

Federal fund freeze puts auditorium in jeopardy

By JOHN KNOWLTON
Of the Emerald

Funding of the Lane County Auditorium Association's (LCAA) proposed auditorium-convention center was dealt a hard blow Wednesday when it was learned that a \$1.25 million grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) which had previously been recommended for the project, will not be available to the organization.

The EDA grant, a \$5.5 million bond issue and private sources, were to provide the funding for the center.

LCAA president Lee Bishop said at the organization's meeting Wednesday, that, according to Congressman John Dellenback, the current

Administration has "impounded one million dollars of the \$2.5 million EDA Budget." Bishop further stated that the part of the budget that wasn't impounded will be used to help complete some already-funded EDA projects.

Bishop said the possibility of obtaining additional funds from some form of statewide lodgings tax had been explored. "But," he said, "the Governor has only discussed such a plan and is not planning to introduce anything along these lines to the Legislature."

Architect for the proposed center, John Amundson of Springfield, said his studies have indicated that the center, minus the arena hall can be built for "between 7 and 7.5 million dollars."

"The largest variable of the project is in relation to the site," he said. After a \$5.5 million bond issue for the center was defeated in November, a subsequent survey showed the greatest reason for voter disapproval of the measure was the location of the site. An alternate area, along with the original downtown site, is to be presented to the voters when the proposed center's bond issue goes on the ballot.

If the proposed center were to be built in the city business district, it would take the form of an auditorium center along with other supportive services, said Amundson. If it were to be built at the alternate site — the one under current consideration is in Alton Baker Park — the center would take the form of an auditorium-community center.

Loss of the arena hall will mean a loss in revenue to the center, said Bishop. "But it would also mean a decrease in operating expenditures," he said.

Cabinet discusses Centennial plans

Improvements for the Hayward Field track facilities are important but they are not the prime concern in planning projects for the University's Centennial celebration, according to Fred Loveys, ASUO vice president.

In an ASUO Cabinet meeting on Tuesday he stated that academic and environmental projects need to be given more consideration.

Loveys said he needed suggestions from the Cabinet in order to increase student input in the planning of the Centennial. Suggested projects will be taken to the Centennial Needs and Priorities Committee, a group that is selecting campus improvement projects to be used in the year-long University Centennial celebration in 1976.

Joan Eggleston, representing IUS, said student housing problems should be dealt with as a Centennial project, since the Willamette Student Housing program is having financial difficulties.

Allotting Centennial funds to that organization may not totally fund the program, according to Ron Saylor of the Graduate Student Council, but he stated that it could give the program a substantial amount with which to start and build upon.

Saylor also suggested that some improvements could be made on the campus section of 13th Avenue, using the original ideas for the downtown mall as a basis. He said plans should be provided for people to sell things.

Loveys added that this would be a good move "to retain as much green as possible on campus." Some concrete would have to be left for fire equipment, service trucks and access to manholes.

A suggestion to provide a career planning program on campus was introduced by Eggleston, who claimed that students need more counseling to relate their work at the University to their future plans.

"You get a degree and then you're on your own," she said.

Laurie Farmer, a representative of Panhellenic, suggested that a project to improve the appearance and ventilation of classrooms is a valid proposal. The cabinet agreed that the condition of classrooms is not conducive to the academic atmosphere.

Another suggestion called for improvements of the intramural facilities. Since classes and teams often monopolize the available athletic facilities, Cabinet members felt that some space should be reserved for recreational use only.

A campus retreat project, initially suggested by Robert Bowlin, Dean of Student Services, was favorably received by Cabinet members. Such a retreat facility would be available to faculty groups, student organizations and learning workshops.

Dick Reynolds, EMU director, said an isolated area not too far from campus would be ideal. Some locations have already been investigated and rejected because of size or distance, he said.

The Cabinet also discussed the elements of dissension between the Elections Board and the executive concerning the coming ASUO elections. The major issue involves the necessity of ballot slogans.

Cliff Zukin, ASUO Senate president, said ballot slogans "are not necessary, but they're desirable to people who don't have a lot of name familiarity."

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