

State leaders respond to Atiyeh

SALEM (AP) — The governor's blueprint to erase the state's huge deficit has drawn lukewarm support from top legislative leaders and assurances that it could add several more days to the record-length special session.

"The whole program is going to be debated," said Senate Pres. Fred Heard, D-Klamath Falls.

"I don't want to set up any fences at this point," he said Wednesday night. "I want to give the governor's program a full airing."

Gov. Vic Atiyeh on Wednesday proposed a package that included tax boosts and cuts in the property tax and renter relief programs to help erase an estimated \$337 million budget deficit.

Atiyeh held firm on his proposal to cut state agency budgets by \$120 million and said the Legislature now must face some hard decisions.

"I think they have to face up to reality," the Republican governor said.

"That's going to be a big item for the Senate to chew," Heard said later. The Senate has only agreed to cuts amounting to half of Atiyeh's suggestions.

But the leaders of the Democrat-controlled Legislature admitted lawmakers would have to cut deeper than \$62 million in cuts approved by the Senate.

Heard and House Speaker Hardy Myers, D-Portland, said there was no immediate plan to adjourn the Legislature to allow key committees to hash out

details of the plan.

"The hope right now is we can keep all members here and work for a solution," said Myers.

The Legislature today began its 26th day in special session.

They said, however, that working out the technical aspects of combining the property tax relief and renter relief programs alone would take some time.

Myers said that for lawmakers to tackle the complex work of revamping the systems "is a very big technical and political challenge during a special session."

The governor's proposal to combine the programs would raise an estimated \$35 million.

They said there probably was the most widespread support for some form of income tax

boost. The governor's proposal calls for a change in the \$1,000 personal exemption to a \$75 tax credit, which would raise about \$37 million.

But neither ruled out consideration of some other income tax proposals, including a one-time surtax that the House has soundly rejected.

Heard said there also would be some argument about cutting further into basic school support and some resistance to further boosts in beer and wine taxes.

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IFC hearings continue

Native American funds cut

The Incidental Fee Committee approved on Wednesday two resolutions establishing policies already in effect by precedent and cut three more student program budgets.

The resolutions, approved by unanimous and 6-1 votes respectively, prohibit the allocation of incidental fees by "programs that have offices and/or telephones in mailing newsletters to students on campus" and for lodging.

The organization receiving the largest budget cut Wednesday was the Native Amer-

ican Student Union, which was allocated only about \$7,000 despite its request of more than \$8,300.

The group, for which the ASUO Executive recommended an allocation of about \$100 less than the request, sustained slashes in the director's salary and work study funds with smaller cuts in symposium and pow-wow line items.

Much discussion during the Native American hearing centered around the organization's telephone use, with the IFC and ASUO Executive both advocat-

ing no funds for WATS long-distance lines and a stipulation that Native American Student Union officials use WATS lines in ASUO Executive offices.

Native American co-director Greg Archuleta, admitting that excessive phone calls have been made on the organization's WATS phones, asked the IFC to simply eliminate WATS during summer term, to allocate WATS funds to line items for which WATS calls are made, and to allow the group to ban calls concerning student grants to Bureau of Indian Affairs offices — a significant reason for recent student use of the lines.

The IFC remained firm on its proposal and allocated the \$440 requested for WATS phones to standard phones.

The University's Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group was granted almost \$9,800, about \$50 less than the sum requested by the group and recommended by the ASUO Executive.

OSPIRG, recovering from a massive budget cut last year that reduced this year's budget more than \$35,000, received what it wanted this year.

The Black Student Union, requesting more than \$7,100, was granted about \$6,800 — only \$25 less than the ASUO recommendation.

IFC member David Gibson said he was uncomfortable with "recruitment" and would like the BSU to represent the entire University and student body in its trips to high schools around the state.

Contreras confirmed as ASUO vice pres.

ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins confirmed the appointment of Alan Contreras as ASUO vice president of program administration Wednesday.

Contreras, former ASUO budget director, held the position of acting vice president since Jan. 9, when Jim Edmunson resigned retroactive to Dec. 31. Edmunson, a law student, accepted a position as a clerk in a local law firm.

The new vice president is a former candidate for ASUO president and was an Incidental Fee Committee member for more than a year in 1979-80. He has also served as assistant director of the Survival Center, chairer of a 1978 Lane County Citizens' Advisory Committee on Natural Resources, and has worked for state Rep. Margie Hendrickson, D-Eugene.

"When you've got a guy like Alan, it's easy to resign. In my own mind, I can't imagine anyone more qualified," Edmunson said Jan. 9 upon the temporary appointment of Contreras.

Contreras' former position as ASUO budget director has not been filled. His assistants in that job, Carolyn Harmon and Kenmar Bual, have been given larger workloads.

Contreras, a political science senior, will enter the University law school in August.

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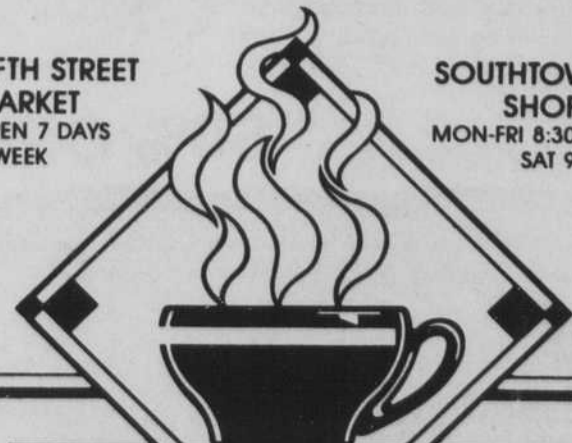
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