

Whittenburg alone hurt by check conviction

When Jim Whittenburg was convicted Friday of writing bad checks in Lane County, the only thing to suffer was his reputation.

Although many Oregonians felt that Whittenburg's legal problems would hurt the property tax limitation measure he helped to foster, those fears are not likely to come true, a leader of the property tax limitation campaign says.

Whittenburg, the 36-year-old author of Oregon's Measure 6, which would limit state property taxes to a 1.5 percent increase per year above the 1975 assessed value of the property, was found guilty Friday of writing two bad checks to a downtown clothing store and a Cottage Grove motel earlier this year.

But that conviction probably won't hurt the pro-Measure 6 campaign at all, Ed Sparks of Roseburg claims.

Sparks, a leader of the DO CARE committee that worked to gather nearly 250,000 petition signatures to put Measure 6 on the Nov. 7 ballot, says Whittenburg's legal problems wouldn't have troubled the campaign even if they had happened at the height of the petition drive.

"The measure belongs to the people now," Sparks says. "It's not Whittenburg's measure and it's not our measure. The people have it now and it will be up to them to decide what to do with it."

Although Whittenburg originated the petition that led to the ballot measure in July, the statewide committee formed to campaign in favor of the measure severed all connections with him several months ago.

The measure was virtually a photocopy of California's controversial Proposition 13, which cut that state's property taxes to one percent above the 1975 assessed value.

After the petition drive's success, Whittenburg found himself in the Lane County Jail, following his arrest for writing bad checks in several stores in Eugene and Cottage Grove.

But, says one opponent of the tax measure, Whittenburg was already discredited before the arrests.

"He's (Whittenburg) probably got more credit for being the father of this whole thing than he really deserves," says Stafford Hansell, co-chairer of the Oregon Tax Relief Committee. "He has been pretty well discredited already by a lot of the newspapers around the state."

Hansell, a Hermiston rancher who has been fighting Measure 6 since last summer, debated Whittenburg on the property tax issue last week.

Whittenburg was late for a Eugene court appearance because he missed a bus connection from Pendleton after that debate.

Hansell says even though the statewide pro-Measure 6 campaign has disowned Whittenburg, the bad check charges should have been settled after the election.

"I would prefer that this whole check thing would be done after the election so the measure could stand on its own merits," Hansell says.

Although Sparks agrees, he says Whittenburg's legal problems may actually be helping the pro-Measure 6 campaign. As of last week, the final petition signature count reached 236,000 and people are calling every day to express their support, in spite of the bad publicity, he says.

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT WILLIAM BOYD

Dear College:

On behalf of the U. of O. Federation of Teachers (A.F.T. Local 3209), we wish to express our approval of your decision to re-open negotiations with the graduate teaching fellows represented by the G.T.F.F. (A.F.T. Local 3544). It is time, we think, to re-examine some of you negotiators' positions, which, after the fact-finder's report, may not appear as reasonable or justifiable as they previously did. Although in your statement rejecting the factfinder's recommendations, you concentrated on the financial issue, there are other key issues—such as workload, re-appointment procedures, grounds for disciplinary action—on which there should be room for further negotiation.

Above all, if the money to meet the teaching fellows' very modest financial demands is not available in our budget—and you state that it is not—we urge you to seek aid from the Chancellor and the State Board of Higher Education. The initiative rests with you, and we urge you to take such action as will further the interests of both students and faculty by reaching an equitable agreement with our teaching fellows.

T.A. Brady, Jr. (HST)	C. Ryan (PHIL)
M. Goldman (SOC)	M. Simeral (ECON)
J.P. Maddex (HST)	N. Teich (ENGL)
D. Pope (HST)	for A.F.T. Local 3209

Tax relief measures may crunch state education budget if passed

Higher education will be hit hard by passage of either of the property tax relief measures currently on the ballot, according to Oregon State System of Higher Education Chancellor Roy Lieuallen.

Lieuallen expects a cut of at least \$14 million from the OSSHE's budget, even though the state system does not depend upon property taxes for its revenue. Unfortunately, the state may divert some of the funds originally intended for higher education to other programs which would be crippled by the loss of property tax monies.

"I really don't know what we'll do," said Lieuallen Sunday. "It would be improper for me to say what we would do if the budget were cut by that magnitude, but even so, I wouldn't be able to speculate."

Ballot Measure 6 would limit property taxes to 1½ percent of assessed valuation, while Measure 11 would compel the state to pay half of all residential property taxes up to \$1,500 per homeowner. Measure 11 would also place additional limits on government spending.

Measure 11 would force the state to cut its spending to 95 percent of the level during the 1977-79 biennium, and would allow that figure to rise only in accordance with the growth in personal income in Oregon.

Lieuallen expects the state executive to cut all state budget requests along lines dictated by Measure 11, even if that measure is not passed by voters in November. The state system, like all state agencies, is required to submit its biennial spending plans to the governor through the state

executive department near the end of each even-numbered year. The governor then sends his budget proposal to the Legislature for final approval.

• In other action, the state board agreed that admission standards at state schools need to be upgraded in order to improve the quality of students being admitted.

Though no action was taken at the Friday meeting, the board directed its staff to look into various admissions standards — high school curricula, grade-point av-

erage, test scores and rank in class — and report back within one year on how the state system compares with other states.

The board's subcommittee on academic affairs had recommended last month that high school students be required to take certain courses of study (e.g. four years of English and three years of math) to meet admission standards beginning in 1983. The board defeated that proposal by a 5-4 vote, feeling that such a move would be too concrete.

Tutors offered for vets

Free tutorial services are offered to veterans at the Center for Self-Development, 207 Emerald Hall, according to veteran Gary Scott.

Scott, who is also a tutor, says many veterans are not aware the services are provided as part of their benefits. "Veterans should come in for help before they run into problems," Scott says.

Veterans can contact Scott at 686-3232.



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