

Democrats for U.S. Senate

Cook says Oregonians deserve more input

Vern Cook, an Oregon state legislator trying to gain the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Mark Hatfield, says a main focus of his term in office would be to increase the input Oregonians have to their elected representatives.

"Senator Hatfield is not responsive to the public will," says Cook, "and his attitude on the subject was very clearly set forth in his voting on the Panama Canal (when he voted for the treaties

even after a poll indicated the majority of Oregonians wished to keep the canal). That concept is contrary to the role I believe a Senator should play."

Cook says a Senator should come to his constituents and urge the point of view he supports on a particular issue and try to educate them on the issue. But after he has done that, Cook feels the Senator should vote the way the majority feels about it.

Cook says a legislative priority of his relates to timber. He says he

doesn't support the suggestion that we should increase the cut on the national forests by 20 percent to attempt to influence the price of housing. "What we should do is stop the exporting of our raw logs," he says. "A 20 percent increase in the cut would produce 1.1 billion board feet per year using 1977 figures. To compare, we exported 2.55 billion board feet of timber in 1977, which is 46 percent of the cut that year. That timber should be sold domestically."

Cook says we should put more federal money into experimenting with alternatives like solar, tidal, wind and geothermal, but that we can't count on it being available soon enough. "In the meantime, since we don't have any real opportunity for more hydro power, we are left with the known sources of energy — petroleum, coal, natural gas and nuclear," says Cook. "We should proceed cautiously with nuclear if it proves to be the best choice and is the cheapest."



Vern Cook

With respect to national defense, Cook says we need to upgrade our position, including the production of the B-1 bomber and the neutron bomb. "From a pragmatic standpoint," he says, "we should be in a position to involve ourselves militarily on an international basis as well as our adversaries can. We shouldn't be

weaker than other nations."

Cook favors welfare abortions, saying "the right to have an abortion through the second trimester was established by the Supreme Court — it isn't a crime. It's a question of whether a poor woman can have elective surgery. If she had a cancer tumor in her uterus that would cause death, I would think welfare would cover that. I don't, however, feel that abortion should be used as a method of birth control — we should use Planned Parenthood for that."

Cook wishes to double the number of admissions to medical schools in the country to double the number of physicians, and says we also need a radical increase in enrollments to nursing schools. He also favors student loans to help students complete their education, but says the federal government should specify that student loans are not dischargeable — which means a person can't rid themselves of the obligation to repay by declaring bankruptcy.

Anderson claims spending misguided

Steve Anderson, a Salem attorney seeking the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Mark Hatfield, says the U.S. needs to be more "sophisticated" in its politics.

"It used to be like flies on a big, healthy bull," he says. "They were an irritant and a nuisance, but it didn't make any difference." Now,

off, we'd probably find we could get along with them."

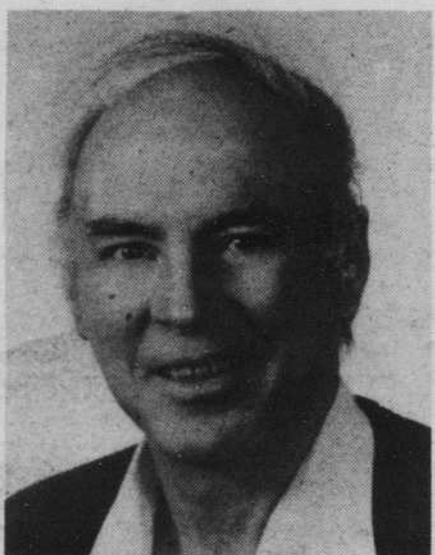
Anderson says we've been spending capital "very foolishly on nuclear power plants, and that the waste problem is not solved and is nowhere close to being solved. He predicts that some day there will be a real catastrophe, and used the problems in the past as examples.

"We would have been off nuclear power a long time ago except for the political power of the utilities in this state," he says. "I think we should stop all nuclear plants already in operation and accommodate ourselves in the meantime until we develop an alternative."

Anderson says adding the neutron bomb would be like "adding another rifle to an over-extended gun collection. We could defend ourselves with the armaments we have now. If we ever started using all our armaments we'd send the world back to the dark ages."

Higher education is facing a crisis, according to the candidate. "There are not going to be enough students for all the professors and the buildings. And there is also a dogfight between public and private institutions." Anderson says he is opposed to the idea of tuition

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Steve Anderson

he says, things have changed, and our current philosophy on spending is misguided. "If we spent as much money trying to get acquainted with them (the Russians) instead of on military stand-

Brown plans to vote as constituents feel

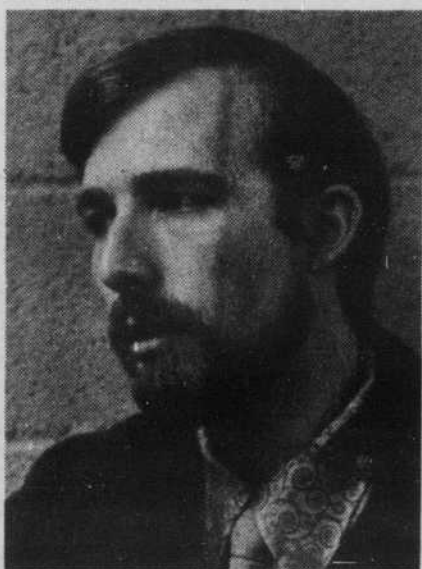
Jack Alan Brown, Jr., a Grants Pass saw filer seeking the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Republican Mark Hatfield, says he will vote as the people of Oregon indicate they want him to vote and will go to great lengths to find out his constituents' feelings.

"Mark Hatfield shows a lack of consideration of Oregonians' feelings," says Brown. "This was especially seen on the Panama Canal issue, where a poll was released showing the majority of Oregonians wished to keep control of the canal, yet Hatfield still voted to relinquish control."

Brown plans on getting input in various ways, including running a legislative report in newspapers with a poll built into it concerning pending legislation. He says he will also have a toll-free number so people can call him about things already passed that they are upset with, and will establish stations throughout the state which will be manned by his staff to take further citizen input.

One of Brown's primary objectives is to introduce bills to eliminate some of the bills already in existence. "We need a complete overhaul of the Social Security system," he says. "It should be up to par with the civil service system. It should also be voluntary, so that someone could contribute to a private retirement plan if they so chose."

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Jack Alan Brown, Jr.

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Sweeney focuses on security

John Sweeney, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, says his priority if elected will be a three-pronged program on security: national, domestic and personal.

Sweeney feels that by beefing up our national security we will create more public service jobs, and that a larger military would also help reduce unemployment.

Domestically, Sweeney wants to push for an "all-out crime suppression effort. There are enough laws already, we just need to enforce them. We need to have a certainty of punishment."

Sweeney says he would try to implement a "seniority force-out"



John Sweeney

system for the nation's prisons, which would include making a seniority list of criminals. When a new prisoner was brought in, Sweeney says the person with the most seniority would be freed.

"People will say that will put murderers back on the street," Sweeney says, "but most people convicted of manslaughter, murder and negligent homicide are not criminals by lifestyle, just by circumstances." Sweeney says this system would ease the crowding problems in prisons.

Sweeney says better crime control will also aid personal security, but he would like to see health

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