

Roberts candidacy. . .

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Roberts addressed herself to one national issue — the possible impeachment of President Nixon. "I approve of his impeachment, but I ask that he resign," she said. But, noted Roberts, the impeachment process needs to be reformed.

Other possible Democratic candidates include State Treasurer James Redden, Multnomah County D.A. Harl Haas, Portland City Com-

missioner Francis Ivancie and Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt.

The only major Republican likely to enter the race is Secretary of State Clay Meyers, while Atty. Gen. Lee Johnson and State Sen. Robert Smith remain possibilities.

Two minor candidates have already filed with the secretary of State's office: Allen Propst of Albany and William Patrick of Portland.

Burning solution eludes seed farmers

By JIM PENSIERO
Of the Emerald

Time is running out for Oregon's annual burning of grass seed fields, with a solution to the problem still eluding the farmers.

The fields are burned after the grass seed is harvested in the late summer, creating large amounts of smoke that shroud the Willamette Valley and Eugene when wind conditions are bad. The smoke cuts down on visibility, irritates asthma sufferers and gives the area an atmosphere like New York City with a temperature inversion.

The burning is considered necessary by the farmers to kill fungus in the fields and improve the condition of the soil for the following year's crop. Oregon is the world leader in grass seed production, growing almost all the nation's ryegrass and much bluegrass and fescue. Production of seed is a big business, grossing between \$28 and \$30 million a year.

In 1971 the state decided that burning would be illegal in 1975. There are two years left to solve the problem and David Frohnmayer of the Field Burning Committee feels a solution before the deadline is unlikely.

One of the original purposes of the burn, to get rid of straw in the fields, was alleviated somewhat when Japanese farmers agreed to buy as much straw as the farmers could produce to feed to their cattle. Unfortunately the stubble remaining burns even smokier than a straw-filled field, said Frohnmayer.

One temporary measure was to make the farmers burn their fields only when the weather conditions were right — on days when most of the smoke will blow into the Cascades or out to sea, instead of into Eugene.

Frohnmayer outlined some of the difficulties encountered by their committee in overseeing the phaseout of the burn. "You are talking about a new piece of equipment to burn the fields without smoke. This has never been done before, in all other places where grass seed is grown the fields are still burned."

He cited a lack of funds allocated by the legislature as slowing progress for a viable solution and foresees many small farmers going out of business if the 1975 deadline is adhered to.

He added, "We are beginning to develop mobile field burners and pellet makers for straw, but this money should have been spent two years ago. None of the big companies were interested in doing research until they saw some money."

Funding for the mobile field burners and machines to pelletize straw to make better forage for the Japanese farmers is at about \$1 million a year, with farmers paying \$1 an acre "burning fee" and the state providing matching funds.

Recently members of the Oregon Seed Council, representing the farmers, met with Senator Mark Hatfield to press for federal funds to accelerate progress.

Another possible solution to the excess straw calls for establishing feedlots near the fields. Theoretically, 200,000 head of cattle could be fattened this way, cutting down on the amount of beef that Oregon currently imports. The drawback once again is financial, for Frohnmayer estimates it would cost around \$5 million to get the plan off the ground.

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