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Tax cut measures should spare budget

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

Whether the tax revolt triumphs or falters next Tuesday, the passage of Measure 6 or 11 probably will have little impact on the higher education budget, according to Roy Lieuallen, chancellor of the State System of Higher Education.

Lieuallen says the state's executive department budget, which includes higher education funds, is currently being developed under guidelines based on Ballot Measure 11.

"Eleven will transfer about \$550 million from the state budget to local government," he explains. "The (Gov. Bob) Straub budget will be submitted to the Legislature with that limitation in mind."

The State Board of Higher Education approved its staff's budget proposal in July and submitted it to the governor's office in August, Lieuallen says.

"We started working on the state system budget before 6 and 11 were even on the horizon," he points out.

But Lieuallen says he expects the governor's budget analysts will trim the budget proposal for higher education given them three months ago. "In a short time, we expect a written report on our budget request," he adds.

One of the governor's guidelines for budgeting state agencies and programs, Lieuallen explains, is a 15 percent limit in increasing the 1979-81 budget from the previous biennial level of funding.

But Lieuallen adds that the expenditure limit is a limit on state government as a whole and not on each agency of state government.

Conceivably, a particular activity of state government might be considered more important than other activities, and the 15 percent budget limitation could be modified upward.

But Lieuallen says the same logic also could be used to modify

a budget downward.

According to a state system budget perspective prepared by alumni associations of the state universities, the proportion of the state general fund going to higher education has fallen in the last 10 years.

"Perhaps, that evidence shows we've taken our cuts," Lieuallen says.

If Ballot Measure 6 passes, state government is not mandated to transfer funds to local governments, he says although the reduction in local property taxes is significant.

The governor's office would probably revise its budget to reflect the changes Measure 6 would bring by proposing transfer of state funds to localities to make up for the loss of property taxes, Lieuallen says.

Although the passage of either measure, or the defeat of both, probably will have little impact on the development of the budget for higher education, Lieuallen says the Legislature still has the opportunity to make substantial cuts.

"We haven't even talked about what might have the biggest impact," he insists.

Under 6, we have to wonder, 'what will the Legislature do?' " Lieuallen says the state system will be competing with schools, cities, counties and other districts for money before the Legislature next session, if Measure 6 passes.

"Under 6, there'll be a real cat-and-dog fight," he says.

Lieuallen admits that the indirect impact of Tuesday's election on higher education is still unknown.

Lieuallen says he has confidence that the state system budget will avoid major cuts, but adds that it is impossible to predict the outcome of future actions by the voters, the governor and the Legislature.

"It is simply not good practice to announce one's contingency plans before the contingency.

Then, if we survive massive budget cuts, people will know just where they're at on the totem pole," he says. "It's the best way to lower morale."

Despite current budget problems, Lieuallen says he expects that quality education will be maintained and necessary improvements will be made.

"It depends on how persuasive

we are. But I can speculate that the governor's budget will maintain present operations and provide for quite limited program improvements," he says.

Another area Lieuallen says needs more than maintenance funds is the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center in Portland. "People have suggested that, if we can't adequately fund

the medical school, we should close it down. And I can't argue with them," he says.

Lieuallen says he doesn't quite know which stance to take.

"If we holler too loudly our staff and student morale will suffer. And if we're too optimistic, someone in the Legislature or executive department will think they haven't been tough enough."

'But I'm innocent!'



Photo by Keith Allen

A Halloween prankster opposed to Ballot Measure 8, which would restore the death penalty, shackled the Pioneer Mother to an improvised electric chair. The attempt to get her juices flowing failed: She's still dead. Across the way, the Pioneer Father sported a noose in his hand and a sign suggesting that the measure "Rest in peace."

Work-study shortage cramps departments

A shortage of certified work-study students is causing a big problem for departments this term, according to Ginger Lyday of the University work study placement office.

"It started out with a big bang, then suddenly — no students," she says.

Only 1,734 students — 1,000 fewer than fall 1977 — are certified for work-study jobs this academic year, Lyday says. "Consequently, there are many, many jobs left."

Although Lyday does not know the exact difference between the number of students certified for work-study jobs and the number of positions requested by departments and other programs, she says it is significant.

Lyday blames the gap between supply and demand on departments.

"It's something departments are going to have to cut down on. They should not be expecting so many students to do their clerical work for them," she says.

Work-study positions should be designed to give students maximum exposure to practical and enjoyable work experience Lyday says.

"They've been out in the real world, and they're tired of clerical jobs. That's why they've come to college," she adds.

Departments are feeling the squeeze but Lyday says most certified students have found their work-study jobs by now. "Departments will have to make do."

today

It's less than a week to the election and several races appear to be neck and neck. Reporter Jack Condliffe takes an analytical look at the issues confronting Democratic incumbent Congressman Jim Weaver and his challenger for the 4th District representative race on Page 3.

Why would a former off-Broadway play producer and general manager of the American Film Institute in Los Angeles leave probable fame and fortune to come to Eugene? Read the story behind David Lunney's decision to become producing director of the Oregon Repertory Theatre on Page 4B of the Entertainment section.

The Lane County Assessor's contest has been filled with charges and counter-charges and legal hassles. In her weekly column, State Political Associate Editor Ann Treneman examines some of the incidents in the race between incumbent Ken Bylund and challenger Bill Bain on Page 20.