

governor's race

Bob Straub: Democrat

Democratic Gov. Bob Straub says Oregon can have property tax reform without abandoning its goal to keep the state livable and progressive if voters retain both him and Measure 11, the alternative to Measure 6 that Straub pushed through a special session of the Legislature.

"I really think it's important to beat 6," says Straub. "It would be destructive to the state and favor the rich."

Straub says Measure 11 would cut property taxes for owners who live in their own homes by 40 percent. Businesses would be unaffected.

"The property tax is a fixed tax system," warns Straub. The income tax is a better system, because it depends on ability to pay. Just because someone owns a house doesn't mean they have a big income," he adds.

"Even with 11 there will be a damper on social services, higher education included," says Straub.

One area Straub says needn't be limited by the tax measures is energy and environmental issues.

Conservation is the main area where progress can be made to deal with energy demands, says Straub. "We need to get the utilities and oil companies into developing weatherization plans for their customers."

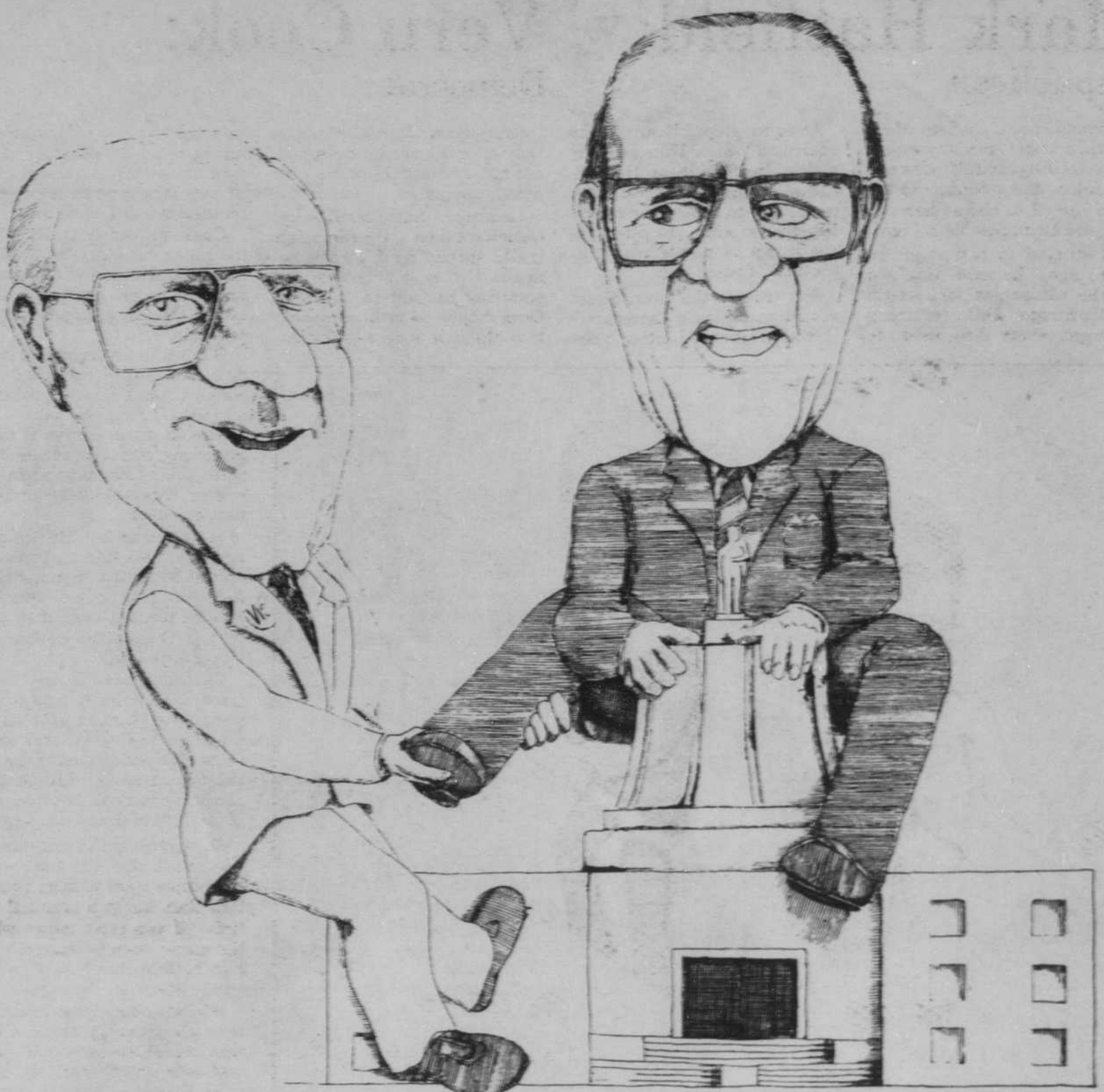
Work can also be done with building requirements to insure conservation of energy, he says.

