

Ford puts in a word for Lausmann

The race for the Fourth District congressional seat is one of the top contests in the country, former Pres. Gerald Ford told more than 400 Republicans at a fund-raising breakfast for candidate Jerry Lausmann Thursday.

Ford told the crowd at the \$25-per-plate affair that he would "be around" for the 1980 presidential race.

By JACK CONDLIFFE
Of the Emerald

"I'm healthy, I'll participate. Don't count me out," said the man who held the presidency from 1974 until 1976.

At a press conference before the breakfast, Ford lashed out at Pres. Jimmy Carter's fiscal policies.

"The Carter administration and the Democratic Congress have taken the U.S., during their 21 months of control of the federal government, from a rate of inflation of 4.8 percent back up to 10 percent," Ford said.

Ford condemned Carter's Tuesday proposals for voluntary wage and price guidelines, saying they can only lead to manda-



Former Pres. Gerald Ford attacked Democrats for overspending at a GOP breakfast in Eugene for Medford's Jerry Lausmann, the challenger for 4th District Congressman Jim Weaver's seat.

tory guidelines.

Ford says that Carter has singled out the wrong culprit in putting restraints on labor and business. The real culprit, Ford says, is runaway government spending.

Ford called Democratic fiscal conservatives "Johnny-Come-

Latelys." "It's nice to have them get on board, but I just wish they'd vote that way, rather than just talk that way."

Ford specifically characterized Fourth District incumbent Rep. Jim Weaver as a big spender and as weak on national security.

Weaver voted against the Department of Defense appropriations bill for fiscal year 1979.

Ford raised other key national campaign issues at the press conference. The former president criticized the national health insurance plan, saying it would cost \$20 billion to \$30 billion.

He says he prefers his own plan for a federal catastrophic health insurance program.

Ford also spoke about the importance of wilderness areas. He says he supports preserving Alaska lands, though he does not endorse the House bill placing sizable acreage in protected status.

Ford says that the Republican Party will gain 25 seats in the House of Representatives, one to three Senate seats and six to eight governorships. He said the most significant Republican gains would be in state legislatures.

The Ford visit is one in a long line of campaign appearances in Eugene by the leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties. Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., and Chip Carter, have already appeared and Vice President Walter Mondale is scheduled for a visit this weekend.

Photo by F.H.A.T. Axmacher

Mondale to visit EMU

The political "biggies" continue to roll into Eugene to perform the customary pre-election rites and blessings for their party's candidates.

Vice President Walter Mondale will briefly pass through Eugene Saturday to give his support to Democrats Gov. Bob Straub and U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver.

Straub is running against state Sen. Victor Atiyeh and Weaver is pitted himself against Republican Jerry Lausmann, a plywood manufacturer for Medford.

At 7 p.m. Mondale will appear on the University campus rally to endorse his fellow democrats. Both Straub and Weaver will be present at the EMU breezeway for the free event. Appearing will be the Jazz Minors, a local Dixieland jazz band.

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