

House debates voter registration deadline

By MARY BETH BOWEN
Of the Emerald

Procrastinators, stand up for your rights! The House Elections Committee is considering a bill that would effectively disenfranchise you, by repealing a 1975 law allowing late voter registration up to election day.

Under current Oregon law, voters may register (by postcard or in person) up to 30 days before an election. After that, they may register late by obtaining "certificates of registration" from their county clerks. These late voters must present their registration certificates at the polls as proof of their registration.

However, the bill now before the Elections Committee would narrow the scope of late registration to pre-1975 law, reserving late registration only for people who had moved 60 days before the election. HB-2087 would also give voters an extra ten days for regular registration, by reducing the 30-day deadline to 20 days before the election.

Hanging in the balance are two concerns: cutting down the administrative hassle for county clerks versus maximizing voter participation.

"We just don't have enough time to run an election and register voters at the same time," said Allen Robertson, elections manager for Multnomah County's election division. Robertson told the committee last week that Oregon's county clerks often don't have enough time to send registration certificates to citizens who apply for them by mail, even though the deadline for mailed applications is five days before the election.

"Even if we mail the certificate to the voter six days before the election, that's no assurance it will get there before election day," said Robertson. "And if there has been some error, there isn't the time for us to get the certificate back corrected, and send it out to the voter again." Robertson says he and the majority of Oregon's 36 county clerks support the 20-day registration cutoff.

Another issue which supporters of HB-2087 say they're concerned with is the appearance of fraud.

Voter fraud made the headlines during the Oregon primary campaign, especially in connection with California Gov. Jerry Brown's write-in campaign. However, an investigation of voter fraud by the Secretary of State's office, The Portland Oregonian and the Eugene Register-Guard uncovered little-or-no evidence (the Secretary of State's office found two cases out of a sample of one-thousand and ninety-two).

But Sen. Vic Atiyeh, R-Beaverton, says the Legislature should tighten up the registration process so voters won't doubt the voting system.

"There is less comfort among Oregon voters now than prior to the time we passed the (1975) bill," Atiyeh told the Elections Committee last week. "A lower and lower percentage of people are voting. So we're opening up the (voting) process, but is it the process that's keeping people from voting?"

Atiyeh also told the committee that the present law caters to a select group of voters.

"There are two kinds of voters," said Atiyeh. "The first kind is the citizen that



registers on time, the do-your-duty, responsible, informed voter. Then there is the special, select group who could care less except for an issue or a candidate that inspires or motivates them. What we're doing with this law is giving those citizens special distention.

Rep. Wally Priestley, D-Portland, a member of the Elections Committee, asked Atiyeh if he was making "a subtle suggestion that the nature of the person who comes late should be included in our consideration."

"If they're inspired by Jerry Brown," asked Priestley, "should we be concerned by that? Would you want those people to vote?"

"That's a decision you'll have to make," replied Atiyeh.

Rep. Robert Vian, D-Salem, said he thought most people aren't turned on "by elections until the last two weeks because media campaigns don't gear up until then."

"Even if people are getting on the bandwagon, they're paying the same taxes we are," said Vian. "We shouldn't infringe on their rights to vote."

The tug-of-war over the registration cutoff date has decidedly partisan overtones, since supposedly, late registrants tend to be Democrats. The supposition is born out by a breakdown (from the State Elections Division) of voter registration by party from Oct. 15 to Dec. 15 of this year.

The figures show 48 per cent registered Democrats, 27.9 per cent registered independents, and 24 per cent registered Republicans. A division staffer said most of the

registration occurred between Oct. 15 and election day.

A comparison of the total number of late registrants (106,000) with the total number of those already on the poll books (1.3 million) shows that 7.8 per cent of all the Oregonians who were registered to vote in last November's election registered late. Theorizing that the usual one-fourth of "regularly" registered voters didn't vote, the 7.8 per cent would jump to 10.4 per cent.

John Stewart, Eugene, an Oregon coordinator for Gov. Brown's presidential primary campaign, told the committee last week that extending late registration only to persons who have moved 60 days before the elections gives Republicans an advantage.

"Republicans are more stable in terms of residence," said Stewart. "But Democrats are less likely to own houses; they're more mobile."

Besides HB-2087, the Elections Committee is also looking at a bill introduced by Rep. Pat Whiting, D-Tigard. HB-2322 would cut off late voter registration three days before the election.

Rep. Gratten Kerans, D-Eugene, chair of the Elections Committee, said Monday the committee will reconsider HB-2087 and HB-2322 after hearing how Oregon's county clerks want to solve the problem. The clerks have a meeting scheduled Feb. 18.

Secretary of State Norma Paulus told the committee last week that she wouldn't seek any changes in the present registration law unless it produces fraud or "enormous administrative hassles" for the clerks.

Ban sexy liquor ads?

