

# emerald

## State deficit may jump \$100 million

### Legislators recess til Tuesday

**SALEM (AP)** — Stunned by projections of a substantial jump in Oregon's estimated budget deficit, the Legislature recessed Tuesday for a week to await a new forecast of the state's sagging tax income.

During their 23rd day in special session called to erase a potential \$238 million deficit, lawmakers were dealt a jolting setback by new projections that another \$100 million or more could be added to the deficit estimate.

For the past 3½ weeks, leaders were unable to break a stalemate in the House over a budget-balancing plan. And for four hours Tuesday, the House could not decide whether a

recess was appropriate.

But the House finally voted 47-12 to recess, passing a resolution making lawmakers ineligible for their \$44 per day in expenses during the interim. The Senate quickly agreed.

"The goal line has been moved," said House Majority Leader Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene. "The goal line, ladies and gentlemen, is out there in the fog."

Some House Republicans wanted to stay in session and work on budgets, even with no firm estimate on a possible additional deficit.

Rep. John Schoon, R-Rickreall, said lawmakers should dig in their heels and wrestle with



hard decisions immediately.

"I think we're looking at a very serious, very long-term problem," he said.

And in the Senate, L.B. Day, R-Salem, tried unsuccessfully to send the recess resolution to committee to reword it and force the lawmakers to stay in session without receiving expense pay.

"I do not believe walking away at this time is what's ex-

pected of us by the people of this state," Day said.

The Senate voted 18-6 to recess, with all the negative votes from Republicans.

Sen. Tony Meeker, R-Amity, said recessing the session was an overreaction to mere rumors about possible revenue declines.

"The panic that has set in today is premature and inexcusable," he said.

Meeker said the real reason for the recess was a lack of votes in the House to pass any budget-balancing plan.

House Revenue Committee Chairman Bill Grannell said the Legislature's Revenue Office estimated, from a preliminary study of new data, an additional potential deficit of about \$90 million.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh said earlier in the day that the additional deficit could range from \$5 million to \$150 million.

"At this point in time it's anyone's guess," Atiyeh said.

The Oregon Economic Advisors Council on Economic Advisors would meet Wednesday to consider new figures on a projected downturn in wages, salaries and income taxes. A firmer projection of the deficit is expected Monday, when House and Senate revenue committees are scheduled to meet.

Both the House and Senate scheduled sessions for Tuesday.

The lawmakers convened Jan. 18 to deal with a deficit estimated at about \$238 million. Until Tuesday, the House has been deadlocked on whether to raise taxes to help balance the budget. The Senate had approved \$62 million in budget cuts, or about half the amount proposed by Atiyeh.

But various tax-raising measures to balance the budget were stalled in the House. A joint House-Senate conference committee met briefly Tuesday to look for an income tax increase small enough to garner House approval and end the budget-balancing stalemate.

## Bike experiment in review process

By Paul Strand  
Of the Emerald

The ongoing University bicycle "experiment" has entered its public review phase and efforts now are being made to get comments on the current bikeway system, University planners say.

The experiment began last term when the University passed a law restricting cyclists to "designated bicycle routes and on streets generally available to vehicular traffic" between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays. Since then signs and paint have been used to encourage cyclists not to mix with pedestrians.

So far the restrictions haven't been backed by formal enforcement. When the campus planning committee proposed the trial, it added its hope that the regulations would be "largely self-enforcing in that bicyclists will find designated routes safer and more open and that pedestrians will gently but firmly call attention to bikers who have strayed from the bike routes."

Now the University wants to hear if people like the current system or want changes.

The planning committee also asked for a public review this term so students and faculty could have a voice in making

the final decision about the prohibition.

Tim Mitchell of the University's transportation subcommittee says he is placing boxes around campus where people can deposit comments. Those who want to call in their comments can talk to David Rowe of campus planning at 686-5243.

Mitchell also hopes to set up a table at 13th and University where people can give their opinions and ideas.

The subcommittee wants to find out if campus members think bikes on campus sidewalks are a problem and if they know riding on sidewalks is presently prohibited, Mitchell says. Some of the questions he is asking are: Do people find the new bike routes adequate? If not, where do they think changes should be made?

The subcommittee will review the comments and possibly call a public meeting to give students and faculty one more chance to speak out, Mitchell says. Then the subcommittee will pass its proposals to the planning committee.

Currently, one path connects Kincaid and University Streets behind the library and Gerlinger Annex and another winds between the dorms, under the EMU, down to Lawrence and out to Franklin Boulevard.



The University is assessing the effectiveness of bicycle paths that come complete with small traffic signs.

Another stretches in front of the library to connect Kincaid Street and the road by Susan Campbell Hall.

The section of 13th Avenue closed to cars still is open to bikes.

The experiment evolved from a much tougher proposal Prof. Ron Sherriffs of the speech department brought before the subcommittee in February, 1981.

He asked that group to completely prohibit cyclists from he called "pedestrian sidewalks" during school hours.

"There was a hazard," Sherriffs explains, noting in his area of the campus "the cyclists were like so many sharks. We've had more than our share of students and faculty being bumped by bikes."

The University was in a "terribly weak position" if a pedestrian should decide to sue the University after being hit by a bicyclist, Sherriffs says.

"Now we're not liable — at least we don't think we are."

Actually, the University's liability in this area always has been unclear. Eugene bike

coordinator Charles Nordgaard points to a line in the city code that says "on a sidewalk the bicyclist must yield to pedestrians." The University is "probably covered under that," Nordgaard says.

Nordgaard opposed Sherriffs' original hard-line proposal because it "contradicted the goals of the Eugene Bicycle Committee. We do not favor discouraging bicycle usage."

Nordgaard is now happy since changes were made in the proposal. He thinks the campus experiment is "pretty positive."

Sherriffs says he doesn't mind the modifications in his plan. The newly marked lanes are anything but restrictive, he says, and they allow bicyclists to reach "virtually every building on campus."

Former transportation subcommittee member Steven Brye says students "should try these marked bike lanes and think about them. Can they live being restricted to these? Do they want any at all?"

Brye says he hopes campus members will take advantage of this "opportunity to comment" while they have it.

### Poulton seeks chancellor job at two schools

**CONCORD, N.H. (AP)** — Bruce Poulton, chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire, is a finalist for similar jobs in Oregon and North Carolina, officials in those states say.

The Oregon System of Higher Education on Monday said Poulton, 54, is one of five candidates for chancellor of the system.

Saturday, the North Carolina State University Board of Trustees named Poulton as one of two finalists for chancellor of North Carolina State University. Sources have told The News and Observer of Raleigh, N.C., that Poulton is favored for the post.

A spokesman at New Hampshire university system offices in Lee, N.H. last week said Poulton would have no comment on the North Carolina job. Monday night, Poulton was not available for comment.

Further action is expected on the North Carolina job Friday when William C. Friday, university system president, submits one of the finalist's names to the Board of Governors for approval.

The Oregon Board of Higher Education intends to choose a new chancellor by March 1. Poulton and the four other finalists for that job were chosen from among 140 applications and nominations.

# RATERS

## OF THE LAST PIZZA

An expert crew of pizza tasters searched the University neighborhood to find that perfect pie. The 10 of pizza pleasure.

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