

Senator says Congress 'insensitive'

West may lose jobs, income

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Government mismanagement of the Forest Service and budget cuts by congressional leaders who are "insensitive" to the problems of the West may lead to a loss of jobs and income for the Western timber-producing states, Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., told a Southern Oregon Republican gathering Sunday night.

Budget cuts \$166 million below the 1978 Forest Service budget are supported by Eastern Congressmen who are unaware of the importance of the timber industry in the West. Those cuts may mean a decrease in the timber supply and an increase in the price of lumber over the next few years, DeConcini said.

"Senator (Mark) Hatfield and I face some difficult choices as we mark up the forest service budget in the Senate Appropriations subcommittee in the coming weeks," he said. "We are very much aware of the negative feeling towards government spending. However, that feeling is not much use in deciding which programs stay and which are dispensable."



Photo by Dennis Hickok

It's enough to make a mother-in-law proud. Senator Dennis DeConcini — a Democrat — gave his brother-in-law, Mike Fitzgerald — a Republican — a helping hand Sunday night at a fund-raising dinner to repay Fitzgerald's unsuccessful campaign debt. Nearly 70 area Republicans paid \$100-a-plate to hear DeConcini speak.

Budget cuts that keep federal monies from reaching the West have been vigorously opposed by Western senators, but supported by Eastern senators who don't know the problems they will cause for the rest of the nation, DeConcini said.

"The problems facing the West are ones that all of us share," he said. "We are blessed with a

magnificent natural heritage, but we must keep in mind that respect and admiration for these resources must be accompanied by economic development and growth."

Speaking at a \$100-a-plate fund raising dinner to pay off the campaign deficit of Curry County Commissioner Mike Fitzgerald's unsuccessful try for the Republi-

can congressional nomination last May, DeConcini said that only through an effective education program on the importance of the timber industry to the western United States will the Eastern state senators realize that cuts to Forest Service budget will hurt not only the timber industry but the rest of the nation as well.

DeConcini, co-chairer of the new Western Coalition on Public Lands, gained public attention last year as the author of the "DeConcini Reservation" to the Panama Canal Treaties. That reservation gives the United States the right to

intervene militarily if necessary to keep the canal open, if its operation is interfered with.

Answering questions after his speech, DeConcini said he still had an "emotional attachment" to the Panama Canal issue. The controversial reservation to the treaties may not have been the best amendment, he said, but it was necessary.

"The real question to ask is, will we have the will to execute it," he said. "I'm satisfied that we have the right, but I'm not sure about the will."

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Round-up

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In team roping, the cow is in double-trouble: one cowboy lassos its head and another goes for its hind legs. The object is to stretch the animal out in an awkward, three-point stance (its back legs are tied) as quickly as possible. Sometimes the lassos miss and the cow triumphantly sprints to freedom while the rodeo announcer chides the unlucky cowboys, "You rope like old women!"

After saddle bronc riding comes intermission. The piped-in country music starts up again as most everyone heads for the beer garden.

As darkness envelops the countryside, steer wrestling begins. Wrestling is normally a sport where both contestants have an equal chance, but not so here.

The cowboy jumps from his horse onto the steer, and attempts to flip it on its side as fast as possible. Even when one of the animals pinned a cowboy to the ground for a full two seconds, it got no credit. Of course, by the time the embarrassed cowboy managed to turn the tables on old Bess, he didn't

get much credit either.

The cowgirls, representing a definite minority in the rodeo business, got their chance to shine in the barrel races. Their moment of glory was soon, over, however, as they were overshadowed by a rodeo clown with pillows stuffed in his shirt for breasts, who raced around the barrels on a squat donkey.

During most of the rodeo, the clowns and the announcer entertained the audience with skits and jokes. ("Know how to get to Texas? Go east till you smell it and south till you step in it.")

But in the final event, bull riding, the clowns' jobs got serious. If a cowboy gets in trouble while riding one of the 2,000 pound beasts, the clowns must distract the bull while the cowboy gets out of danger. Often, it is the clowns who get hurt.

Rodeo clown Jerry Mariluch, 25, has suffered a ruptured spleen, cracked neck and broken ribs from run-ins with bulls. A week before coming to Eugene,

he was head-butted about 20 feet at the St. Paul Rodeo.

The clowns often play a cat-and-mouse game with the bull after the cowboy has departed. To the crowd's delight, they dare the animals to charge them, and then leap out of the way just in time — usually.

The object of bull riding is the same as bareback riding: hang on for eight seconds and hope the animal bucks a lot. Usually, the bulls buck more than enough. At one point Wednesday night, the scoreboard read: Bulls 5, Cowboys 0.

Mariluch, who also used to ride bulls, says that when the beasts start bucking, "It feels like your hips are up around your neck — it really jars your teeth, too."

Why would anyone want to be a bull rider or a circus clown? Mariluch cites adequate wages as one reason (he makes \$250 a night) but also says that once a person starts rodeoing, he can't stop. "Once you get a drop of rodeo blood in you, you're hooked."

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