"In addition we need to develop alternate sources of power with vigor," says Straub. "Only when these plans fail should we return to nuclear power." The governor is opposed to shutting down the already operating Trojan Nuclear plant in Rainier, Oregon.

Along with work in energy, Straub sees as a major project during the next four years the development of a comprehensive statewide growth plan by 1980. Champoe II is Straub's investigative group representing people from the state (residents, developers, professional planners and citizens) who will write a state growth policy.

"The effective use of our land is the state's most serious struggle in the next several years," Straub says. The group would discuss tools to hold down growth, conserve energy, preserve natural environments and then recommend a package of solutions to the Legislature.

In a year full of ballot measures, Straub has also reacted to each of the measures appearing on the state ballot.



The governor says he supports ballot Measure 4 which would make it easier to develop local public utility districts. "I've always supported public power," says Straub.

But the governor opposes Measure 9 which would prohibit utilities from charging in the rate base for work that currently produces no energy for them.

Straub also supports state aid to low-income women to help finance abortions but opposes the death penalty.

"Voters have voted the death penalty

out four times. I think it would be a mistake for them to now reinstate it. It's a medieval instrument and only the poor are put to death," says Straub.

Instead of capital punishment, Straub favors increasing the state's reliance on work-release centers and community programs for prisoners.

Straub supports Ballot Measure 10 which would keep the present Land Conservation Development Commission and guidelines to deal with planning issues

with local governments.

He also believes in saving wilderness areas in the high Cascades. His position is an approach midway between conservationists and conservatives — some wilderness, but not a lot.

Before becoming governor, Straub was state treasurer, state senator and a Lane County Board of Commissioners member.

He's a homebuilder who has lived in Oregon 31 years.

Victor Atiyeh: Republican

With the campaign dwindling to a handful of days — and a handful of percentage points between the candidates in the polls — Republican gubernatorial hopeful Victor Atiyeh remains optimistic about his imminent election.

Atiyeh, who lost to incumbent Gov. Bob Straub in the same race four years ago, says Straub's "mismanagement" and his own supporters' "volunteer effort" (are) going to win it" for him.

With a few exceptions, such matters of political style and not political issues demarcate the two opponents' camps. The most substantial of those exceptions concern competing proposals for property-tax relief.

Back in May, when Atiyeh — a four-term state senator and Beaverton businessman — knocked off former Gov. Tom McCall in a primary-election upset, Measure 6 had just arrived like a rising political star from the south.

Detecting the surge of antigovernmental sentiments finding voice in Measure

6, Atiyeh tied his campaign to that star, after an early bit of fence-sitting.

Straub, however, exercised the political prerogative of his office and called a special session of the Legislature, which developed a more sophisticated tax-relief proposal that awaits voters on Nov. 7 as Measure 11.

Measure 6, a near-copy of California's controversial Proposition 13, would install across-the-board cutbacks in business and private property taxes and a freeze on reassessments.

Measure 11 extends the tax relief to renters, limits it for businesses and imposes spending lids on local and state agencies.

Measure 6 would cut property taxes by about \$850 million during the next two-year budget period; Measure 11, by \$525 million.

Since those heady days of the McCall upset, an early lead in the polls and Measure 6's conservative tide, Atiyeh has

moderated his tax-relief stand.

Flaws in the simplistic design of Measure 6 led the Republican challenger to develop a modified proposal that restricts tax relief for businesses, adds renters to the list of beneficiaries but doesn't impose spending limits. Atiyeh estimates the tax relief under this plan would total \$300 million.

Atiyeh says, if elected, he will present this proposal to the 1979 legislature. He feels his proposal will receive the two-thirds support there necessary to revise a voter-approved constitutional measure.

That prediction stems from a presumed change in the political setting, including passage of Measure 6 and a Republican governor able to work more "effectively" with former colleagues in the Legislature.

In fact, Atiyeh's argument that he can succeed with the legislature and administration of the executive department where Straub purportedly "failed," forms

the cornerstone of the senator's campaign.

Regarding other political goals, the two candidates reveal fewer differences.

Both oppose Measure 10, which would disarm the state's Land Conservation and Development Commission, and Measure 7, which would eliminate state aid for abortions to low-income women.

Atiyeh, however, backs Measure 8, which reinstates the death penalty, while Straub has been vocal in his opposition to the proposal.

Besides his reliance on volunteer donations of time and money for his campaign, Atiyeh has proposed use of voluntary organizations in crime-prevention education and communication between special-interest groups and state government.

He charges that the administrative approach of Straub and key executives has alienated Oregon residents and contributed to inefficiency in the operation of state agencies.