

# Secretary of State

## Densmore: Favors a self-destruct plan for all state agencies

By GREG WASSON  
Of the Emerald

A familiar claim in this year's race for Secretary of State is that past secretaries, and others seeking the office, have used the position as a political stepping-stone. Medford Democrat Al Densmore says he'd change things.

"I feel the office could be much more visible," says Densmore. "The way it is now,

the secretary's office isn't even enforcing the election laws. If a complaint is filed, it's turned over to the AG's (Attorney General) office."

Densmore says he would "aggressively" oversee the election processes in the state.

His background backs up that claim. "I have a history in the area of elections. I helped write the law that I would be administering."

Turning to another major issue in the campaign, Densmore outlined his feelings about auditing state agencies, a job the constitution requires the Secretary of State to do.

"We need to redirect our priorities on a regular basis," says Densmore. To do this, he favors building a self-destruct clause into every state agency. Agencies would be given a life span of anywhere from two to eight years.

"It would force the Legislature, on a regular basis, to reexamine what state agencies are doing." Densmore dismisses the "Sunset Plan" favored by Sen. Blaine Whipple as not "going far enough." Under the Sunset Plan, state regulatory agencies would have built-in destruct dates.

Densmore opposes the Republican-backed initiative to create a cross-party primary in Oregon, and favors working with other western states to create a regional primary.

A 29-year-old Social Studies teacher from Medford, Densmore has served three terms in the House, during which he served as Speaker Pro-Tempore for a year, and assistant majority leader for a year.



Al Densmore

## McAlmond:

### Self-made millionaire says secretary of state office is unorganized, favors public evaluation of expenditure

By GREG WASSON  
Of the Emerald

Nobody on the democratic side of the race for Secretary of State has a lot of good things to say about the way the office is being run now, and Phil McAlmond is no exception.

"The accounting division of that office is two to three years behind for two basic reasons. One is the high turnover rate in the office, and the other is the fact that every state agency has its own method of accounting. It's a ludicrous situation now where state auditors often can't even find the information they're looking for."

To solve the latter problem, McAlmond proposes a uniform accounting system for all state agencies. "It's simply a must," says McAlmond.

Unlike others in the race, McAlmond is calling for a performance audit system for the

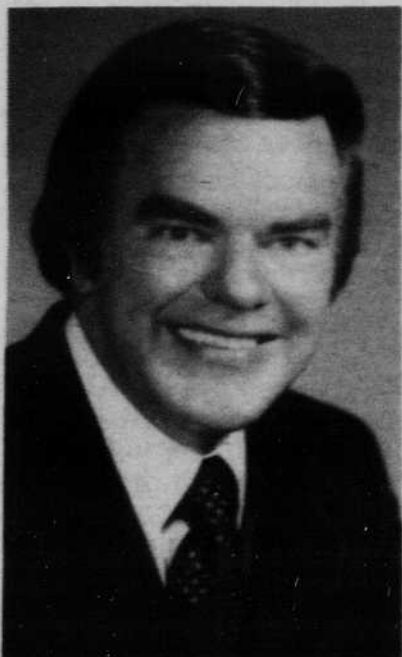
state. "A performance audit is something the Legislature would be interested in having, but my main concern is that we set up a fiscal analysis report for the public." McAlmond

says the public should be provided with the information it needs to evaluate what it's getting for its money.

"The public should be allowed to judge how efficiently or inefficiently its money is being spent."

McAlmond favors letting Independents vote in the primary, but is opposed to the current petition drive for a cross-party primary. "We do not benefit our democratic system by disenfranchising Independents. I propose that we allow Independents to choose one party ballot or the other at the polls."

A self-made millionaire, McAlmond has run for the U.S. Senate, the State Senate, State Treasurer, and Congress but has never been elected to public office. A Portland businessman, McAlmond says he's running again, "because I want to do something for our state."



Phil McAlmond

## Whipple: 'The state should budget for specific program goals'

By GREG WASSON  
Of the Emerald

Blaine Whipple, a Beaverton Democrat, is a first-term state senator who would like to be Secretary of State. Whipple, like most other candidates seeking the office, says the current auditing system oper-

ated by the Secretary of State is inadequate.

"I favor the 'Sunset Plan' recently passed in Colorado," says Whipple. "Under this plan, any new regulatory agency will self-destruct in six years, if it can't prove its viability. This would force the Legislature to look a little more carefully at agencies and the direction they're taking." He also favors shifting the state budgeting process to a program orientation.

"The state should budget for specific program goals. The budget of the Department of Environmental Quality, for example, should relate to Oregon's environmental objectives and the different priorities attached to those objectives. Instead, we measure the quality of Oregon's environment by the number of pollution samples taken, or the number of permits denied."

Whipple also promises, "to

join Gov. Bob Straub and declare war on administrative 'gobbledy-gook.'" Included in Whipple's part of the war would be the establishment of publicizing new administrative rules before they are established and enforced. Whipple points to the fiasco surrounding the 1973 sub-division bill.

"It wasn't the legislation that caused the problem, it was the rules enacted by the Real Estate Commissioner. If he had put those rules up for review, contractors around the state could have told him they wouldn't work. Instead we had to call a special session."

At 46, Whipple is a Portland-area real-estate developer who was elected to the State Senate in 1974. He helped coordinate Eugene McCarthy's and George McGovern's successful campaigns in Oregon, and is a Democratic National Committeeman.



Blaine Whipple

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## Groener:

### More frequent audits, looser construction funds

By GREG WASSON  
Of the Emerald

A conversation with Sen. Dick Groener, D-Milwaukie, about why he wants to be Secretary of State, will probably start out with a run-down of the problems facing labor in Oregon today.

"There's over a billion dollars in construction funds in this state being held up by what I like to call well-meaning environmentalists. In my own

district, there's a shopping center being held up that would sit right next to a freeway. That's typical of the situation state-wide."

What could Groener do about frozen construction funds as Secretary of State?"

"I would work with the Legislature for legislation that would make it harder for individuals to tie up construction programs." Among things Groener

favors, is requiring individuals suing to stop construction to post bond to pay attorney fees and court cost, should they lose their battle.

Turning to the duties of the Secretary of State, Groener says he isn't pushing the idea of a performance audit.

"We should have a performance audit, but that is something the Legislature should

decide. What we really need is more frequent audits. Some state agencies haven't been audited for two or three years."

Groener also faults the present Secretary of State with a lack of follow-through in the auditing process. He doesn't favor the idea of putting destruct clauses in the legislation that establishes state agencies.

"I think if an agency is unnecessary, the Legislature should take action, but I don't favor the idea of destruct clauses. Constituents are the ones that have the problems with the agencies, and if you listen closely, you know what problems you need to deal with."

Groener has served in the Legislature for 18 years, and in his words, "I have served my apprenticeship."



Dick Groener

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