

Committee adopts tax exemption bill for sororities, fraternities

SALEM (Special) — A bill which would exempt fraternities, sororities and "co-operative housing for students" from paying 90 per cent of school support property taxes was adopted Tuesday night by the House Revenue Committee.

The committee had tabled the bill (HB 2378) shortly after it was

introduced at the beginning of the legislative session, but took the measure from the table Tuesday and sent it to the House floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

Committee members reported Wednesday that they have received "a lot of pressure" to pass the bill. Rep. Paul Waldon (R-Hood River) said that the

pressure came in the form of "lots of letters from students and parents and personal contacts."

He said he and Rep. Gordon Macpherson (R-Waldport) decided Tuesday "that it was about time to get this bill off the table and pass it."

He continued, "Gordon and I both feel that young people have a tough enough time trying to get bucks together to go to school and we want to do anything to help."

Grant Nelson, administrative assistant for the committee, explained Wednesday that a property tax exemption for fraternities, sororities and co-operatives would mean that taxes on all other property in school districts which contain student group living organizations would have to be raised to make up the lost revenue. He said that studies will be conducted to determine how much other citizens' property taxes will need to be raised if the bill passes the legislature.

By member-elect

Co-op change opposed

Andy Gill, member-elect to the Co-op board of directors, is against the Co-op becoming a non-profit corporation. He is not opposed to the Co-op changing its status from a co-operative to a non-profit corporation as such, but he is opposed to it doing so this late in the year.

In an Emerald interview, Gill contended that the proposed change would come at a bad time so late in the year. The final vote of the Co-op members on the proposed change is scheduled for June 6, Wednesday of finals week.

He also charged that the change of status for the Co-op is being poorly planned. He feels that he and the other members-elect will have to defend, upon taking office in late June, whatever changes occur now.

He complained that so far the proposed change appears to be a "railroading proposal." He said that the letters sent out to the Co-

op members May 16 did not adequately represent all the ramifications of the proposed change. A major omission, Gill feels, has been that the board of directors have not even outlined any by-laws in the letter.

Gill contends "that I am not saying the board will write in unfair by-laws," but the open mandate they are asking for in the letter leaves them open to criticism.

Gill also says that the proposed change has not been researched enough. He feels that a study should be done on the possible effects of the reorganization. He says also that the paid manager of the Co-op himself has not been consulted on the proposed change.

Gill feels that the board of directors should also do comparison studies with other such changes that have occurred nationally, where a co-op has gone corporation or vice versa.

Co-op....

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students, faculty and staff will be considered members.

This raises the problem of notifying members of meetings. Nearly 20,000 persons will have to be notified instead of the present 4,500 members.

Mike Doran, vice president of the Co-op, says a system is being worked out with the University to include meeting notices with

Cape purchase advised

SALEM (Special) — Co-chairers of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, which refused all proposed state expenditures and makes recommendations to the legislature, announced Tuesday that they will recommend that the state of Oregon purchase Cape Kiwanda in Tillamook County.

Sen. William Holmstrom (D-Gearhart) and Rep. Phil Lang (D-Portland) reported they have conducted negotiations about the possible purchase with Cape owner B.A. McPhillips, who announced last year that he was putting the Cape and surrounding property up for sale because of high property taxes.

Under the agreement reached between McPhillips and the legislators, the state would buy one mile of beach adjacent to the Cape for \$793,000 and McPhillips would donate another mile of beach and the Cape.

Holmstrom and Lang said that they will propose the purchase to the Ways and Means Committee which would have to approve any expenditure of state funds for the Cape. Expenditure of state funds would also have to be approved by the whole legislature and Governor Tom McCall.

Holmstrom and Lang indicated, however, that federal money from the U.S. Bureau of Recreation is reportedly available to buy the Cape and little or no state funds would be needed for the purchase.

The question of the state acquiring Cape Kiwanda arose last year when Portland General Electric Company (PGE) announced it had acquired an option on the land to build a nuclear power plant.

PGE recently announced that it would not use that option.

students' registration packets. Oregon corporation law calls for all notices to be delivered in person or by U.S. Mail.

Doran doesn't see any great influx of bargain-conscious consumers invading the store after the price cuts go into effect. "We still can't compete with any of the big companies like Bi Mart," he said.

Doran did say that the low prices might cause other stores near the University to lower their prices.



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