SALEM — "Drinking booze will excite sexual desire, but it produces unsatisfactory results," Helen Crawford, the elderly president of the Oregon Christian Women's Temperance Union, cautioned Monday.

Crawford issued her warning through the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee is considering a bill (SB-86) that would prohibit, among other things, general or brand alcohol advertising giving the impression that use will result in sexual attractiveness, athletic prowess or social sophistication.

Received by a committee with less than straight faces, Crawford then directly related problems such as venereal disease, abortion, small and retarded babies, and unwanted babies to "a night's drinking."

Crawford addressed the athletic aspect of the bill by asking: "Can Oregon ignore the traffic death of Steve Prefontaine? This should be a warning," she said, "that youths overlook the hazardous effects of liquor."

The committee took no action on the bill Monday.

Drought to precipitate immediate energy alternatives

By S. JEFF FOREMAN
Of the Emerald

With water levels plummeting to record lows, the idea of conservation and energy alternatives become startling realities of now — not the future.

While the rest of the country suffers from too much precipitation,

Oregon and the west are weathering a drought. However, the result is the same — energy, or more specifically — the lack of it.

Conservation in the form of additional insulation and double-glazed (storm) windows could save 50 to 60 per cent in utility costs. The size of the house and weather conditions determine how much is saved, said Jack Smutz, a

spokesperson for the Eugene Water and Electric Board. (EWEB).

The energy efficient building award is an EWEB program started last fall as an incentive for builders and consumers to meet higher insulation standards when constructing homes and offices.

"Insulation is judged by its resistance to heat loss, not by how well it keeps the cold out," Smutz said.

The resistance level (r-factor) must be r-38 in the ceiling and r-19 for the walls to qualify as an energy efficient building. The thickness of insulation depends on the material used. For example, foam and fiberglass have different r-factors for the same thickness, Smutz said.

Double-glazed windows are necessary for complete insulation. An increased demand for storm windows has kept glass companies busy and left many potential buyers without storm win-

dows this winter. With the demand for double-glazed windows high and the supply low, Smutz commented from a personal observation that making and installing storm windows might not be a bad business endeavor.

Keeping hot water heated comprises a good portion of a family's heating bill. A new system called the heat pump works on the same principle as a refrigeration unit—only in reverse—and can cut costs substantially. Another saving technique individuals can use is wrapping all hot water pipes with a fiberglass insulator then putting plastic around that.

In the Eugene area there are 14 energy efficient buildings. Trans Western Investors, a local building contractor, has built four Modena (Oregon's version of the Arkansas concept) homes. Two of these are occupied and located on Souza Street in Eugene.

Industry is a major user of energy, but in another new EWEB program industry becomes a supplier—it is called cogeneration. Weyerhaeuser sends heat waste from the Springfield plant to EWEB where the steam is converted into electricity.

At total capacity, EWEB furnishes 1130 megawatts (MW). The Trojan nuclear plant supplies 330 MW at an initial cost (construction and maintenance) of \$450 per kilowatt (KW) while the cogeneration unit supplies 50 MW at an initial cost of \$200 per KW.

With a cost savings of more than half, Ray Wolfe, chair of the Eugene Future Power Committee, said, "People should be looking to cogeneration and not nuclear generation as a security blanket in the intermediate future."

Wolfe said the EWEB programs are very progressive, but he thinks they should go a few steps further. "Power suppliers should make loans available for double-glazing and possibly heat pumps," he said. "Repayment could be figured in with the utility bill."

The cost of producing one new KW is six times greater than saving one. Wolfe used an analogy to convey this point. "If you have a hole in your gas tank you can either compensate by putting more gas into it, which costs more, or you can fix the hole and use less."

Other programs Wolfe would like to see started include a consumer consultant service which could function as an information source for solar energy; a different price for high cost thermal (nuclear) energy and low cost hydro energy; a reduced rate for heat storage units which could make peak user times (approximately 8 a.m. and 6:30 to 7 p.m.) less of a drain.

With a nation hard-up for energy, conservation seems to be the answer. But even in a nation with abundant energy, conservation is still a good idea.

Tuesday, February 1, 1977



Tuesday Architecture Films
FEB 1 JULIET OF THE SPIRITS
Fellini, 1965, with Giulietta Masina
FEB 8 FOREVER AND A DAY
FEB 15 WOMANHOUSE &
177 Lawrence 7:00 & 9:30pm, #1 benefit student faculty lounge

THE BUG CLINIC, INC.

INDEPENDENT FOREIGN AUTO REPAIR

•FRIENDLY



•WE WORK ON AUDI, PORSCHE, VOLVO, DATSUN, HONDA, TOYOTA AND VOLKSWAGEN AUTOS.
 •FREE COURTESY RIDES TO THE U OF O AND IMMEDIATE AREA.

•HIGH QUALITY WORK



2090 W. 11th EUGENE 344-1451