

Tells legislators to 'cool it'

Atiyeh criticizes Senate vote

Salem (AP) — Republican Gov. Vic Atiyeh soundly chastised the Democrat-controlled Legislature Thursday for voting down his budget plan as a partisan "political ploy."

"It's so bald," Atiyeh told reporters. "It's absolutely appalling what they did last night."

Atiyeh proposed \$120 million in budget cuts plus other adjustments in state spending and revenue to prevent a projected \$247 million state deficit. As the Legislature neared the end of its second week in special session, the Senate met Wednesday night and trounced the governor's \$120 million budget bill in a 20-10 vote.

The Senate vote was considered largely symbolic since Ways and Means subcommittees already have said they cannot support the level of cuts Atiyeh recommends. The subcommittees proposed a \$63 million reduction — about half as much as the governor wanted.

The difference could be made

up by a tax measure, but the House leadership has been unable to round up enough votes to pass an income tax surcharge or a property tax relief cut.

The House Revenue Committee was considering an attempt to get the proposed 5-percent income tax surcharge out of committee. Some lawmakers said the measure might be linked to a proposal to give Oregonians the same breaks on state taxes as on federal taxes for investments in individual retirement accounts (IRAs). The strategy is to entice some Republicans to support the surtax bill.

Senate Pres. Fred Heard and House Speaker Hardy Myers have been asking Atiyeh to give them a list detailing his differences with the budget subcommittee recommendations. They said they hoped the Senate vote would convince the governor to respond.

"I'm not coming up with a next plan and that doesn't por-



tray to you inflexibility," Atiyeh said. "They don't like my plan. Therefore it is up to them to deliver their plan."

The governor said if the senators were trying to give him a signal, it "certainly missed the mark."

"What kind of message are they trying to deliver? I can't fathom the message," Atiyeh said.

He said he had served in the Oregon Legislature 20 years before becoming governor and had never seen the Senate en-

gaging in such obvious partisan politics or "demeaning itself so much as it did" Wednesday night.

Atiyeh told the Senate to "cool it."

In response to a question, the governor said consciously or subconsciously re-election hopes have got to be an influence on himself and many other lawmakers.

However, he said a lid should be kept on politics.

"I haven't worked this into a strategy for the campaign," said Atiyeh, who hopes to win election to a second term.

He said he has invested a lot of personal emotions and time to deal with the state's budget problems during his first term and hopes to enjoy a second term in which the state will return to prosperity.

"I hate like the devil to think I've gone through all this pain and torture and some other governor will be elected and enjoy the good times," Atiyeh said.

Legislature initiates changes in tax laws

Salem (AP) — The Legislature completed action Thursday on bills to raise interest rates on past due taxes and to disqualify some renters from receiving state property tax relief.

Both Senate-passed measures approved Thursday by the House and sent to Gov. Vic Atiyeh were requested by the governor as part of his budget-balancing plan.

Together the changes would save the state an estimated \$2 million in the 1982-83 fiscal year.

One bill (SB980) would increase the interest charged on delinquent state taxes, starting July 1, from 12 to 18 percent a year. The measure also would authorize the Revenue Department to annually adjust the interest charge based on prevailing interest rates.

The major effect of the other bill (HB3299) would be to disqualify renters from receiving property tax relief checks if they move out of state before the end

of the year.

The measure would require renters to be residents on Dec. 31 of a year in which they seek tax relief under a program that pays relief to households with annual incomes of less than \$17,500.

Backers of the bill argue that the state no longer can afford to pay tax relief to college students and other renters who leave the state.

Another provision of the bill would add some kinds of income to that which must be included in figuring eligibility for tax relief. Money given by parents to children who maintain separate households, for example, would have to be included in the children's total household income.

The House initially wanted to put the income provisions into effect this year. But the Senate disagreed on grounds that too many changes this year would confuse taxpayers and cause administrative problems.

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