

Springfield candidates air views

Editor's note: We intended to run the following stories on the five candidates for the Springfield County Commissioner seat in Friday's Voter's Guide, but space limitations did not allow it.

Liveability worries Morrisette, 'Land-use planning essential'

By KATHLEEN MONJE
Of the Emerald

"Livability" in Lane County is the major worry of Bill Morrisette, county commissioner candidate for the Springfield district chair.

Morrisette sees managed growth as the key to keeping the county a pleasant place to live. "I consider comprehensive land use planning essential," Morrisette says.

He favors cluster housing in the county — "small communities that fit in with the environment" — and high density housing in the cities.

As an alternative to random development, Morrisette's philosophy of growth for the county includes "someday reaching a point of zero population growth in the area, where we won't build any new units."

He feels present building codes, properly enforced, and good planning will limit the influx of new residents, but he also sees another way of discouraging immigrants, one tied into county social services.

"Many people come here without jobs, and go on unemploy-

ment or welfare when they can't find work," Morrisette says. "More economic development won't stop the cycle, because it would attract still more people."

Instead, Morrisette proposes



Bill Morrisette

using state unemployment funds and state and federal welfare money for compulsory jobs, such

as manual labor in forest management and teacher's aide positions in public schools.

"We could use Comprehensive Educational Training Act (CETA) money for these jobs, too," Morrisette says. "And the benefits would go on for a limited amount of time — when it's over, it's over."

In addition to helping solve the growth problem, such a policy would benefit Morrisette's environmental concerns, he says.

Manual forestry management would eliminate the need for herbicide spraying, which the candidate opposes.

"The burden of proof for the harmlessness of those chemicals should be on the people who want to use them," Morrisette says. "We shouldn't take the chance of using them if they can harm human health."

Other environmental problems he would like to work on include transportation (he supports the bicycle plan) and air pollution (he supports a phase-down of field-burning saying "the farmers have had adequate time to make changes in operation" and alternative energy, especially small solar-collecting units on a neighborhood scale.

County personnel management is an issue in this election, and Morrisette has a three-pronged approach toward improving the relationship between commissioners and employees:

- The first is hiring a professional auditor to monitor programs and employee effectiveness, through analysis of program effectiveness.

- The second is hiring a chief administrator for the county, who would answer to the commissioners but not exclude them from personal contact with department heads. "I would stop short of a county manager form of government."

- The third is one of Morrisette's pet projects, the establishment of an ethics committee with "power to investigate all county officials."

Elliot would run county affairs 'like a business'

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

Getting Lane County government running "like a business" is the main priority of Frank Elliot, Springfield county commissioner candidate, if elected.

Elliot served as a commissioner for 14 years, but lost his seat to Jerry Rust in the 1976 election.

"I want to be back because this is my county . . . I love it. I'm the only candidate running who has any experience in county government," Elliot says. "I can do something good for the people of Lane County."

Elliot says the county government handles an average of "two million dollars per week," and with those kinds of figures, "it is big business."

Among his concerns, Elliot listed employment, herbicides, reforestation, field burning and housing.

- Jobs. "Last year, we used over \$16 million of government funds creating jobs. We need to let some of our local business expand and new, clean ones in — we can be selective."

- Re-organization of the county government. "You cannot do it without changing the charter. I think they've done a little shuffling around within the departments," Elliot observes that some of the other candidates' promises could not be fulfilled without changing the charter.

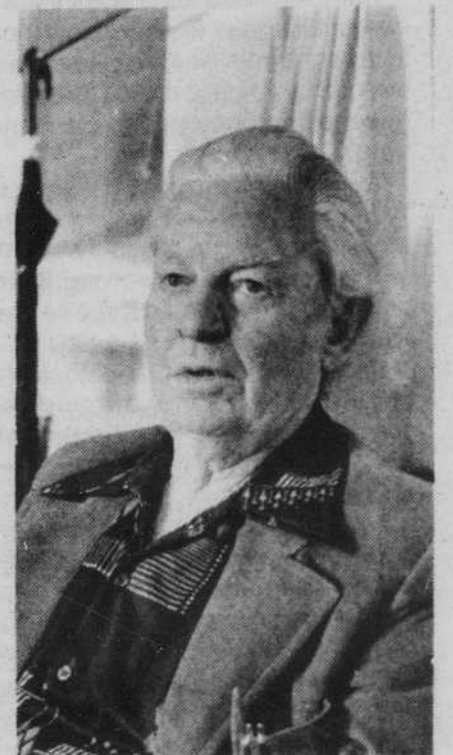
- Housing. "The population is growing — there is no logical reason for arbitrary lot sizes. Lot sizes must be determined by soil constraints," Elliot says new building should be done on the "benchlands" rather than in those parts of the valley suited to agricultural uses.

- Reforestation. "It's a never-ending thing," Elliot says Oregon timber lands are about 85 percent current on reforestation but the

priority should be to get all "hills and mountains into maximum timber production."

- "Medicines and chemicals can be extremely beneficial or they can kill you. Most of them are very beneficial if they are used very carefully. I do not believe in throwing out all the sprays any more than I believe in throwing all the medicines out of drugstores."

Use of broadleaf defoliants on roadside brush was cited as an



Frank Elliot

appropriate use of herbicides. "To grow brush, and then go out and cut it — there's no future to that."

- Field burning. "The main reason for burning is to destroy a mildew in perennial grass. The only other reason is if you have a huge supply of straw."

Elliot said straw can be plowed under, but there is yet "no other answer" for sanitizing perennial grass fields, which comprise "probably less than 50 percent of the total acreage used by grass seed growers."

A charter member of the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, Elliot says he "believes in fresh air and clean water as much as anybody."

- Individual people's problems. "These are important," Elliot says he would have an aide to help people when he was out of the office and would always be available to the public.

Asked whether he thought expanding the board of commissioners from three to five persons would make the county government more efficient, Elliot said, "Five is not necessarily an answer. It's the quality of people you put in there. You've got to be broad minded."

Elliot presently deals in commercial and industrial real estate.

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