



## STATE OF OREGON

## INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor Atiyeh

DATE: February 17, 1982

FROM: Bob Oliver *BO*

SUBJECT: Cabinet, February 17, 1982

Harvey Latham described the weekend conflagration aboard the grain vessel, which ultimately was grounded on Deer Island after being cut loose (without official authorization) from a dock on the Washington State side of the river. Although no substantial harm was done to Oregon property, he noted the liability of the dock owner could have been enormous if the ship had drifted into a marina, for example. He also reported on flooding during the evening at Vail and Baker. Ten families in Baker removed themselves from residences near the Powder River. An Oregon National Guard Infantry Company was placed on standby alert early in the evening. There were fears that a blockage of ice would give way because of warming conditions, but as it happened the night was much colder than expected. Efforts are underway this morning to remove the blockage by degrees, so the backed-up water can be drained gradually.

Staryl Austin said there have been 160 requests for assumptions by non-veterans under the law recently enacted to facilitate this process, involving about \$10 million in real estate which his department has had trouble disposing of up to now.

Colonel Yeager said the infantry company in Baker will remain on standby alert until the ice jam has been cleared. He said "standby alert" does not mean assembly at the armory. The troops simply are required to keep the commander advised of their whereabouts, on the job or otherwise, during the course of the alert.

Robyn Godwin discussed farm use valuation in Coos County. For the 1982 tax year, he increased the ratio substantially. This is on appeal to the tax court. Commissioner "Doc" Stevenson wants to postpone the increase until next year, but Godwin wants to stand on his previous action. He indicated Stevenson may appeal to the Governor. Godwin said property tax appeals filed in January 1981 totaled 92, but filed last month totaled 431. He predicts many more than previously in the months ahead.

Gil Bellamy said figures have become available which indicate motoring mileage in Oregon went up 2.3 percent in 1981 over 1980, although this is a lower percentage increase than in past years. He said a request has been filed for Emergency Board action to staff the Governor's DUI task force. It involves \$147,000, entirely federal funds, for one year.

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Jane Huston said Trevor Jacobson, Administrator of the Building Codes Division, has resigned and is available for other employment.

Darrell Ralls said he had requested John Groupe to specify the type of lands which ought to be identified for economic development in the survey of state owned lands, but thus far had received no response. (Groupe was contacted later by Oliver, and will call Ralls today to report on progress.)

John Williams related various recent incidents illustrating how routine traffic patrols of his department often lead to the apprehension of persons who have committed far more serious crimes. He said accidents on Oregon highways are down so far this year -- this might reflect bad weather, which usually slows traffic, but, also a shift in patrols from freeways to secondary highways. He said 126 motorists were arrested for drunk driving during the three-day weekend.

There followed a general discussion of security for state officers and employes. Robyn Godwin indicated he had received a threatening telephone call from an unhappy taxpayer last evening. Darrell Ralls within the past few days received a more serious threat from a former custodial employe who had been dismissed for incompetence and sexually harrassing female fellow employes. The latter individual is well known to the State Police and the Secret Service for having uttered threats against other officials in the past, from the President on down. His record contains an entry of conviction for assault with a deadly weapon. John Williams noted that resources of law-enforcement agencies do not permit them to stake-out all individuals uttering threats, whether against officials or private citizens. It was observed that the Constitution does not allow such individuals to be detained, no matter how great may be fears that they will do harm, unless they have formed a conspiracy or made an attempt -- both of which frequently are hard to prove. Oliver recalled how, some years ago when Ombudsman, he had been shoved around in a grocery store by an individual who had asked for something which could not be done. Oliver said he did not take the matter very seriously at the time, but reflected on it more seriously when Superintendent Holcomb was assassinated shortly thereafter. The meeting adjourned with a consensus that being threatened is an occupational hazard of public officers and employers.

cc: Gerry Thompson