. There remained 560 additional bills which had been passed by both Houses, but were in the process of enrollment. The Oregon Constitution allows only 20 days (excluding Sundays) for action to be taken on these measures. All 560 were examined by the Governor and his staff during this short period, and appropriate action taken. (A dozen years ago, the 1967 Legislature passed 638 bills, of which only 222 had to be examined by the Governor during the limited period following adjournment.)

Extraditions.

During the calendar year 1979, the Governor and his staff passed upon 650 requests for the extradition of fugitives, a duty imposed on the Governor by the United States Constitution. (A dozen years ago, during 1967, there were only 251 such cases.)

Nerve Gas.

During the Fall of 1979, the Governor expressed deep concern about vast quantities of nerve gas and other toxic substances stored at the Umatilla Ordnance Facility. He publicly stated his belief that these substances no longer have a deterrent value, but threaten the health and safety of the public. The Governor announced his intention to pursue means of causing their neutralization. Concurrently, the Governor instructed his staff and the Emergency Services Division to update emergency response plans in the event of an accident which might threaten escape of these substances from the facility.