

Individual energy savers may receive credit

By MIKE McLAIN
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Rep. Dave Frohnmayer, R-Eugene, introduced three bills Monday aimed at promoting energy conservation and efficiency in the private sector.

The first bill would provide income tax credit up to \$100 for home insulation and weatherization expenses. The bill would

complement SB 4 (already passed by the Senate Trade and Economic Development Committee) which would establish a weatherization program for seniors. SB 4 is being studied by the Joint Ways and Means Committee to determine the economic feasibility of its proposed \$17 million budget for the next biennium.

Frohnmayer said his bill's cost would be proportional to the

number of people who use it and added, "If there is significant participation, the energy savings would be phenomenal."

Utility companies would set and oversee minimum installation standards for refund eligibility, he explained, insuring that home owners wouldn't be preyed upon by "fly-by-night" insulation companies.

The second bill would authorize

the Department of Energy to set minimum standards of energy efficiency for major home appliances such as water heaters, refrigerators and washers. Frohnmayer said California has already implemented a similar program and the U.S. Congress recently passed a parallel bill which goes into effect this spring.

Frohnmayer noted although initial costs of appliances may rise slightly, it would be made up in the energy savings. The appliance manufacturers, he said, already have models that would conform to reasonable efficiency standards, but he couldn't judge whether the bill would receive industry opposition.

The third bill is aimed at motivating Oregonians to recycle the "hundreds-of-thousands of gallons of reusable waste oil" thrown away each year.

The first step, he said, would be to prohibit "the environmentally

unsound dumping" of used oil people change in their cars.

The second step would be to require large retailers of oil — he placed a tentative minimum of 500 gallons per year volume — to provide recycling information and collection points for the used oil. That oil could be reprocessed into reusable low-grade motor oil, or it

There will be a public hearing on House Bill 2087 Wednesday, 9 a.m. in Room E of the state capitol building. The bill would limit late voter registration to instances where the voter changes residence within 60 days of the election. Currently, anyone can register up to and including election day.

could be used to manufacture asphalt. This would provide the economic motivation for the retailers to resell it for these uses.

Bill to block gas price hike

SALEM—Freshman Rep. Bob Vian, D-Salem, introduced a bill Monday that would block a 10 per cent hike in the price of natural gas being considered by the Public Utilities Commissioner.

The price increase, requested by Northwest Natural Gas, would raise \$20 million to offset profit losses of \$8.7 million caused by inflation and successful conservation efforts, according to Vian.

"This is a deliberate attempt by the gas companies to destroy the conservation effort," Vian told the House. "They're saying because we have been good and have started conserving, they are going to have to raise prices."

Following the session, Vian said the gas company should be asked to cut back production "like any other business would do," instead of asking for a price hike.



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Merger

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rector and head of the men's program, will assume the new position directing the merged departments. It may cause some disquiet in the women's program where doubts have risen about Caine's ability to treat the women's program equitably after heading the men's program.

It had been rumored Hawk will direct the merged departments, but Caine was originally hired to be a director of intercollegiate athletics, assuming that the merger would take place. Hawk says he wouldn't accept the position if it

was offered.

Hawk is confident of Caine's ability to head a merged program. Caine has been involved in the merger of two athletic programs, the most recent at San Jose State University. "It's old hat to John Caine," he says.

Members of the women's program have concerns over the impending merger, but Hawk says Caine has shown no anxiety. He believes Caine and Sisley will have a good working relationship, based on the fact that Caine is not a coach, but has a degree in physical education like Sisley. "Becky sees him as a professional colleague," Hawk says.

Caine will not only direct the merged athletic program, but head the men's program as well. Hawk says he thinks Caine will fill both positions because he "doesn't see where the money to hire a new men's director will come from." Assistant Athletic Director Mike Brundage resigned recently.

Hawk says the women's department will still go to the Incidental Fee Committee for funding in the spring, in spite of the merger. Hawk wants to be sure funding for both programs is available.

A bill to provide almost \$1 million for athletics from the General Fund from a separate student athletic fee is currently in the Legislature. But Hawk says he can't wait until the Legislature adjourns to be sure funding is available.

Hawk attributes differences in the men's and women's programs to their ages. "Men have had 200 years to develop their programs, while the women's program has existed 30 or 40 years with no attempt to sell it as a spectator sport."

The women feel scholarships should be tuition grants based on need, he says, and he would like to see this change made in the men's program. "But we were further away from this goal this year than last year (at the NCAA conference) when the vote was taken," he says.

Then Hawk notes another difference between the men and women. There's no question that Becky Sisley feels women's sports are educational and participatory, while men's sports are entertainment and professionalism, he says.

But the men develop their own dollars, Hawk says, while on the women's side we are putting money into the program. "The women don't want to charge admission."

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