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Analysis by DANA TIMS
Of the Emerald

"I won this time because I heard what Oregonians were saying," Vic Atiyeh said of his recent gubernatorial victory over incumbent Gov. Bob Straub.

Whether or not Atiyeh has a hearing problem remains to be seen. A few indications of that may be emerging as he plows through the transition process that will culminate in his being sworn in as Oregon's 32nd governor on Jan. 8.

The transition phase consists of two primary tasks to be undertaken by Atiyeh and his staff: preparation of the budget, and personnel appointments.

Atiyeh's budget must be ready by Feb. 1. Former state senator Lynn Newbry is coordinating its preparation, and may stay on as a top aide, bringing another breath of conservatism to the office.

Personnel appointments are proceeding at about two a day, and so far they bear out Atiyeh's promise not to make a general purge of Straub appointees.

Although Richard Davis and Robert Burco, directors of the Departments of Human Resources and Transportation have given notice to quit, William Young, director of the Department of Environmental Quality, has been asked to stay.

In re-appointing Young, Atiyeh must have found a man who would adopt his own stance of wanting to "fight the interference of the federal Environmental Protection Agency."

That stance matches another Atiyeh-ism: "We want government regulation — not strangulation."

But the appointment process is far from completed. With department heads and deputy directors trotting into his office at the rate of one every half-hour, many positions are left to be filled.

The morning after his election, Atiyeh met with executives of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power and Light. The hastily convened conference led to speculation that more utilities people would find key jobs in the Department of Energy, the state Energy Facility Siting Council and the Public Utilities Commissioner's office — all agencies Atiyeh vowed to examine if elected.

Washington's pro-nuclear power Gov. Dixie Lee Ray said Atiyeh's views are more like her own than Straub's were and added she is looking forward to working with Oregon's governor-elect.

Another department at which Atiyeh is taking aim is Human Resources, an umbrella agency created in 1971 to administer more than 200 programs.

"I will consider a break-up of Human Resources," Atiyeh said before and after the election. Straub, who sits a floor below Atiyeh's transition office in the Capitol, claims the idea is a poor one, the utterance of a candidate looking for the votes of frustrated taxpayers.

"A break-up would be a mistake," says Straub flatly. "If you make those agencies autonomous, each director has to go straight to the governor. And believe me, he hasn't got that kind of time."

Taking over Vic Atiyeh moves in, so does conservatism

Atiyeh has used such terms as "the voluntary poor" to describe the people aided by Human Resources. Outgoing resources director Davis, however, claims the agency serves those in need.

Oregonians "in need," who didn't speak loud enough to be heard, may get the biggest boot of all from the Atiyeh administration. In the middle of the "Great Tax-Cut Panic," The Poor People's Coalition isn't what it used to be.

During the campaign, Atiyeh promised to come back to the voters with a "cleaned-up 6," regardless of the fate of Ballot Measure 6. The measure failed, as Atiyeh had predicted it might, and a few days after his election, he unveiled what will be his first order of business as governor.

The new, improved version retains the 1.5 percent limitation for owner-occupied homes, but assesses property tax for business at the current level — a feature not contained in the original measure.

Additionally, his tax-cut proposal would freeze assessments at 1977-78 levels, "accommodate" renters and mobile-home owners (also lacking in Measure 6), and require either a two-thirds or simple majority vote to enact new taxes — depending on in which part of the state he's speaking.

In Eugene recently, (where he claimed to favor a simple majority on the matter), Atiyeh said, "One way to make sure voter discontentment doesn't happen again is to give the people what they want."

Even more recently, he told a Portland audience (where he mentioned that a two-thirds majority would be pushed), "A

wave of conservatism is sweeping Oregon."

That wave swept Vic Atiyeh into office. An editorial in the Portland Oregonian, which like most of the state's newspapers, endorsed Atiyeh, proclaimed, "He was not elected to try out new programs or build-up state services."

During the campaign, Atiyeh talked of no proposals to increase state services. To the contrary, he blasted Straub for allowing the state's budget to double during his term.

Atiyeh, a businessman from Beaverton, scored points by advocating better management of government. In the period since his election, he has maintained this theme.

More than a few were surprised then when Atiyeh recently stated, "I have programs I want to do... new directions." He has not elaborated on where these "new directions" might lead.

During his 20 years in the Oregon Legislature, he may have seen areas where he thought changes could be made. As governor, he'll have more tools with which to implement programs and apparently plans to use them.

