

# Straub visits Straub

By JANE LEHMAN and DAN POSTREL



Photo by Dennis Hickok

Straub admitted Tuesday his biggest concern in the gubernatorial elections would be the "Oregon myth," Tom McCall, if the Republican decides to enter the upcoming race.

"I don't kid myself," said Straub, "I'm just going to have to work nights if he's in the race."

Straub visited a political science class in Straub Hall and a law class at the law school, answering questions on a variety of issues. Frequent questions concerned the Democrats' re-election bid. Straub is confident he can win the race, however. He believes the mystique surrounding McCall will vanish once McCall returns to the political arena.

"When McCall gets into the mucky-muck of the campaign he'll just be another candidate. The luster will disappear — I hope."

To date the Straub campaign has raised \$80,000. However, Straub predicts it will take a total of \$250,000 to finance both the primary and general election bids. The governor said he wouldn't mind sharing half that financial burden with the public treasury for state races during the general election. But, he said, primary campaigns should not be publicly financed.

Looking back on his term as governor, Straub called the formation of the state Department of Energy his most significant accomplishment.

"We're the only state in the nation that does have a unified, independent energy department," he said. He told the political science class that James Schlesinger, head of the U.S. energy department, personally congratulated him on Oregon's conservation measures.

Looking ahead to the 1980's, the governor said economic diversification is one of Oregon's most important challenges. The state is in a "precarious fiscal position" he said because of its dependence on the forest products industry.

In order to decrease the state's dependence on the wood industries, Straub said he is trying to bring clean, high technology industry to Oregon.

He said he has already conferred with Hewlett-Packard and other high technology firms which are considering locating plants in the state.

Responding to questions on population growth, Straub said, "People are pouring into Oregon." Last year, he told the group at the law school, Oregon grew at

a rate 25 percent faster than California. The Land Conservation and Development Commission is the "surest, most effective way to manage that growth," he said.

Actual zoning and planning should be done on the local level, Straub asserted, but the state should "be the ultimate authority and the enforcing authority" in laying out general land-use guidelines.

On field burning, the governor said the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has rejected the Oregon Legislature's most recent field burning law, which would allow 180,000 acres to be burned next summer. The EPA, however, let stand an earlier state law permitting burning of 50,000 acres.

Straub said he thinks seed growers should be allowed to burn "something in the neighborhood of 140,000 acres" per year.

In response to a question about proposals to divert Columbia River water to southern California, Straub said an Army Corps of Engineers study concluded that the Columbia basin has no water surplus. "We don't have any (water) to ship down to California," he said.

"I am unalterably and flatly opposed to

even the thought of any diversion of water out of the (Columbia River) watershed," Straub declared. His remark drew a round of applause from the audience at the law school.

Answering a question about the recent disposal of some highly toxic Canadian wastes at an Oregon disposal site, Straub said he didn't see anything wrong with privately owned firms disposing out-of-state wastes of "low-level" toxicity.

Oregon, he added, sends radioactive wastes from hospitals and other sources to disposal sites in Washington and Idaho.

Straub began his political career here in Lane County when he successfully ran for county commissioner in 1954. He then spent four years in the Oregon Senate beginning in 1960, followed by eight years as state treasurer.

Straub fell to defeat at the hands of McCall in both the 1966 and 1970 gubernatorial elections. But in 1974, Straub captured the governorship by a wide margin against Republican opponent Victor Atiyeh.

## Assembly takes action today

The University Assembly will take action on a Senate recommendation concerning faculty elections at 3:30 p.m. in Room 150 Science today.

The recommendation, submitted by an ad hoc committee on elections, would take effect as of this spring's election. It would increase the membership on the Faculty Advisory Council and the Faculty Personnel Committee to eight faculty members each.

Both bodies work closely with the administration in an advisory capacity. The Faculty Personnel Committee makes final recommendations in promotion and tenure cases.

The motion also provides that four faculty members serve two-year terms instead of the one-year terms presently stipulated. This change was suggested so there would be more continuity among the committee and council members.

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