

Eugene Water, Electric Board candidates vary on energy issues

Bartels: new sources

Conservation, full use of electricity from hydro-power and more public utilities are favored by John Bartels, candidate for Wards Three and Four on the Eugene Water and Electric Board of Directors.

Bartels opposes nuclear power plants for the Northwest. "For the past few years we've been playing with this great toy called the Trojan plant — we have to realize there's no rabbit coming out of the hat, no way to get something for nothing," he says.

The next ten years will be crucial in the Northwest's energy situation, according to Bartels. "We'll be striving for creative solutions. We're at a turning point, where we must commit ourselves to alternative sources instead of fossil and nuclear fuels."

He says the highly technical, extremely costly nuclear power doesn't fit in this region, with its scattered population centers.

"We've made some assumptions about nuclear power that haven't proved to be true — it's not as cheap as hydro-power — it's much more costly than we were led to believe," Bartels says. "Even the Bonneville Power Administration admits that nuclear plants don't meet the region's energy needs."

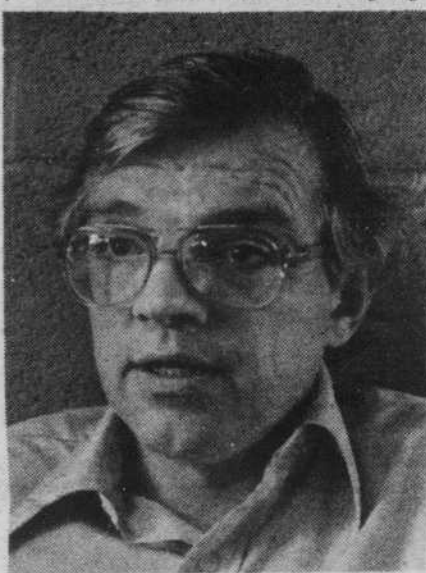
What does fit, he feels are strong conservation measures. "The cheapest way to create energy is by lowering the demand. We need money for insulation, instead of new nuclear plants."

Energy forecasting has been inaccurate, and is constantly being revised downwards, Bartels says. Along with conservation, the region's energy needs can be met with more generators on existing dams and more winter storage for

water presently wasted. "It's not true that we've used up our hydro-power potential," he says.

Power from alternative sources such as solar and wind can complete the solution, he contends. "No one source is the final answer, but in conjunction they'll work."

"The wave of the future for Oregon includes the passing out of the huge private utilities and the creation of more public utility districts," Bartels says. He supports the petition efforts for initiatives which would make it easier to establish public utilities and would prevent utilities from charging



John Bartels

rate-payers for power plant construction work in progress or not yet begun.

Bartels is a journalist; he has researched and written about energy issues since 1970. He has worked for the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group and Congressman Jim Weaver, researching utility practices. He presently is with the Eugene-based Power Research Group.

Tom Teutsch, candidate for the EWEB Board, Wards 4 and 5, is neither an advocate nor an opponent of nuclear power. But without the Trojan nuclear power plant — of which EWEB owns 30 percent — he said Oregon would face an energy shortage.

Teutsch, 52, a financial management consultant, was appointed to the five-member Board in January when a vacancy opened.

"Right now, we need Trojan," Teutsch said. "It provides 25 percent of Oregon's power. You just can't say, 'Cut that off.' You've got to have power in this country. We would have had blackouts all over the state without Trojan (during last winter's power shortage)."

But Teutsch said his primary fear about nuclear power is the spent fuel disposal. He believes it is the federal government's responsibility to provide a solution to the spent fuel dilemma.

But if the federal government can't resolve the dilemma,

Teutsch said he is quite willing to close Trojan.

"We can never rely on nuclear power as a total source of energy," he said. "We've got to develop solar energy and geothermal."

Teutsch, however, is not sup-



Tom Teutsch

portive of EWEB financing "insulation homes," — homes which have special insulation and heat/loss monitoring devices. Although he believes the projects are beneficial, Teutsch thinks the financing should come from federal sources or private industry, not the EWEB Board.

He also is displeased with the Carter administration's energy leadership. At one time Carter claimed the energy problem was as paramount as war, but Teutsch said the administration has since been "sitting on their thumbs."

Not only have oil prices gone up, but the administration has cut both hydroelectric projects and solar research, he said.

As for raising electrical rates to encourage conservation, Teutsch opposed that notion. He believes there are better ways to facilitate conservation, such as through disseminating educational material. But he does favor a reduction in rates for persons who use less power.

Craig: for consumer's benefit

Jack Craig, a former state representative now seeking election to the Eugene Water and Electric Board's (EWEB) at-large position, says he is running for the post to "effect some policy changes in the present EWEB power structure."

