

Cook raps doctors for high health costs

By WILLIAM KOGUT
Of the Emerald

Democratic senatorial candidate Vern Cook blamed the high cost of medical care on what he said is a professionally perpetuated doctor shortage and attacked the position on abortion taken by his opponent, Sen. Mark

Hatfield, at a press conference in the EMU Wednesday.

Cook said, "We have to break the stranglehold (doctors have) on the medical profession. The AMA is to medical care what OPEC is to oil."

"Two out of three qualified applicants to medical school are re-

jected because of lack of openings," Cook claimed, citing former Dean of the University Medical School Dr. David Baird as the source of his statistic.

Cook said the Baake decision should never have been necessary, and that there should be space for all qualified applicants no matter what their age or color and he suggested ways of increasing medical school enrollments.

Student-teacher ratios should be raised, space doubled up on, and federal funds to medical schools increased, he said.

The more doctors, Cook said, the less the cost of medical care.

He didn't, however, fault doctors for creating a so-called monopoly.

"I'm not mad at physicians; it's our own fault," Cook said. "We're letting them do it to us."

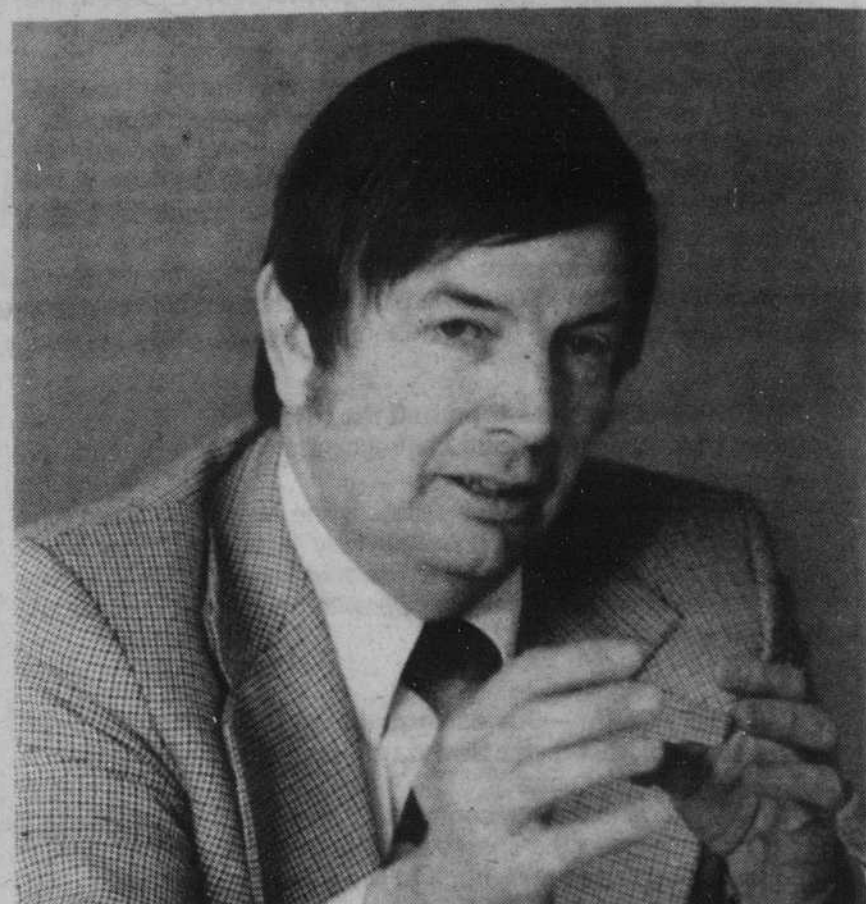
Cook saved some of his ammunition for a shot at Sen. Mark Hatfield's stand on abortion.

Cook, who opposes Measure 7 — a bill that prohibits state funding of abortions — also said Hatfield has invariably voted for the "strictest available restrictions on abortion."

Those votes, Cook said, came in the face of what the challenger said is strong public opinion favoring abortion on demand.

"Hatfield has the attitude that he should decide what's good for you," Cook said, adding that Hatfield's support for the Panama Canal treaty was another example of the incumbent's disdain for popular feelings.

Cook went on to accuse Hatfield of not being strong on defense.



State Senator Vern Cook

Photo by Keith Allen

"He's voted against the B-1 bomber, the neutron bomb, and the Selective Service. If you want a pacifist in favor of unilateral disarmament, vote for Hatfield," Cook joked.

Hatfield has a way of obscuring his record, Cook claimed. The public thinks of Hatfield as a fiscal conservative, he said, but his voting record shows him consistently voting for spending increases — except in the area of abortion.

Directing his remarks specifically at his student audience,

Cook said he favors tax credits for tuition as long as every person, rich or poor, is entitled to the same credit.

After a reasonable preliminary check, he said, any student, whatever his economic background should be eligible for a student loan.

However, Cook added if the student fails to pay off the loan after graduation the government should be allowed to withhold tax refunds or any other government payments.

BACK-TO-CAMPUS SPECIALS



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Young Demos choose Burrows

The Lane County Young Democrats have endorsed liberal Republican State Representative Mary McCauley Burrows, R-Eugene, over attorney Tom Fagan.

One member of the Young Democrats present for the en-

dorsement interviews said that Fagan criticized Burrows for poor leadership but gave a poor presentation himself. He added that the key factor was probably Fagan's own statement that Burrows has an excellent voting record.

Burrows also has an excellent vot-

During the last legislative session Burrows was the sponsor of three bills on behalf of the Oregon Student Lobby and she had a perfect voting record with that group. ing record on environmental and women's issues.

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