

# 'Big spender' label heats up tough battle

Analysis by JACK CONDLIFFE  
Of the Emerald

Balloons inflate, each portraying one of Jim Weaver's "big spending" votes. One by one the balloons rise out of view and suddenly Jerry Lausmann appears to tell voters that when he gets to Congress he'll hold the line on federal spending.

Spending is the issue in the 4th District race between two-term Congressman Jim Weaver and Medford plywood manufacturer Jerry Lausmann.

In the Republican primary, in which Lausmann faced Coos County Commissioner Mike Fitzgerald and Grants Pass businessman Bill Anderson, Lausmann's ads ignored his party opponents and centered on Jim Weaver's alleged "big spending."

Weaver also recognized the challenge long before election season began. He has voted against nine out of 13 of the federal budgets as well as for a variety of budget slashing amendments to those budgets. He says his votes represent his decision to "intensify" his past budget-cutting record in response to the taxpayers' revolt.

Weaver has repeatedly cited a National Taxpayer's Union (NTU) rating which puts him in the top 23 percent of budget cutters in Congress. The use of the rating by Weaver has become controversial as both candidates quote NTU employee Grover Norquist to explain the rating.

Norquist recently clarified his viewpoint on the matter: "For Mr. Weaver to say that he is better than average on fiscal matters is a fair statement. But for him to say he has been the taxpayers' friend

would not be right."

Lausmann also has an explanation for Weaver's above-average rating with the NTU. He says that Weaver voted against nearly every defense spending measure and that he voted for every other appropriation to come before him.

Though the spending issue is at the forefront of this race, the wilderness issue is another that has a great bearing.

Weaver, the sponsor of the Oregon Omnibus Wilderness Act, which doubled the size of Oregon wilderness, is personally blamed for forest industry related jobs lost due to wilderness designations.

Weaver's response is that legislation he helped pass through Congress has created more timber-oriented jobs than the number lost due to land being designated as wilderness. He cites an increased U.S. Forest Service reforestation budget, three bills to aid small woodlot owners; a bill requiring sustained yield harvests (not cutting trees faster than they grow), and others he has helped pass as chair of the House Subcommittee on Forests.

Another difference between the two candidates is Weaver's opposition to the tuition tax credit bill. Weaver supported a recent doubling of financial aid funds which he says cost one-quarter what the tuition tax credit would cost. Lausmann supports the tuition tax credit bill.

Additionally, Lausmann opposes abortion, saying that as an adopted child whose mother abandoned him, it is a personal issue for him. Weaver supports the right of women to have an abortion and has voted for federal funding of welfare abortions.

## Visitors find China's women freer

By JENNIFER GREENLEAF  
Of the Emerald

The cultural revolution in China has greatly altered the position of women there, according to Barbara Koser, who recently visited that country.

Koser spoke Wednesday as part of a YWCA-sponsored panel discussion and slide presentation on sex roles in China. Koser, Cindy Wooten and Jeanine Bennett recently returned from a trip to four mainland China cities, sponsored by the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association.

Since the Communist government took power in 1949, several laws have been passed that freed women from the bonds of traditional Chinese marriage, Koser said. Widows are no longer required to be chaste and widow suicide has been outlawed. The right to divorce was extended to women also, she said.

Most women work in China and Koser said the government makes it easier for them by providing free day care centers at almost all factories and communes.

"Women get 56 days of paid maternity leave and are allowed three breaks a day to nurse children during work," Koser said. Fathers may also have time off during the day to see their children, though they are usually cared for at the mother's workplace.

"There is equal pay for equal work in China," Koser said, "but there is some evidence of discrimination. Women are usually laid off first and are not in as many high-paying jobs."

"The women in China aren't afraid to be physical, whatever their ages," Bennett noted, recalling an 82-year-old woman who still works in the fields of her commune.

Chinese women need not fear violence against them and their children as American women often do, Koser said, because rape and child abuse are almost unheard of in China.

"Our interpreters couldn't even understand the concept of child abuse," said Koser. "They thought we were talking about spanking."



Congressman Jim Weaver (on left) and challenger Jerry Lausmann Emerald photo

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