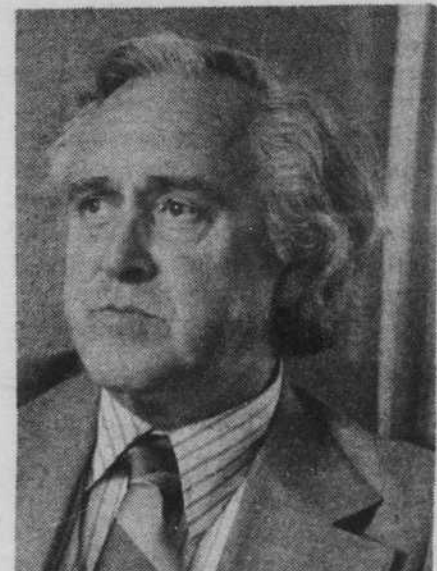
Craig says the board now has some members who represent conservative interests, and he hopes to change what he sees as a view of EWEB that acts as if it were a private utility. "It's not a private utility," he says, "it's a public utility district, and it should be interested in public power. It was organized for the benefit of consumers to keep as low a (power) rate as possible for the consumers."

Craig says he would support getting out of EWEB's contract with the Trojan nuclear power plant if it is legally possible. He says EWEB is already stuck with Trojan, but he would investigate ways of backing out of future agreements as to the use of or investment in nuclear power.

Craig says EWEB's involvement with the Trojan plant will cause Eugene's power rates to increase. "There are some financial

reasons to get out of Trojan," Craig says. "It's the most expensive kind of power generation we're faced with today."

Craig says he supports shutting



Jack Craig

down the Trojan plant, but says that might create some problems for EWEB. For instance, Craig says, the cost of the shutdown could place EWEB in trouble. Since EWEB owns about 30 percent of the plant, the citizens of the EWEB service area could be "left holding the bag" if the plant closes.

"The most important thing is not to add more 'Trojans,'" Craig says.

On the issue of herbicides, Craig says he members of EWEB, should be "unquestionably militant about dioxin sprays." Craig says dioxin sprays may contaminate the area's watershed, and that "herbicide or any contamination of the watershed should make the board members adamant about making sure that there is no harmful activity."

Schmidt: continuity

Incumbent Calvin Schmidt, running for re-election to his at-large position on the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) of Directors, emphasizes conservation and keeping rates as low as possible for EWEB customers.

"I'd like to say rates will go down, but they won't," Schmidt says. "I want to contribute to solving the utility's problems in a way that will cause the least impact on this community."

Schmidt, who has been an EWEB Director for five years, sees one problem as the almost certain loss of some of the utility's preference, or cheaper, power. "The availability of cheap energy in this area is just about used up," he says.

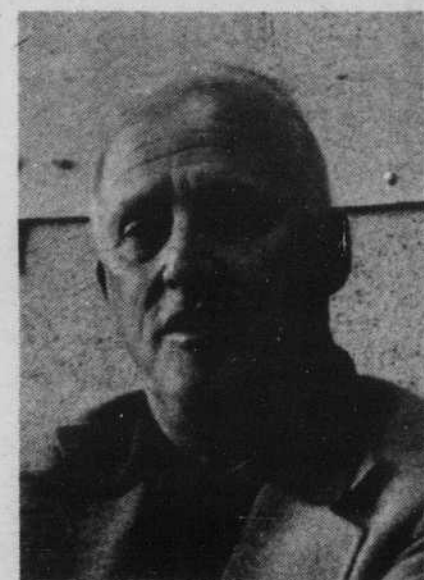
He feels geo-thermal power is most suitable to fill the gap, and points out that EWEB is researching its possibilities. "Geo-thermal is much cheaper in the long run than other alternatives," he says.

"Wind power is not a viable alternative," he says, "and our gas and oil are finite — if we don't have other sources, the economic impact will be catastrophic."

Conservation can play an important part, he says — "EWEB is the only utility in the state which has received Department of Energy approval for its conservation program."

The question of nuclear power and EWEB's Trojan ownership can't be answered in a simplistic

way, Schmidt says. "Our bondholders have invested over \$150 million in Trojan, and the Board has to address itself to the fact that EWEB's financial integrity is beyond reproach."



Calvin Schmidt

Schmidt says if fails, as nuclear opponents have predicted because of that utility's recent poor financial report, EWEB's investment in the Trojan plant would be absorbed by all the Northwest's public utilities.

"If it happens, the burden won't fall on just EWEB customers," Schmidt says.

"This utility's rate are the sixth-lowest in the nation, and it didn't just happen this way," he says. "It was due to good management. I feel EWEB deserves the best leadership it can get."

A Public Utility for the Public Good

Cal Schmidt knows outside influences, such as federal legislation, can weaken the control local citizens have over their power and water resources. He has helped form partnerships between EWEB and local industry to tap unused energy sources because he believes it's important to continue



conservation programs which produce results. He endorses the ongoing research to utilize new, clean energy sources for the future, such as geothermal, solar and wind power.

"We can have enough energy and water while maintaining a clean healthy environment."

retain **Cal Schmidt** EWEB
commissioner at-large

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