

SCR 212 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure recognizes and honors Clifford W. Trow for his lifetime of service and dedication to the people of the State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Clifford W. Trow was born in Topeka, Kansas, on July 27, 1929. In 1951, he graduated with high honors from Kansas Wesleyan University and promptly embarked upon a career as a high school social studies teacher. He graduated with a Master of Arts from the University of Colorado in 1958, and eight years later he completed his PhD. He then moved to Oregon, and assumed a position on the history faculty at Oregon State University (OSU). As an academic, his research interests included the presidency of Woodrow Wilson and of American foreign policy in Mexico, and elsewhere. In 1972, he received the Binkley-Stephenson Award from the Organization of American Historians for his paper “Woodrow Wilson and the Mexican Interventionist Movement of 1919,” published in the Journal of American History. He remained on staff at OSU for more than thirty years, retiring in 1996.

He was active in Democratic Party politics, and he ran for the Oregon Senate in 1970, losing the District 18 race to incumbent Dick Hoyt. Undeterred, he ran again four years later, this time winning the Senate seat and beginning a period of service in the Oregon Senate that would last for nearly three decades, until his retirement in 2003. He served on the Senate Education Committee for eight sessions, including five as chair. In 1979, he was recognized as Education Senator of the Year by the Oregon Education Association, and was similarly honored as Senator of the Year by the Oregon Library Association in both 1991 and 1993. He was a member of other legislative committees, chairing Senate Ways and Means in 1993, and subcommittees of Ways and Means from 1985 to 1991. He was elected President Pro Tempore in 1981 and served as Senate Democratic Leader from 1995 to 1998.

In 2002, on the eve of his retirement from elected office, Clifford Trow was honored by the City of Corvallis, which declared December 16th to be “Cliff Trow Day.”

Not long after his arrival in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1965, he met Jo Anne Johnson, who he married in 1969. They both remained active in retirement, devoting their energies to numerous civic groups including OSU’s Academy for Lifelong Learning, which he cofounded, and the Benton County Historical Society and the Old Mill Center for Children and Families.

Clifford Trow passed away on October 31, 2023. He is remembered as a man of principle and integrity, as a devoted and supportive husband, as a committed champion for social justice, and as a model of a dedicated public servant who left the world a better place.