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Public Tax Forum at Eugene Hotel

The cacophony over the tax relief plan proposed by Governor Tom McCall will be greatly augmented Saturday as Legislators for Responsible Tax Relief will sponsor a public tax forum at the Eugene Hotel from 9 a.m. until noon.

The group is a 37-member bi-partisan group of legislators opposed to the tax plan. The forum will begin with an impartial overview of the plan and its ramifications by Richard Munn from the Department of

Revenue and Dean Ellis, council to the Senate Revenue Committee.

Their presentation will be followed by a discussion featuring three legislators who oppose the plan. Speaking will be Sen. Vernon Cook (D-Troutdale), Rep. Stafford Hansell (R-Hermiston) and Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Redmond).

The third and final portion of the program will feature a "no-holds barred" pro and con segment including proponents and opponents of the governor's plan.

McCall's tax plan, which comes before the voters May 1, would shift the burden of school support from local property taxes to the state's general fund.



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Fadeley slams tax opponents

Most opposition to Gov. Tom McCall's tax reform program is based upon wantonly selfish and destructive motivation, State Sen. Edward Fadeley said in Eugene Thursday.

Speaking at the weekly meeting of the Lane County Demoforum, Fadeley (D-Eugene) accused opponents of "trying to take advantage of the people of Oregon."

Fadeley labelled one opposition leader, Sen. Vern Cook (D-Troutdale) a habitual "no-man" who is "always against an idea that isn't his own."

"Cook is really a destructive demagogue," Fadeley said, because he has betrayed his own principles in order to become "a hired gun, or a political bounty hunter for Eastern Oregon money."

Fadeley said that two other opponents of the McCall plan, Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Redmond) and Rep. Stafford Hansell (R-Hermiston), are Eastern Oregon millionaires who will pay much higher taxes if the plan becomes law.

Johnson is best known in Eugene for his bias against higher education, Fadeley said. "He thinks the University should be shut down."

Fadeley characterized Hansell as "an honest, able man" who is also the "architect of our current fiscal crisis."

"When Hansell was head of Ways and Means, property taxes tripled," but education was denied a fair share of state revenues, Fadeley said. "The Hansell policy was to keep it all at the state level and let the schools suffer."

The McCall plan is "the best shot at fair taxation and good school financing we have had," Fadeley said. "Everyone who makes less than \$16,000 and owns a home will be net gainers. Renters with low incomes will be net gainers." The only ones who stand to lose are people with "high incomes and low capital investments — people like lawyers," quipped Fadeley, who is an attorney.

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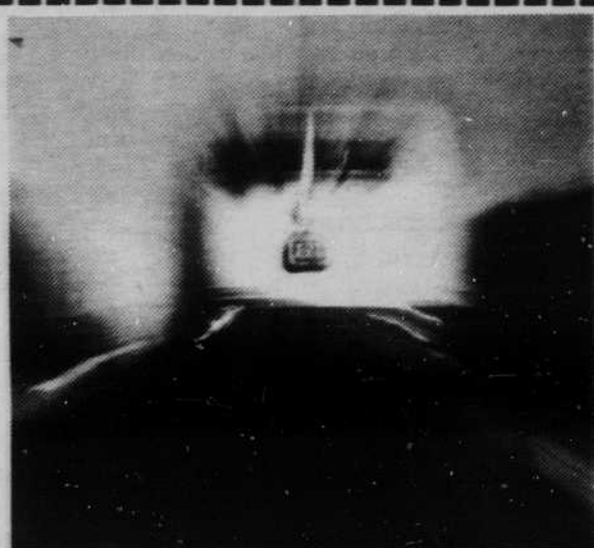
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Oregon Youth Lobby urge 18-year-old vote

SALEM - (Special) — A representative of a newly formed high school student lobby Wednesday presented the Senate rules committee with a letter from the youngest state legislator in the country supporting a measure that lowers the age qualification for Oregon legislators to 18.

John Diloranzo, a Beaverton high school student currently organizing the Oregon Youth Lobby, read the letter from Rep. Stephen Duprey, a 19-year-old New Hampshire legislator.

The letter urged the Oregon legislature to lower the age qualification for legislators "to make young people more responsive to the needs of the future" and to "give the voters a wider choice to express their wishes."

The letter stressed that giving 18-year-olds the right to seek office would not "guarantee that your legislature will be inundated by them." Duprey reported in the letter that 27 candidates under 21 sought seats in the New Hampshire House of Representatives in that state's last election, but only two were successful.

He warned, "By not granting this right to our young citizens, we are inviting apathy. Before

too long, young people will become frustrated by their lack of direct control over the future," the letter continued. "For a minute, imagine yourself being able to vote, but not to run for the seats that you now hold. How anxious would you be to participate?"

The measure (HJR 14) passed the House last month and is now being considered by the Senate. During the hearings in the House, no one under 21 opposed the measure.

In the Senate committee meetings, however, an 18-year-old Klamath Falls woman testified against the bill.

Telin Ozier told the committee that though she feels mature enough to be a legislator, 18-year-olds "as a whole, have not lived long enough to be discerning when faced with the multitude of problems and situations that face a legislator." She urged the committee to "assign a do not pass recommendation" to the legislation.

Currently, 18-year-olds in Oregon can run for every local, county and state office except district court judge, governor and state legislator.

The committee took no action on the measure Wednesday.

Friday, April 20, 1973