

'Mallory Group' offers budget solution

The special session of the Legislature has been deadlocked over how to deal with the state's \$337 million budget deficit. It seemed that the budget wrangling between Gov. Vic Atiyeh and the Legislature would not be resolved quickly. But a small, bipartisan group of House members met Saturday in Portland and hammered out some viable — if perhaps unrefined — proposals to balance the budget.

The group, known in Salem as the "Mallory Group" (after the Portland Hotel where they've met), have devised a revenue-raising package that will resolve the deficit, plus create a \$10 million emergency reserve fund. This proposal also asks for some extra budget cuts.

The main aspects of the "Mallory Group's" revenue-raising proposal are:

Doubling the state tax on beer and wine. This would raise about \$11.5 million. A similar tax was previously proposed by Gov. Atiyeh. The beer and wine tax increase would raise the state levy on a six-pack of beer from 4 cents to 8 cents and from 13 cents to 26 cents on a bottle of wine.

Increasing the state cigarette tax 3-cents-a-pack, which would raise another \$11.3 million for the state. This 3-cents-a-pack is in addition to the recently levied 16-cents-a-pack, making the total tax 19 cents a pack.

Reducing the maximum state payment in the 30 percent property tax relief program, bringing in another \$40 million. This lowers the maximum to almost \$225 instead of the current \$355 maximum.

An income tax surcharge of close to 3.9 percent. This surcharge would raise \$40 million.

The "Mallory Group" — made up of moderates from both parties — have advanced some sound proposals to deal with the budget crisis. The tax on beer and wine, cigarettes, income tax surcharge and reduction in the property tax relief program will bring sorely needed revenues to a state in dire need of revenue sources. Critics may cite a cigarette tax as excessive — though in comparison to California and Washington, where the cigarette tax is 10- and 20-cents respectively, the increase is comparable.

There are defects in the "Mallory Group's" proposal. More cuts in state agency budgets are required to make the revenue-raising proposal successful. This means further cuts in the higher education budget, raising the spectre of "financial exigency." Sen. Edward Fadeley, D-Eugene, co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee — which has already cut about \$16.5 million from state agency budgets — said the declaration of "exigency" isn't needed with the cuts approved by the Legislature at present. The "Mallory Group's" revenue-raising proposal may force higher education into the position of declaring "financial exigency."

Another defect in the "Mallory Group's"

proposal is that it does not go far enough in reducing the property tax relief program. That program, if eliminated, would ease the burden of more cuts on state agencies — such as higher education. Realistically, the property tax relief program is but a political bauble to dazzle voters in the weeks before November.

Optimism is running high, with predictions that the special session could end as early as late Tuesday if the "Mallory Group" revenue-raising proposals succeed. Perhaps less haste is in order. The "Mallory Group" has brought forth sound proposals which only need redirection and refinement to deal effectively with the state's budget deficit.



letters

Tomatoes

Rotten tomatoes for Matt Meyer. What is this Moral Majority stuff you threw in your review of "Making Love"? There was no moral issue at hand, only a man who comes to grips with himself.

I know you can write good articles, but this time I think you took the "easy way out." What should have been an analytical review, you turned into a judgement on personal freedom. Would it have been better for Zack and Claire to stay together and never be able to make each other happy?

If you had done your research, you would have seen how much of Barry Sandler's experiences were in "Making Love." Sandler knows only too well that sexuality is more than a social issue. What is wrong with a relatively simple love story

with a twist?

Why not compare Sandler's other accomplishments ("Kansas City Bomber" with Raquel (sic) Welch, "Duchess and the Dirt Water Fox" with Goldie Hawn) and comment on his writing abilities?

Spare me the moral preaching. Be critical, not judgemental. Better yet, move your articles to the editorial page.

David M. Beckett
junior, psychology

Ambiguity

The ambiguity of Oregon's higher education system should be brought the light. The idea is the state funded education is something like a loan. Oregonians with higher levels of education, it is presumed, will mean higher income, higher state revenues; thus being able to reimburse the state for their

education. Sounds somewhat reasonable. But talk to nine out of ten students on campus, and then try and figure out how much Oregon will get back from them. Where must they go to find employment? San Jose, Houston, Los Angeles; need I say more?

Education may or may not be a duty of the state; but if a state chooses to invest in human capital, it must also allow for that human capital to operate within that state in order to get a return on the investment. Oregon's "brain drain" is certainly no secret.

The major stumbling block is of course repressive land use planning, most notably LCDC. When more than a few jobs are lost as a result of this kind of planning, it is clear someone has confused priorities, by putting a cleaner environment ahead of food on the table.

As long as Oregon's restric-

tive land use planning remains in effect, the state system will remain a subsidy by Oregon to the rest of the country for education. If Oregonians do prefer restricted growth, they shouldn't be investing in so much human capital. If Oregonians do wish to invest in human capital, they should allow it to remain here and pay back the investment through a growing economy.

Pete Locke
Students for Individual Liberty

Pornography

I have startling information for Frank Marone (Emerald, Feb. 8) and any others who think that pornography increased the incidence of sex-related crimes. You're wrong. Exactly the opposite is true. Pornography often serves as an outlet for

people who might otherwise find satisfaction in less accepted ways, such as rape. Studies of sex offenders have consistently shown that they have had less contact with pornography than non-offenders. In 1970, the President's Commission on Obscenity and Violence concluded after studying a large amount of evidence that "there is no evidence that exposure to pornography operates as a cause of misconduct in either youths or adults."

Closing the adults bookstores in the Eugene-Springfield area won't decrease the incidence of sex crimes. Let the bookstores stay open, Mr. Marone, and you will reduce the chance that "our mothers and sisters and daughters" will have to pay. Show you care.

Tim Kuhn
sophomore, business

staff

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