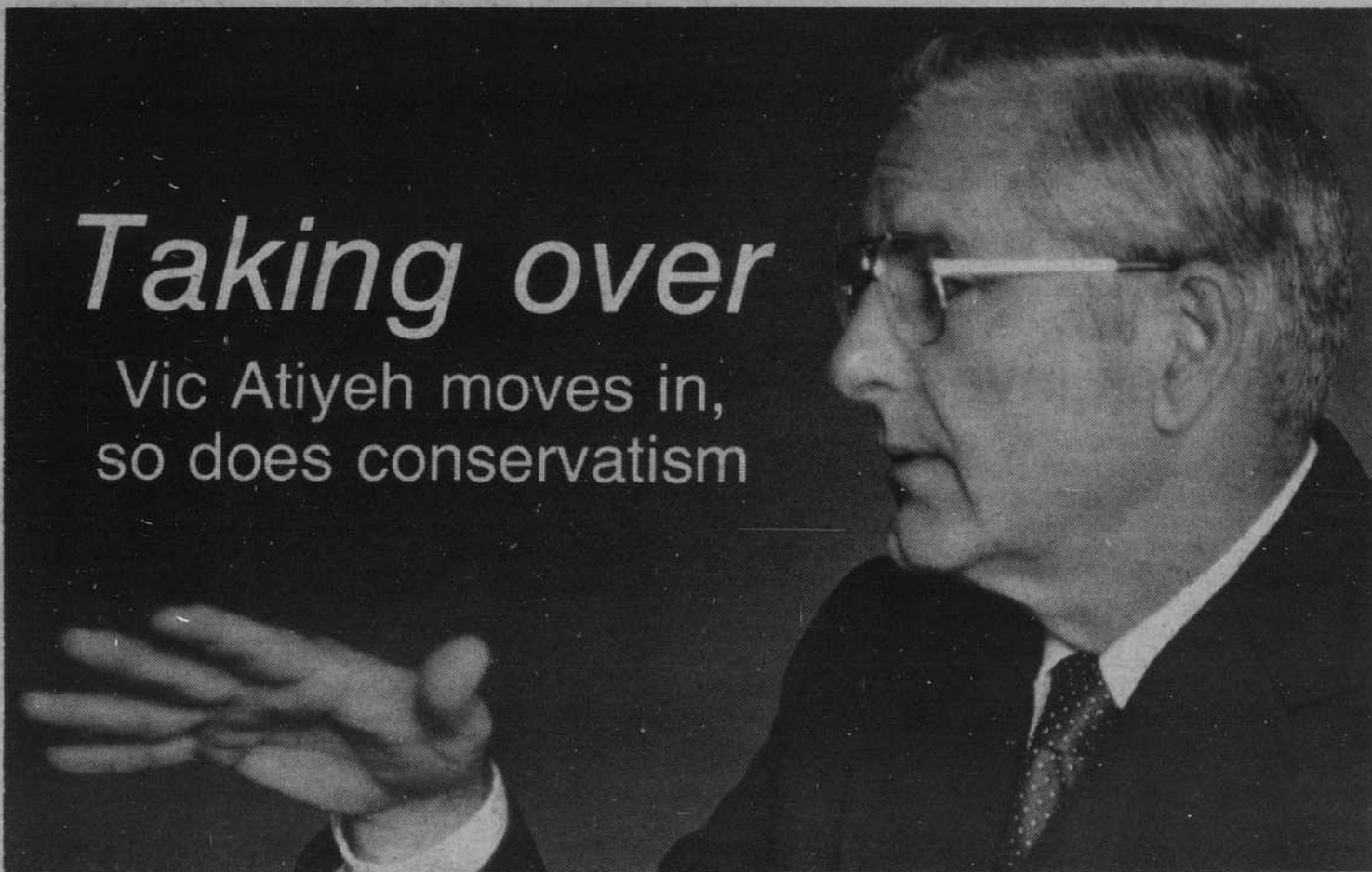
To Atiyeh, it's all a little like the football game he never played in at Oregon. He sat on the sidelines most of the 1944 season until the coach asked him if he wanted to play in the final game.

Just when he was about to take the field, a teammate convinced the coach not to put Vic in because it would waste a year's eligibility.

"I could have cried," he said of that moment.

The traumas of Oregon football and campaigning for governor are behind him now.

"Here I am," says Atiyeh. "Finally in the game."



today

Judging from their faces, desk tops were designed for more than taking notes. Story on Page 6A.

Oregon Flying Ducks have been tough national competitors for several years. Today's Emerald Sports examines the team's chances for continued success.

In 1925 there weren't many woman doctors in Oregon. But more than that has changed during the 40 years since Marion Hayes started her career as a University physician. See Page 16A.