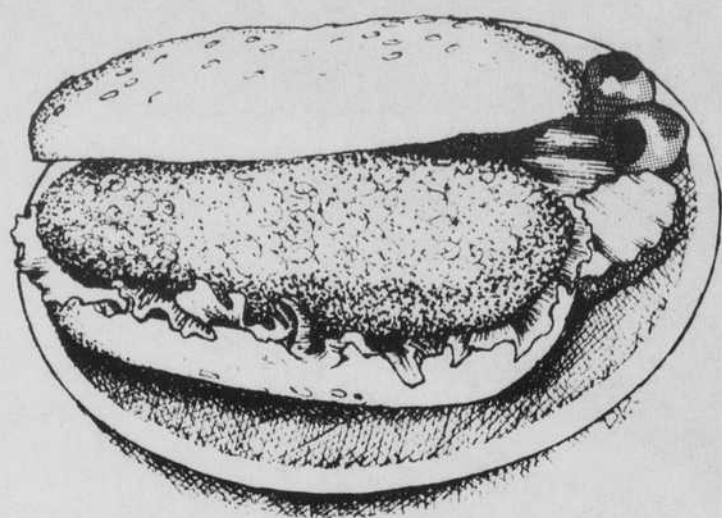




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Denny Smith

Photo by Dennis Tachibana

Denny Smith speaks out for offshore oil drilling

By **JOHN MILLS**
Of the Emerald

Efforts by interior secretary James Watt to reopen the northern California coastline to offshore oil drilling were supported by the newest member of Oregon's congressional delegation at a Eugene press conference Thursday.

Denny Smith was elected to Oregon's Second District last fall in his first attempt at public office. The 43-year-old Republican narrowly defeated Al Ullman, a 24-year incumbent and

chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Oregonians should "find a way to share" Oregon's offshore oil reserves with the rest of the country," Smith said. He is "tired of the blackmail from OPEC" and thinks Oregon's oil resources "shouldn't be set aside."

Environmentalists have raised the specter of offshore oil spills, a question raised at the press conference.

"We can't protect against everything," Smith said. "There are natural faults greater than those caused by man."

Smith said he favors the licensing of 12 nuclear plants now before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, including the controversial Diablo Canyon plant in California.

"No one wants to be downstream of a dam with a leak in it," he said, but a "lack of leadership and bureaucratic bungling" at the NRC have impeded moving ahead with nuclear power.

While Smith doesn't think nuclear plants should be approved without public hearings, he said that the United States is "the only industrial nation not pressing ahead with nuclear power."

Smith sits on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which oversees the NRC and the Interior Department.

Smith also sits on the Veterans Affairs Committee. He is "greatly concerned" about delayed stress syndrome and feels veterans should be given a chance to re-adjust.

The "unreality of the Vietnam War" has meant that some veterans "find themselves in the combat zone one day and the next day they're in San Francisco," he said.

He added that outreach programs for Vietnam veterans were short-term, but that Pres. Ronald Reagan is "committed to help these people."

Smith also addressed the question of gun control, saying too many politicians are trying to make "political hay" out of the issue. Criminals should be controlled instead, he said.

Smith, a member of the National Rifle Association, said that if guns should be registered then knives should be too.

The message of a press conference next Tuesday in Washington, D.C. will be that it is "time to play hardball" in the fight to approve Reagan's budget, Smith said. He said Reagan will autograph a baseball to make the point.

Smith said he thought several Democrats would cross over party lines and support the President if House Majority Leader Tip O'Neill "doesn't blackmail them into following the Democratic line."

emu Cultural Forum

Jim Hightower

- Author, **Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times** and **Eat Your Heart Out**
- President of Texas Consumer Association
- Former Director of Agribusiness Accountability Project, Washington D.C.



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- Speaking on "Politics of Food" and highlighting El Salvador**

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The SRI CHINMOY CENTRE of Eugene will be offering a **free** 5 week class in meditation beginning Monday, April 27th at 7:00 pm. This term our first two classes will be held in the EMU Forum Room. There is no charge for any meditation classes offered by the SRI CHINMOY CENTRE.

**For more information
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