

U.S. representative race

Jerry Lausmann: Republican

This is Republican Jerry Lausmann's second try for U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver's seat in Congress and he says "he's doing it right this time."

Last time around Lausmann, a plywood and veneer manufacturer from Medford, shared the race for 4th District with two other candidates and admits "there was just no way last time."

But fall, 1978 is a different story. Lausmann is fighting Weaver one on one and has been campaigning long and hard drumming in one basic message — Jim Weaver is a "big spender."

Weaver fights the "big spender" label but Lausmann is sticking with his guns, prefacing his statements with an observation that if Weaver hadn't voted against the defense appropriation bill he'd be a lot farther down the list than his current rating in the top 23 percent of Congress. (The rating was tabulated by the National Taxpayers Union, which rates congressmen on their voting record.)

"He (Weaver) is part of a big spending Congress," Lausmann says. "He can't divorce himself from that."

Lausmann admits he would of voted "yes" on the defense spending bill that passed Congress last year — but adds he was opposed to the addition of the expensive nuclear carrier attached to the bill. Pres. Carter vetoed that bill.

Lausmann opposes adding any additional wilderness area to already existing areas — except for Oregon's Sky Lakes area — which has no timber resources included in it. He favors returning the areas marked for

wilderness under RARE II back into timber production.

Lausmann is a proponent of Ballot Measure 6 — which would freeze property tax values at 1.5 percent of their 1975 values. He cites Measure 6 as the only equitable property tax relief package on the Oregon ballot, adding that Measure 11 — which would cut property taxes 50 percent — is "by far the most dangerous" bill of the two.

"Measure 11 doesn't answer the problem of the taxpayer," he says.

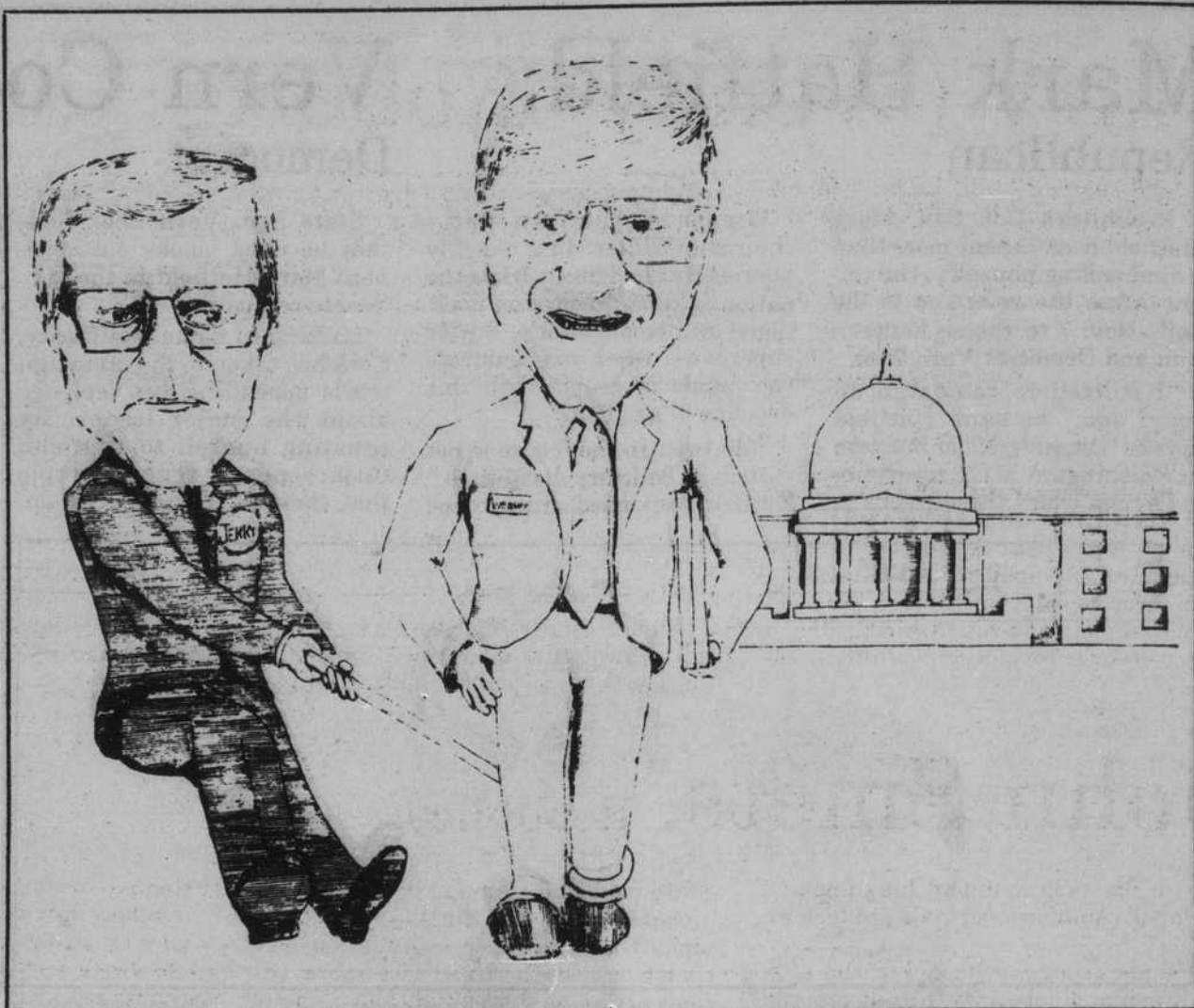
The problems of storing nuclear waste worry Lausmann. "Until we resolve the waste problem I support a moratorium on nuclear power in Oregon."

