

Responsive, credible government sought

By SCOTT SPITTAL
of the Emerald

Common Cause bills itself as a national citizen's non-partisan lobby attempting to restore the credibility of government and to make legislators more responsive to the will of the people.

Close to 40 persons gathered at the Unitarian Church Sunday night, to hear how Common Cause is working in Oregon to make government more responsible and credible.

Common Cause of Oregon is promoting four bills introduced in the Oregon legislature. The bills, adopted from model bills made by the Common Cause national office, deals with opening the

process of government by giving people information on public issues.

Senator Fadeley (D-Eugene) spoke first on the Conflict of Interest Bill. Fadeley paraphrased John Donne's "No Man is an Island," stating "everything everyone does has some effect on someone else—it's just a question of degree."

The bill would require all public officials and candidates for public office to divulge their major sources of income said Fadeley. It would also prohibit gifts to public officials when such gifts could influence the official's public decisions. Fadeley added the bill would require public officials to state any conflict of

interest with an issue which they may vote or decide on, and would establish penalties and an ethics commission to administer the law.

Fadeley quoted radio announcer Walter Winchell, as saying "publicity is the antiseptic of government". Fadeley said that the bill would provide necessary information to the public to guard against legislative conflicts of interest.

David Frohmayer, a University law professor, spoke next on the Lobbying Disclosure Bill. Frohmayer said, "The evil of lobbying is not its influence but its anonymity."

He stated the bill does not intend to stop lobbying, as this would deprive legislators of valuable sources of information. Rather, Frohmayer said, "The thrust of the bill is to inform citizens of the range of influences that affect the legislative effort."

Rep. Mary Burrows (R-Eugene) spoke on the Campaign Expenditures Bill, which would limit amounts spent on political campaigns and limit the amount contributed by any individual person or organization.

Burrows stated the bill was "very realistic" in its scope and would help reduce the effect large campaign donations may have in indebting public officials to special interests.

Blanch Schroeder, state co-chairer of Common Cause, outlined the Open Meetings Bill. "We want to know who's responsible for what decisions," she said, "and have an opportunity to provide adequate public discussion."

She said Common Cause believed there must be open meetings to ensure that the process of decision making is held under public scrutiny.

Student board member bill introduced

SALEM (Special) — Two measures initiated by University student Joan Eggleston, state chairer of the Interinstitutional Union of Students, were among legislation last week read for the first time in the House and Senate.

The measures (HJR 54 and HJR 55), sponsored by several legislators including Rep. Nancie Fadeley (D-Eugene) and Sen. Betty Browne (D-Oakridge), direct the State Board of Education and the State Board of Higher Education to establish guidelines for admitting persons to professional and graduate programs and educational institutions regardless of sex, race, age or "personal circumstances" and for hiring, promotion and granting tenure to persons regardless of sex, race, age or "personal circumstances."

Other measures read last week for the first time in the legislature included:

— HJR 52, which amends the Oregon Constitution, upon approval, to lower the age qualification for governor from 30 to 18 years of age.

— HB 2661, introduced at the request of the governor, which increases the membership of the State Board of Education, State Scholarship Commission and State Board of Higher Education to include one student member on each board, to be appointed by the governor for renewable one year

terms. Another measure HB 2147 which would require the governor to appoint three students to the State Board of Higher Education, has also been introduced.

— HB 2650, which allows a person convicted of a felony to retain all civil, political and personal rights.

— HB 2612, which provides for proportional distribution of Oregon delegates to national nominating conventions.

— SB 540, which permits a person to retain his or her surname upon marriage.

— SB 518, which requires the State Scholarship Commission to award tuition and fee remission scholarships to children of police officers disabled or killed "in the line of duty."

— SB 508, which prohibits smoking at any meeting of a "public body".

— SB 499, which allows 18-year olds to legally enforce contract.

— SJR 18, which amends the Oregon Constitution, upon voter approval, to expend veteran loan benefits to persons who have honorably served for 10 years in the Oregon National Guard or in "an active reserve component of the armed forces . . . headquartered in Oregon."

