

Deficit rises \$100 million; Atiyeh submits proposals

Salem (AP) — Gov. Vic Atiyeh planned to submit new proposals to the Legislature today to deal with a projected budget deficit that soared by almost \$100 million in an updated forecast issued Monday.

The governor said Monday he was considering numerous revenue-raising measures to help erase a potential deficit now estimated at \$337 million in the current two-year budget.

Atiyeh said he won't propose additional state agency spending cuts beyond the \$120 million

he sought when the lawmakers began their special session Jan. 18.

The Legislature was to reconvene today after a week-long recess sparked by preliminary reports of the deepening budget crunch.

The lawmakers were deadlocked in a largely partisan struggle over whether to raise income taxes when they recessed Tuesday.

Chang Sohn, economist for the state Executive Department, told a joint meeting of the House

and Senate revenue committees Monday that the projected deficit is \$99.8 million larger than was previously estimated, mainly because of declining estimates of income tax collections.

Atiyeh didn't specify what new measures he had in mind but indicated that reducing state property tax relief was a possibility.

"I'm looking at everything," he told a news conference.

Legislative leaders said they might adjourn the special session while committees work on a new budget-balancing plan and ask Atiyeh to convene a new session in a week or two.

Adjourning the session would eliminate a legal obstacle confronting lawmakers seeking donations for the May primary election.

State law forbids legislators from soliciting campaign money from lobbyists during legislative sessions. The Legislature technically remains in session during recesses but not if the session adjourns and reconvenes later.

House Speaker Hardy Myers, D-Portland, and Senate President Fred Heard, D-Klamath Falls, said they wouldn't decide whether to adjourn and let most legislators go home for awhile until they knew details of Atiyeh's recommendations.

Heard and Myers said some lawmakers fear that the budget crunch may get even worse, but the governor disagreed.

"I think this projection is pretty close to the worst case," Atiyeh said.

Potatoes touted as aphrodisiacs

AMHERST, Mass. (AP) — Oysters, vitamin E, ground rhinoceros horn — all have been touted as aphrodisiacs. But potatoes?

George Armelagos, professor of anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, says the English used to believe just that.

"When the potato was introduced into Europe it was considered an aphrodisiac," anthropology professor George Armelagos says.

Armelagos says the plant's "tuberous" shape had something to do with the notion, but there was further evidence.

"After it became a major food crop in Ireland," he says, "the population increased at a very rapid rate, and the English took that as proof of the potato's aphrodisiac properties. They were convinced that eating the potato was increasing the sexual activity of the population."

As for the rhinoceros, he noted the tubed process of the horn. "The rhinoceros horn is a very hard substance," Armelagos says. "One of the key reasons in such folklore is that the rhinoceros horn is a very hard substance and that might be

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rates will not be known until they go on sale in late March.

All schools share in paying only the interest on bonds, which are purchased by the general public. PSU pays off its bond and must provide \$600,000 in "up-front" money to guarantee interest will be paid for 2½ years, Perry says.

Students at the University only help pay the interest, not the loan's principle, he says.

Hertz says the remodeling will

affect PSU dorm rates much more than University dorm rates. PSU rates will increase an average of \$10 per month next year, he says.

"It isn't like we're just passing all our risk out to everyone else," Hertz says.

Housing demand remains high at PSU, he says, with 903

students living in the sleeping rooms and apartments during the fall term, and an equal number on waiting lists.

Most PSU students prefer single rooms and no roommates, Hertz says.

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