GAMBLING, MILITARY 5 ff (VICE 8) 5/16 SPRAGUE

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1942
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

June 10, 1942

Honorable Charles A. Sprague
Governor of the State of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

My dear Governor:

It is understood that large numbers of nickel and dime slot machines have been put in operation at various places located near barracks and encampments of the troops in the State of Oregon, but that the ownership, management and control of such machines, if and when operated as gambling devices, constitute a violation of the state law.

Clearly, the use of these machines by soldiers tends to deprive them of the little money they have to spend and does not give them adequate return in pleasure or profit. It is thus demoralizing and injurious to their morale and must be regarded as an important factor, particularly in view of the present emergency conditions and the large number of troops in this locality.

It will be a source of gratification and of material assistance to me in the performance of my military mission if you will have action taken by the proper State Authorities to correct the conditions mentioned.

Orders have been issued directing the discontinuance of the use of all such devices as those above described which may be located on the posts and stations of the Western Defense Command.

Sincerely yours,

J. L. DeWITT,
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army,
Commanding

GAMBLING

5/16 SPRAGUE

COURTHOUSE
PHONE 2811

JCC

**GEORGE W. NEILSON**
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JACKSON COUNTY
MEDFORD, OREGON

July 8, 1942

Honorable Charles A. Sprague
Governor State of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 3 enclosing copy of letter from Lieutenant General DeWitt, Commanding the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, directing that action be taken to suppress any slot machines operating in this county.

Immediate action is being taken by the officers of this county and this office in compliance with your directions.

In this connection would state that a number of pinball machines have been installed in this county which are being operated on the understanding that they were for amusement only, and in accordance with decisions of our Supreme Court where such devices are being played merely for the amusement of the player, they are not unlawful. However, we are checking up on these machines closely, and where we can secure evidence that any prize is involved in the operations of such machines, will take action to clean them up, and I will make a full report to you within the next few days as soon as the clean-up is completed in this county.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of the State Police in taking care of this situation, and I am very glad to report to you that there has been full cooperation by our State Police officers with the Sheriff and Chiefs of Police in taking care of the situation in this county caused by the influx of thousands of Cantonment workers. I believe that under the conditions existing in Jackson County during the construction of Camp White, that very little trouble has been experienced and any lawlessness satisfactorily handled.

Assuring you of the sincere desire of the officers of this county to cooperate to the fullest extent in the suppression of gambling devices in such a manner as will meet with the approval of yourself and the army authorities, I am

Yours very truly,

George W. Neilson

GWN ja

cc - Pray

MEMBER OF
MEDFORD REALTY BOARD
OREGON REAL ESTATE BOARD
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
REAL ESTATE BOARDS

DIAL 3687

RESIDENCE, FARM AND
BUSINESS PROPERTIES
REALTOR
APPRAISALS

**CARL Y. TENGWALD**
INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, BONDS
125 WEST MAIN STREET
MEDFORD, OREGON

July 14, 1942

Hon. Charles A. Sprague,
Governor of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor Sprague:

I desire to compliment you upon the firm stand that you have taken in removing slot machines thruout the State and particularly in areas near Army camps. I only hope that the removal is not temporary and that they will be banned at least for the duration of the emergency. I understand that many private clubs expect to bring them out again after the "flurry" is over.

I know many persons in this community that have been hit hard by losses they have suffered from these "one armed bandits"--one club here in Medford admits profiting over $8,000.00 last year from these machines, and punbh-boards.

I would like to see you go one better during this clean up Governor, and that is to also remove "money punch boards"--they are as bad a device as the machines. Just last night I saw two young men lose over $50.00 trying to "beat" two of these boards, and neither could afford to lose this money.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Carl Y. Tengwald

CARL Y. TENGWALD

# Office of District Attorney

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
OREGON CITY, OREGON

FRED A. MILLER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 31, 1942

Honorable Charles A. Sprague
Governor of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

My dear Governor:

Upon receipt from you of a copy of letter to you from Lieutenant-General, J. L. DeWitt, U. S. Army, Commanding, and of your instructions to Charles P. Pray, Superintendent of the Oregon State Police, concerning the operation of slot machines in this county, I immediately contacted Sheriff Reaksecker of Clackamas County and Captain Gurdane of the Oregon State Police and was advised that a thorough check of Clackamas County would be made and any machines found operating in violation of the law, the operator would be arrested and presented to this office for prosecution.

Not having heard from either of these departments, I again contacted them on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week and was informed by each official that so far as their departments were concerned they had not found any unlawful pin-ball machines or slot machines being operated in Clackamas County. The Sheriff's office did report to me that some pin-ball machines were being operated within the city of Oregon City under permits from the City Council and the payment of a license fee therefor, but that all of such machines were being operated for amusement purposes only and came within the holding of Judge Dobson of Portland, concerning such machines.

It is my earnest desire not only to cooperate in every way possible with the Military authorities, but to see that the gambling laws are impartially and fearlessly enforced in this county, and I shall continue to check on the matter and advise you from time to time on the condition in Clackamas County.

Yours very respectfully,

Fred Miller

District Attorney.

FAM:MS

# Department of State Police

HEADQUARTERS
SALEM

July 31, 1942.

Honorable Charles A. Sprague
Governor of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

Sir:

On July 6, 1942, after receipt of your letter of July 1 directing that steps be taken to suppress operation of slot machines thruout the State, appropriate instructions were dispatched to our field force. A copy of our letter so instructing is attached.

Reports from all counties of the State outside Multnomah indicate suppression of such devices therein. Twenty-one machines have been seized in one county, two in each of two others and one in another. In effecting these seizures we had the help and full cooperation of local authorities. In other counties local authorities took the lead directing removal and suppression of the devices. We understand the Sheriff of Multnomah County and the Mayor of Portland have ordered their suppression therein.

Some so-called pin-ball machines which automatically pay off were still in operation at a few points recently, but we have been given to understand the local authorities have moved or will move against them.

The gentry who thrive on the operation of these obnoxious devices are resourceful and persistent. It is likely they will adopt sub rosa the practice of redeeming at the counter tokens surrendered as a measure of skill by pin-ball machines ostensibly in play for amusement as a game of skill. In that event the problem of suppression will become much more difficult, for it will be necessary to prove that on a certain occasion a certain amusement device was in fact operated as a gambling device.

Respectfully,

Charles P. Pray

Charles P. Pray,
Superintendent

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