

Stein: Elections need public financing

By JANE LEHMAN
Of the Emerald

Money influences House votes

Ted Stein, regional director of Common Cause, said Tuesday a proposal to be voted on today by the U.S. House of Representatives illustrates the need for public financing of elections.

The House will vote today on cargo preference legislation that will increase to 9.5 per cent the amount of fuel oil that can be carried on American flag tankers. Currently they carry less than 4 per cent.

Stein accused the House of being influenced by political contributions from the maritime unions and industry. "In 1976, 215 House representatives received \$450,000 in contributions," said Stein.

"In a year in which energy legislation has been stressed, it doesn't seem that this is that important. Yet it has been of major concern to the House," he added.

Stein used the cargo preference example

to illustrate the need to adopt a proposal sponsored by Common Cause which is now before the House. The bill would encourage increased competition in general election races and help eliminate special interests, according to Stein.

Under the Common Cause proposal, candidates would be subject to a \$150,000 spending limit in order to receive public monies. To be eligible, the candidate must raise the first \$10,000 on his own.

After that, funds will be matched dollar for dollar until the maximum is reached. However, the match will only be made on the first \$100 of any contribution. Only \$25,000 is allowed as the candidate's own personal contribution.

A candidate can opt not to use any public monies and raise as large of a war chest as possible. In these instances,

however, the ceiling will be lifted for opponents receiving matching public funds.

"This frees the opponent to exceed the limit and still get funding," says Stein.

The measure would apply only to House races. The Senate was also considering a similar version applying to them, but filibustered it. According to Stein, the Senate justified their actions by claiming the measure would "lock-in incumbents and be tough on Republicans."

"If its going to help incumbents, then they would have passed it a long time ago," responded Stein. "It actually provides financial footing for challengers," he asserted.

Stein concluded the legislation stands a good chance of being passed by the House in time for the 1978 races.



Ted Stein

Common Cause: opens gov't. for citizens

By IAN THOMPSON
Of the Emerald

Common Cause.

The name by itself in political and governmental circles is enough to bring immediate responses of agitation, outrage or admiration.

It is a potent lobbying organization as evidenced by the grass-roots support it calls on when needed to back up Common Cause stands.

"Common Cause's goal," said Andrew Thompson, a representative on the state policy action committee of Common Cause in Oregon, "is the procedural reform of government in order to make it more open and accessible to the ordinary citizen."

Founded in 1971 as a non-partisan lobbying group to deal with government corruption and excess, Common Cause gained popularity with the Watergate scandal.

Although it has since declined in membership with the eclipse of Watergate as an issue, Common Cause has maintained a steady 250,000 membership for the past three years, including approximately 4,000 Oregonians.

"Oregon was one of the earliest states organized by Common Cause and the most progressive," says Thompson. "But since then, the other states have accomplished as much if not more."

Eugene, with approximately 400 Common Cause members, is an integral part of the Common Cause organization in Oregon.

Like other city chapters, Eugene Common Cause is organized around a steering committee made up of a chairperson, media coordinator and telephone coordinator to keep in touch with local issues such as ordinances and local candidates.

According to Charles Hale, chair of Eugene Common Cause, the prime function of the chapter is to support national issues and state issues and to serve as a sounding board on what projects Common Cause should be involved in.

"Our job is to lobby the congressmen directly," says Hale.

"When we get word of Common Cause's involvement in an issue nationally, we get our members to write, telephone and contact their state and national representatives."

Common Cause keeps their members well-informed on the issues, and before getting involved with any lobbying action, it sends out questionnaires to find out how their members feel.

"It's a matter of the people that respond to the issue," says Sara Chandler, chair of Oregon Common Cause. She says the questionnaires ask the members' feelings on the particular issue and whether they think

it important enough to get involved in.

Chandler cites the recent example of Common Cause's flyer on the current energy legislations.

Common Cause doesn't move until the majority agrees," says Chandler, adding that 93 percent of members answering the questionnaire wanted Common Cause to get involved.

He also noted if they didn't succeed in getting legislators to bring up such a bill, the Common Cause organization would try to get a people's initiative going.

Common Cause has tried to gain their reputation. It is currently involved in the Korean bribery scandal in Congress and in the past has rocked Washington with such actions as filing suit with former president Richard Nixon's Committee to Re-elect the President.

But state organizations like the 'pack' and numerous city chapters like Eugene, are the power behind the influence of Common Cause.

Although the Eugene chapter and others like it don't involve themselves locally, according to Common Cause members, they give it direction and provide the muscle behind its actions.

Not only is Common Cause a force in national politics, but it has lobbyists who push for governmental reforms and legislation at the state level.

According to Hale, the state leadership of Common Cause comes from a state political action committee or 'pack' made up of 20 people selected by steering committees of the different Oregon chapters for representation.

The current leadership in Oregon Common Cause is spearheaded by Chandler as chairperson and Mike Farley working as the executive director.

Common Cause at the state level serves a dual purpose. According to Stafford Hansel, a member of the national board of directors, Common Cause not only serves as a liaison between national and local levels, but it also lobbies for governmental reform at the state level.

Many of the state programs parallel the national programs, Thompson says. For example, Oregon is being used as a proving ground for a possible bottle bill, lobbied for on the national level.

China computer deal delayed

NEW YORK (AP) — An American firm said Tuesday it has been awarded a multimillion dollar contract to supply seismic computer systems to China but the U.S. government has withheld approval of the deal because of the "sophisticated nature" of the oil-finding equipment.

Applied Devices Corp. said is Texas-based subsidiary, Digital Resources Corp., had received a \$3.7 million contract from the People's Republic of China for four Prospector seismic data processing computer systems.

"The Prospector computer system processes geophysical data compiled in oil exploration, cutting the time between data acquisition and company said.

It also said under the contract, the company would train 30 Chinese nationals in computer use at Digital headquarters in Houston.

The computer systems "are destined for use by a number of technical institutions in mainland China and will support the nation's accelerated oil exploration programs," the company said.

Take advantage of lower prices on Hewlett-Packard calculators at the Campus Calculator Center

HP-29C	\$181.35
HP-21	\$71.40
HP-22	\$116.25
HP-25	\$116.25
HP-27	\$162.75
HP-67	\$418.50

UO
BOOKSTORE
13th & Kincaid