

Wants racism foremost

Atiyeh won't include gays in bill

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM — Gov. Vic Atiyeh reiterated his opposition to the inclusion of gays in his anti-harassment bill covering racial and religious persecution at his weekly press conference Thursday.

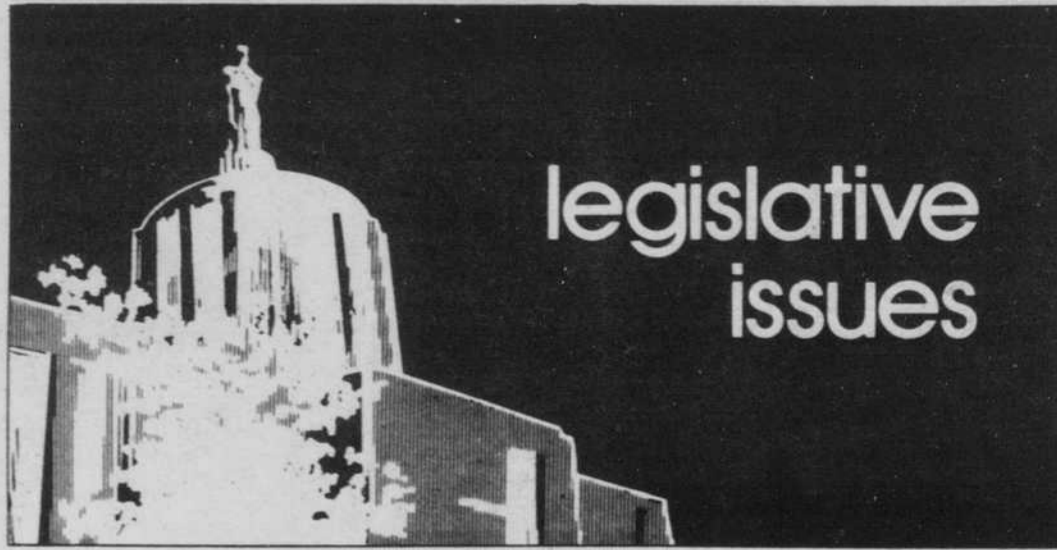
Atiyeh faced down the argument that the bill should be expanded to include sexual orientation.

"I have strongly resisted such an addition and will continue to do so," the governor said. "I do not believe there is a place in law or regulation for sexual orientation."

Atiyeh said that additions to the bill would diffuse his efforts to focus sharply on racial and religious discrimination. He said he realizes there are anti-gay activities but emphasized there is discrimination of all kinds.

"There is discrimination against those with long hair, short hair, saggy clothes, and suits, like myself. But you can't erase that by law. It's a mental attitude," Atiyeh said.

Tuesday, the House refused to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting congressional representation to Washington, D.C. The measure, which already has been approved by the senate, would add Oregon to the small list of states that have ratified the amendment.



The amendment would have to gain final approval by three fourths of the states to become law. House majority leader Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, a past resident of Washington, D.C., argued that the issue of representation for the nation's capitol is a simple one.

"You start from the point that all citizens of the U.S. should be represented in Congress — and I think the vast majority of people in this country would agree — then that carries you to the inescapable conclusion for representa-

tion for the District of Columbia," Kerans said.

Detractors of the legislation questioned the advisability of adding more voices to Congress.

"If you add more players to the game, you make it more difficult to win," Rep. Glenn Otto, D-Troutdale, said.

Rather than defeat the measure, the House sent the proposed amendment to the Elections Committee for further study.

Across the rotunda, Sen. Ted Hallock,

D-Portland, took advantage of the meeting to publicly lambaste Rep. Republican Denny Smith, R-Ore.

Hallock heads the Senate Energy Committee and wrote Oregon's congressional delegation asking that he be kept informed of developments on the national level.

Smith responded that his office is open to all Oregonians, "including those who oppose meeting our projected shortage of electricity by allowing construction of planned generation facilities," a reference to Hallock's opposition to construction of more nuclear plants.

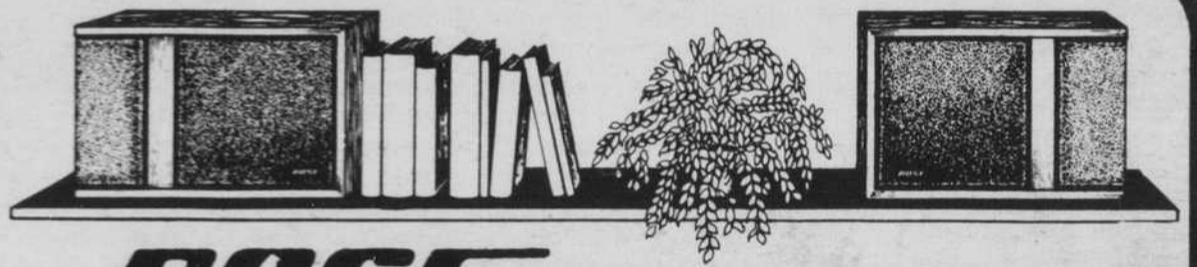
Hallock informed the body that he'll respond with a letter cataloging the economic and safety perils of nuclear power.