Amnesty . . . (Continued from Page 1)

Barbour said there was no logic in making a distinction between the resister and the deserter — historically, he said, the deserter has been given the broadest kind of amnesty.

"We have to consider those people who got less than honorable discharges," Porter said. "They have a hard time getting jobs and getting GI benefits. If you had amnesty across the board you'd be helping them get back into the stream of American life without this mark on their forehead."

Porter and Barbour said they currently support a bill introduced into U.S. Congress by Rep. Bella Abzug. Abzug's bill they said, is characterized as a universal amnesty bill, covering all those who "suffer legal disability because of their views on the war."

Barbour attacked the principle of "equity" — that is, the resisters would have to perform conditional service to the country before they were "pardoned."

The two said they believe that no moral decision should be made on the rightness or wrongness of the actions of the resisters. Rather, as Barbour said, "Let's forget those who didn't go and let's wipe out the Calleys — it works both ways — war criminals and deserters."

"Amnesty means let us wipe out the bitterness of the past. Let's do as Nixon says — let's bring us all together."



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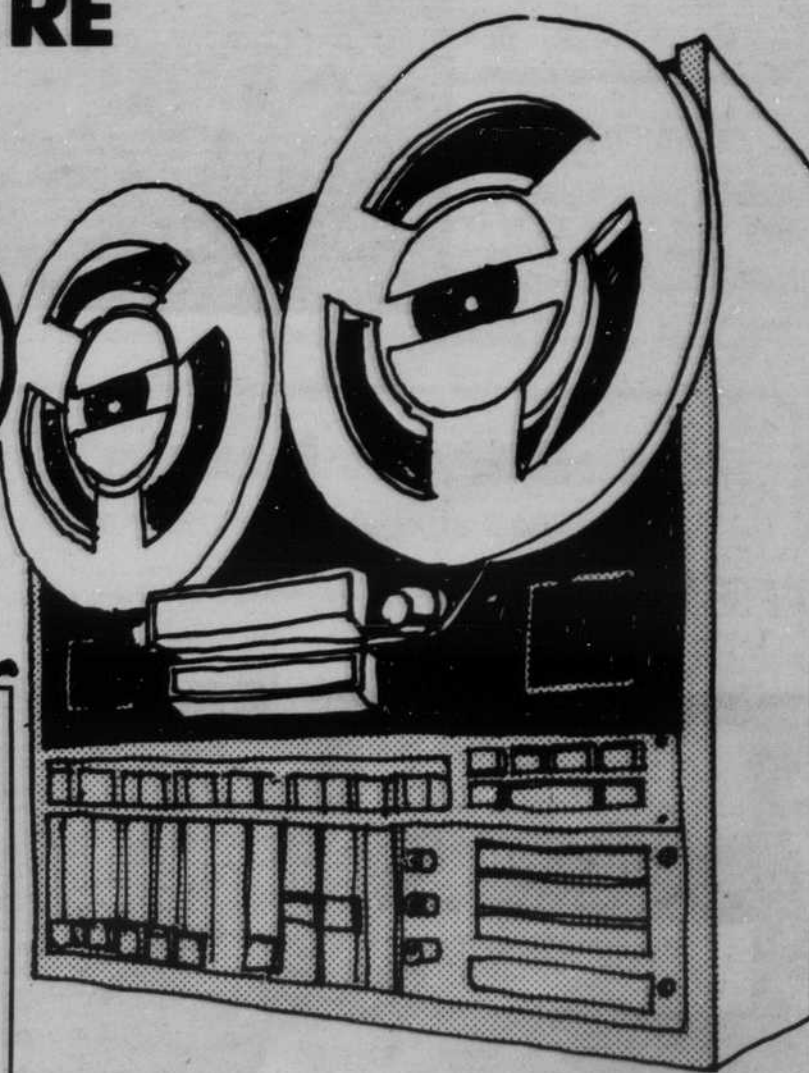
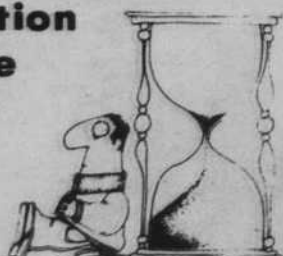
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