He is also critical of letting Bonneville Power Authority be the "big brother" of the Northwest energy scheme. Instead of an "energy czar" in the form of BPA, Lausmann favors a policy and decision making board made up of representatives from Public Utility Districts, private power companies, environmentalists, and citizens.

Lausmann advocates Ballot Measure 8 — which would restore the death penalty to Oregon. He says he feels the death penalty will deter crime in Oregon. He cites the Lindbergh kidnappings — in which the kidnapper was executed. "There weren't too many kidnappings in this country for a long time after that."

He supports Measure 7 — which would prohibit state funding for abortions. "I support adoption as an alternative to abortion," he says. Lausmann was adopted.

On other issues Lausmann favors the tuition tax credit.



Jim Weaver: Democrat

When Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Eugene, talks about preserving wilderness he says he's working to protect 4 percent of Oregon's least productive timber areas.

"The wilderness issue is way out of perspective," he maintains. "The total I recommended for preservation was less than 1 percent of the total cut. If people are worried about losing jobs, they should support my efforts to cut the export of logs."

Weaver says the idea of having wilderness areas can be defended on an economic level in addition to an aesthetic one: "I believe we should reforest our fertile, low-elevation timber lands before going after the least valuable stands in high alpine areas — stands that took 1,000 years to establish."

In his first two terms in the House Weaver strongly supported preserving a few areas in their natural state — The French Pete area about 40 miles

southeast of Eugene is an example.

He's now supporting preserving the Kalmiopsis and Illinois River areas.

"Wilderness areas are actually multi-use areas," he explains. "More people can use them than areas which are clear cut. Once the logging is done the area is limited for years."

Having served two terms in the house, Weaver says he looks forward to the new session as one where he can make some progress with energy legislation that encourages conservation and development of renewable resources — sun, wind, and wood products.

"We've got to break the pricing structure utilities have developed to protect their investments in nuclear power," says Weaver. He explains that utilities average the price of energy produced from nuclear power plants with the cheap energy produced from hydro-

electric sources to sell at an average price. Alternative energy sources then must compete with the low averaged price, rather than the higher price for nuclear power.

"As our consumption of nuclear power increases, consumers will be paying extraordinary utility bills," he says. "I know alternative energy development can compete with nuclear energy and beat it if we can break that pricing scheme."

"The Tennessee Valley Authority installs solar heating at one-third the cost of nuclear power," he says.

Weaver says more money can be saved by simplifying the U.S. defense program: "Everything is huge and complicated and full of computers. We need smaller, quicker weapons that are more effective."

Weaver estimates his opponent Jerry Lausmann has outspent him two to one during the campaign, often making claims that are "incontrovertibly untrue."

"Lausmann's TV candidacy knocked me down some in the polls and now we're having to get the money to defend the facts."

Lausmann has withdrawn some of his television advertising, calling some of the claims mistakes, but Weaver said he persists in running ads based in untruths. "He calls me one of the 10 biggest spenders in the Congress," he says.

A citizen's lobby has identified Weaver as being among the top third of the House in voting for expenditures, but the "top 10 figure is outrageous," Weaver says.

After spending \$80,000 on a campaign to re-elect himself, Weaver says he's all the more for public funding of campaigns with limited spending.

"This is nothing new," he says. "I supported the same things when I was the challenger."

RENTERS:

Ballot Measure 6 poses a threat to you. If it passes you will need an advocate assessor.

Ballot Measure 6 would give Oregon landlords \$90 million in tax relief, but there's no requirement for them to pass on any of the savings to their tenants.

Ballot Measure 6 would probably lead to repeal of Oregon's tax refund for renters.

The assessor's office already collects information on landlords' costs, their tax payments, and their profits from rising property values.

Ken Bylund favors using this information to calculate fair rents for apartments—rents that would reflect landlords' lower taxes. These recommended rents could then be posted in convenient locations, and tenants would have the facts they need to insist on rent reductions.

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Register to vote

Eligible voters who have waited until the last minute to register for the general election still have three days.

A spokesperson at the Lane County Elections Board says late registrants have until 8 p.m. on Nov. 7, the day of the election, to get their names on the voters' list.

But since the polls also close at 8 p.m. and procrastinators' lines at the elections office are always long, she says, the sooner the better.

The office is in downtown

Eugene, at 178 W. 8th Street.

Latecomers will be able to cast their votes with almost 160,000 other Lane County residents.

The county's voters total 10 percent of Oregon's entire registration, according to Elections Director Don Penfold.

Democrats outnumber Republicans by almost two-to-one, with 88,857 registered voters to the GOP's 48,380 — as of Oct. 26. Independents and non-partisans (those with no party affiliation) total 20,000.

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