

Anti-nuke advocate raps new energy compromise

By JACK CONDLIFFE
Of the Emerald

Legislation that puts a year-long moratorium on the Energy Facility Siting Council's Pebble Springs decision "is a farce," anti-nuclear advocate Lloyd Marbet said on campus Monday night as part of the Survival Center's Earth Week.

"We're throwing into the breach people who don't have experience," Marbet said of the compromise, which the Oregon Senate passed Monday, allowing Gov. Vic Atiyeh to make new appointments to the EFSC in return for the moratorium.

Marbet, an intervenor in the Pebble Springs hearing process, noted that the present members of EFSC have heard 12,000 pages of testimony and examined 208 exhibits.

Marbet questioned both Atiyeh's integrity in making the appointments and his impartiality. Marbet said that before Atiyeh's election last November, the governor promised not to influence the EFSC in any way and then broke that promise soon after he took office.

"Atiyeh's first meeting as governor was with the utilities," Marbet said. "The next thing he did was to remove council members."

Marbet said one of those participants, Bill Luch, a Portland longshoreman, was initially a supporter of Pebble Springs. However, when Luch studied the problems of nuclear waste disposal, he became more skeptical of the twin nuclear reactors, Marbet said.

"Slowly, slowly, the realization began to dawn on (Luch)," Marbet said. "He finally said

last year, 'This waste disposal problem's a mess.'"

Marbet said the biggest problem in fighting the development of nuclear power is that "everybody thinks we're dealing with a proven technology." But he added, "They've been telling us for 30 years they're going to solve waste disposal, and we still don't have it."

Nuclear plant safety is also a vital concern, he said. The movie "China Syndrome" is not far off in portraying the greed of utilities as overriding any concern for safety.

He said the Three Mile Island plant was rife with problems in initial tests, but opened anyway last Dec. 30 so that Metropolitan Edison could save \$5 million on its 1978 income taxes.

Marbet also discussed the regional energy bill introduced by Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson, D-Wash., during his one-hour speech. Jackson's bill allows the Bonneville Power Administration to pre-purchase power generated by nuclear plants. The BPA would have to pay whether or not the plants actually generate electricity.

Marbet added that the five plants which the Washington Public Power Supply System, a consortium of Washington utilities, is constructing have already caused BPA's wholesale rates to increase 50 percent because of a similar pre-purchase plan.

Because the BPA is essentially paying for the WPPSS plants, the utilities have no economic restraints to control the cost of the plants, according to Marbet.

(Continued from Page 1)

Lobbyists

have made us all mediocre."

The OSL's 1978-79 operating budget is \$42,513, funded by incidental fees from students at the state's seven higher education institutions. It is this link that Friedman says justifies "going public" with remarks on the student lobby effort.

"It's important that students know what is going on with their money," Friedman says. "There's a dangerous tendency to believe that student government officials don't have much power. But those people are dealing with a lot of money and are involved with real law-making."

Friedman now feels that her job would have been easier and more effective, "if I'd never had to work with the OSL at all. Far from the opponents of HB 2831 being the cause of my resignation, it was the people who were supposedly on our side."

Friedman's comments come only two weeks after the resignation of Molly Smith, OSL legislative coordinator. Dissension in the OSL office fanned by a lack of clarification in job duties contributed to Smith's departure as well as her own, Friedman says.

Friedman's broadsides are disputed by many of those still involved in promoting student interests at the Capitol — particularly her linking Smith's resignation with her own.

"Ronnie's quitting had nothing to do with Molly's," states Jim Bernau, executive coordinator of the OSL.

He says Friedman's comments "amazed me" and notes, "Ronnie really had no contact with the OSL. She wasn't a staff member and she made sure she wouldn't have to have contact with me."

"She made it clear the first week that she was going to do things her way and my suggestions were considered interference," Bernau says. He adds that he had no contact with Friedman during the five weeks preceding her resignation.

"The real answer to this is in the minutes of the executive session meetings," Bernau advises. Those records show that the level of internal dissent described by Friedman are "fabrications," he says.

The minutes, although open to the public, cannot be printed, according to Oregon law.

"This whole matter can be better talked about in terms of

performance evaluation than personalities," Bernau maintains. "Five days before the first course evaluation hearing, the bill was a sure die in committee. Only then, when Ronnie quit, did I look into that issue since she had taken it herself. I picked it up and ran with it and because of those efforts, the situation is completely reversed."

But Bernau declines to elaborate on the specifics of Friedman's charges, alluding to a directive from the OSL board prohibiting him from commenting publicly on the matter.

David Jennings, the ASUO lobbyist hired with Friedman, supports Bernau's contentions.

"There was no direct connection that I know of between their resignations," Jennings says. "But Ronnie's perception in this, I think, was not all that accurate. She got most of her information after work over drinks."

During a three-week stretch when Bernau was hospitalized with bleeding ulcers, Jennings was "on loan" to the OSL office. Friedman, he says, was at the capital most of that time lobbying, and out of touch with the matters she has since blasted.

Will pizza lure votes?

Candidates and issues don't seem to interest or attract student voters, so the ASUO has turned to pizza and canoes to lure students to voting booths this election.

Students who vote in the primary election Wednesday and Thursday will receive coupons entitling them to a free half-hour of canoeing and a \$1 discount on a pizza from Mazzi's.

"It's just a way of getting students to look at the (ASUO) voter's guide and make good decisions," says Randy Rotsell, an ASUO election board member.

Rotsell says the coupons are also an attempt by the ASUO to promote the elections and re-evaluate students' needs.

"It shows that we're desperate," he says, adding that perhaps students need an incentive such as the coupons to get them interested in voting. But not everyone is delighted

with Rotsell's coupons. Mike Lockwood, ASUO executive coordinator, says they have no place in the elections.

Rotsell, however, has no qualms about using coupons as a voting bribe if student turnout increases. "Student participation in elections has gone downhill in the last few years. We're ready to try anything to get people interested in the issues."

While the ASUO is soliciting votes through coupons, it is also reducing elections costs, Lockwood says.

The voter's guide is being printed once instead of twice as in previous years, computer ballots will be used, and booth hours will be reduced from 10 to six hours.

The ASUO has also reduced the amount of money candidates can spend on the election to \$200 for presidential candidates and \$85 for EMU Board and Student University Affairs Board candidates.



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