"I'll probably conclude by thanking Smith for his cooperation and tell him that my office is open, too, even to bull-headed former airline pilots who condemn people to death without trial and who advocate energy generation that makes a rattlesnake look like a honeybee."

Hallock's reference to condemning people refers to Smith's statement that Pres. Reagan's accused attacker, John Hinckley, should be shot. When asked about a trial for Hinckley, Smith responded that we should try him first and then shoot him.

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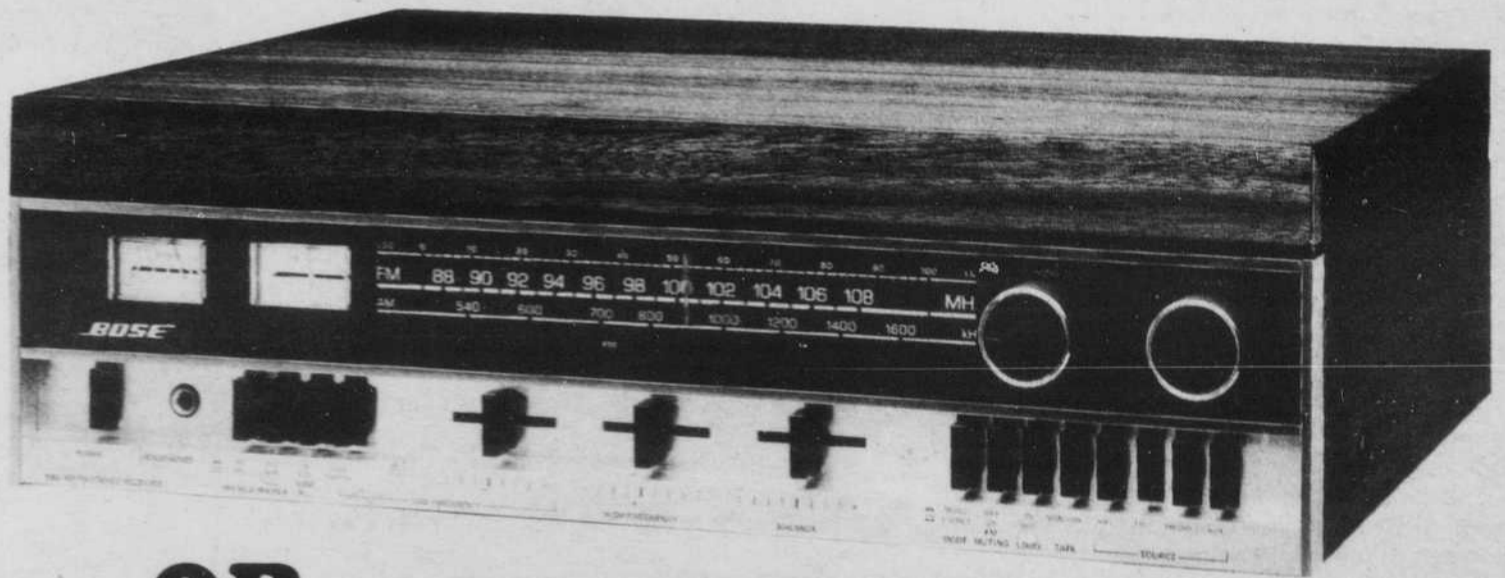


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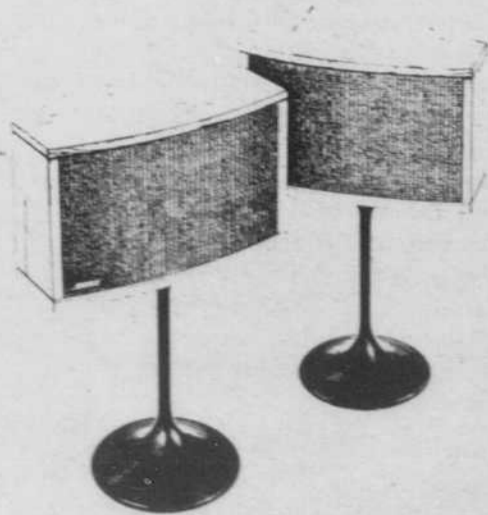
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