

Rep says he might fill Morse's shoes

Stories by KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

Sen. Wayne Morse's shoes have gone unfilled for too long, and U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., says he might be the one to fill them.

He emphasizes the word "might." "Inasmuch as Morse wasn't controlled by special interests, yes, I can fill his shoes," he says, "because I am not controlled by any special interests."

Weaver, who was in Eugene this week to tour his Fourth Congressional District, says it is now time to replace incumbent Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., with someone "more in the tradition of Morse." Who that will be, however, isn't yet clear.

Weaver told the Lane County Labor Forum Tuesday afternoon that Packwood has not been properly represent-

ing the people of Oregon. He criticized Packwood's voting record as well as his Senate attendance during several "tough votes."

One of those votes came earlier this month, when Packwood was one of only two senators to miss a vote on gasoline rationing. Packwood said he had outside conflicts.

Morse served in the Senate from 1948 to 1968, when Packwood took advantage of a divided Democratic party to unseat him. Morse died in 1974 during his attempt to retake the Senate seat, which many Democrats still believe should belong to someone with Morse's political savvy.

How Weaver plans to fill Morse's shoes is still a mystery. Although he has hinted several times about a possible challenge to Oregon's junior senator, publicly he has disavowed any intentions

tions of running for the Senate.

"I very much don't want to run for the Senate," he said. "I go over there to the Senate only when I have to, and all I see are over there are dandified prigs."

However, sources close to Weaver say he is "looking seriously" at his chances in a Senate race against Packwood.

Because of his connection to several "special interest groups," Packwood is not being as effective as he could for the people of Oregon, Weaver said.

During a speech earlier this year, Weaver said Packwood had not done the job he was elected to do and should be replaced, and during a speech before a Medford business luncheon three months ago, Weaver hinted that he might try to unseat Packwood in the November 1980 election.



U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver

Weaver: U.S. should become grain 'OPEC'

Using a bit of political sleight of hand, U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., says a bill he introduced earlier this month might help ease the U.S. balance of trade while helping the economies of Third World countries.

The bill is a proposal to make the United States the "OPEC of Grain," Weaver says, and will allow U.S. grain, now sold cheaply on the international market, to be set at world prices.

"With gasoline prices now skyrocketing because of OPEC price hikes, it is time to take bold steps to improve our balance of payments deficit," Weaver says.

Weaver, in Eugene this week for a tour of the Fourth Congressional District, is

gathering support for the grain bill, which will face committee action next month.

Weaver introduced the bill into the House of Representatives earlier this month as a way to control inflation. The United States currently spends at least nine times more for oil than other nations do for American wheat, Weaver says, which contributes to inflation.

The United States now exports more than half of the grain on the international market, which could put us in a better bargaining position for foreign oil, he says. Two gallons of gasoline equal one bushel of wheat, which also causes problems for American farmers.

"When we run out of oil we'll run out of

wheat," he predicts. "I'm just talking about putting us back in the balance of trade."

If the international market could set the price of U.S. wheat, increases could benefit Third World nations by raising revenue from wheat already exported by those countries, Weaver says.

Although countries that receive U.S. wheat as part of aid would not be forced to pay the higher prices, other Third World nations would be able to use their increased revenue to grow crops for their own countries.

"The best way we can help the people of those countries is to help them grow the food indigenous to their own lands."

"I am not saying that we should use

our grain as an economic weapon. I am only saying that we shouldn't allow our farmers and our nation to be robbed on the high seas."

Weaver is confident the bill will reach the House floor for a vote before the end of the year. The bill will be the subject of hearings before the Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains in Washington, D.C., the first week in June.

So far the bill has been supported by the National Agriculture Movement, a nationwide group of farmers and grain dealers.

A similar bill to establish a five-year grain reserve in the United States was squashed earlier this year.

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Viet vets week (Continued from Page 3)

because of his disability. His payments remained reduced. "He just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time."

The veterans say they haven't received the recognition veterans of other conflicts found upon returning home. They say the Vietnam War still looms in the American consciousness and that the issues it raised remain unsolved.

"I'd like to see more awareness of the draft and what we did in Vietnam," says David Pahle.

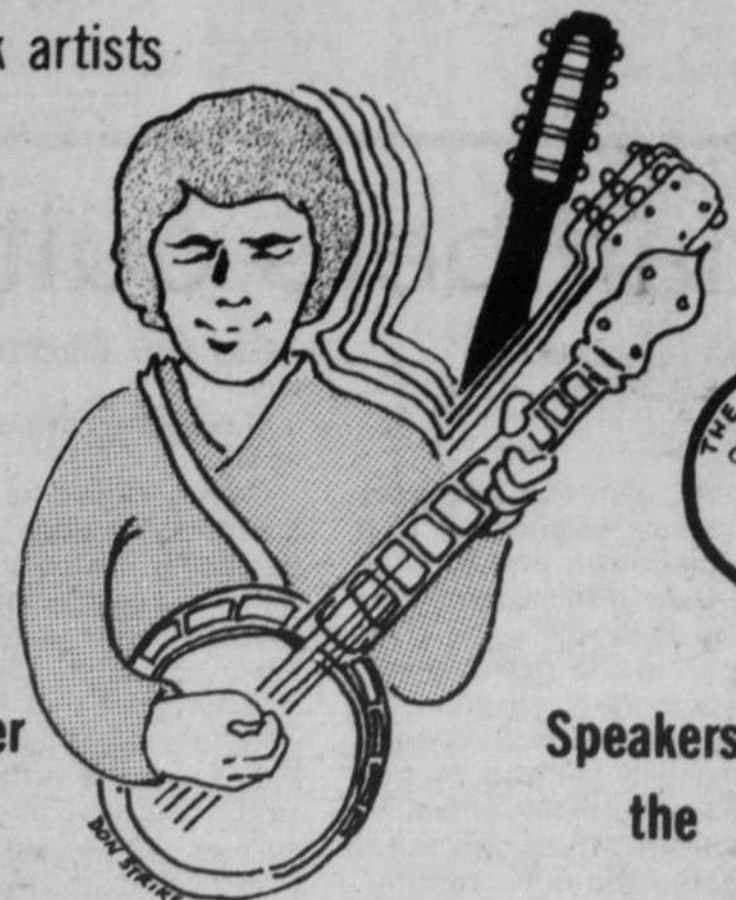
Engle says he'd like to see other groups on campus exploring war and peace issues. Now it's the UVA members talking about those issues, and "it always sounds like we're tooting our own horn."

Lawrence adds that he hopes the week leads individuals to think about Vietnam and the possibility of future conflicts. "I think people should ask themselves what they'd do if they were faced with a war."

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