

emerald

Mark Hatfield

Easy pace of 'Meet Mark' session fuses with hard talk on arms issues

Lone TV cameraman catches him on film as he exits his car, parked at the entrance of Red Lion Inn off I-5 in north Springfield.

It's a sunny Wednesday afternoon and the "Meet Mark" session is scheduled in a downstairs room at the Rodeway Inn restaurant. The room is occupied by 70 chairs which have gold seats, and backs of rust, gold and black vertical stripes. One minute before the meeting's start the room is nearly full. Two Register-Guard reporters, one front row and center, the elder reporter chatting with two or three on the side. A KVAL camera on a tripod in the rear.

Room fills quickly to SRO. KEZI sets up a camera in the front, near the podium. A Springfield News intern paces in with a leather photographer's case and sits down next to me. Audience in frenzied talk, subsiding quickly as if for E.F. Hutton when Mark walks in the room.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, talks momentarily to several people and then sits down up front. John Thomas, president of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, checks the microphone before introducing the senator.

Hatfield, says Thomas, had a few minutes free in his schedule on the way from the southern Oregon coast to Portland. Thomas inadvertently calls him "Packwood." Snickered embarrassment from audience and red face from Thomas, who goes on to say he knew both Hatfield and Packwood when he was attending Willamette University.

Thomas tells a story he remembers about Hatfield, when Hatfield's tooth fell out before a

speech at a cocktail party. Thomas finishes his intro, loud applause for Hatfield.

Hatfield corrects Thomas: His tooth did fall out but it was at a presidential prayer breakfast, not a cocktail party. The audience shares the joke and sees Hatfield's face turn red from humor.

Mood does a 180 when Hatfield begins his remarks by talking about the U.S. economy and its impact on the timber industry and says, "Housing is our number one social problem." Oregon is "first in the trough" of an economic downturn and the last out of the trough, he says.

Timber contracts are coming due, creating a crisis, he says. Options are to default or modify the contracts. Extending the deadlines "didn't have the greatest appeal to me, we should do our best to see the performance of contract."

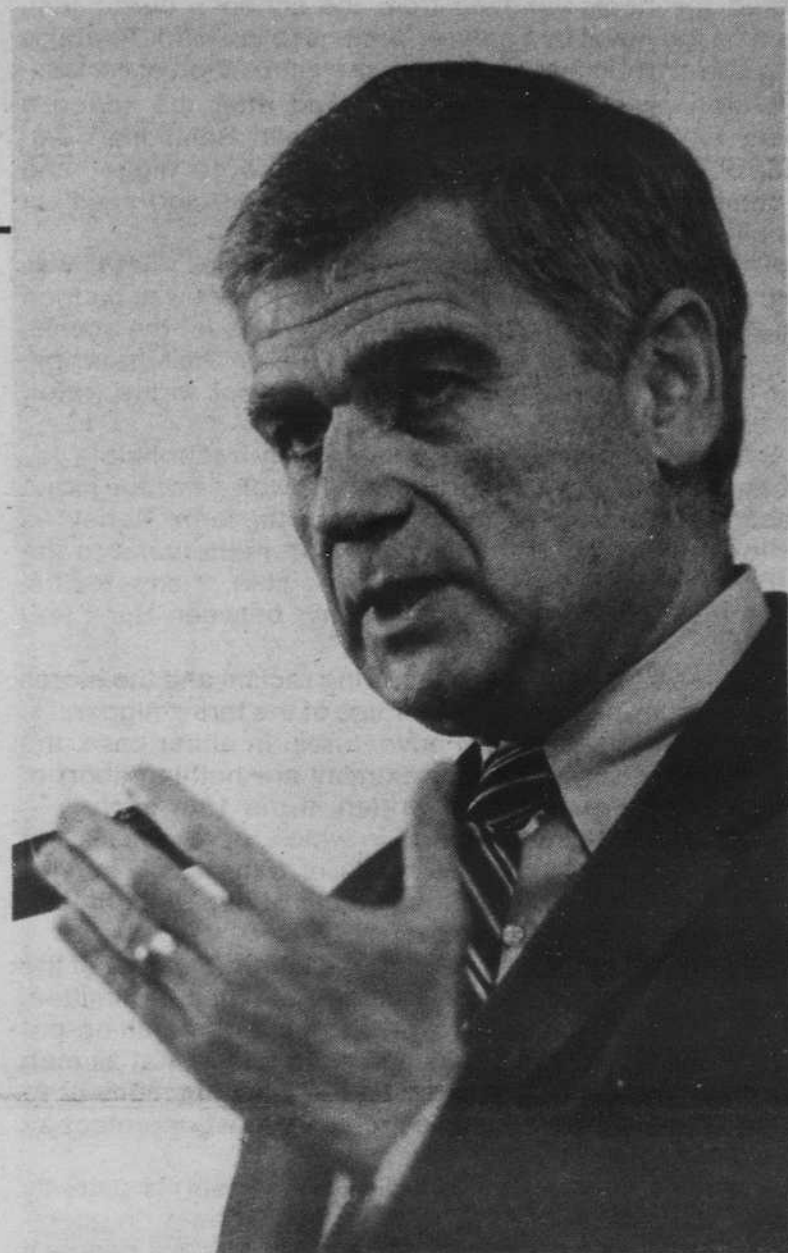
Instead, he proposed a 44 percent rollback in the cost of the contracts, so the contract figures are more related to the current market value. This would give "incentive to crank up some of the shutdowns" of lumber mills and increase cash flow into Oregon's counties, he says. "Everyone would benefit."

Everyone didn't think so. Idaho timber industry opposed the roll backs, he says, although now there is a growing consensus within the industry to support the idea.

"If you can find any three timber operators agreeing on anything, you have a miracle in the making."

Unless recovery can come soon to the

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Mark Hatfield

By Ron Hunt
Photo by David Corey

Group calls for computer buying plan

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

No one is monitoring purchases of computer equipment in campus departments, members of the Long-Range Planning Committee realized earlier this week.

"Can't you see in 10 years everyone with their own computer person and their own equipment?" asked English Prof. Barbara Mossberg.

'Can't you see in 10 years everyone with . . . their own equipment?'

At a meeting Wednesday, committee members discussed the need for a committee to coordinate the purchase of micro and mini-computers, which already have been installed in a number of University departments and schools, including education, psychology, architecture and community service and public affairs.

That doesn't mean there isn't a justifiable need for computers in nearly every department, pointed out Dan Williams, University housing director. It just means the purchase and use of those computers should be coordinated in some way.

The committee also discussed planning for the growth of the computer science department. Of 1,200 students who applied to enter the University in the fall, 10 percent indicated they intend to be computer science majors, reported Bob Albrecht, vice provost for academic affairs and chairer of the Long-Range Planning Committee.

The computer science department already is limiting enrollment by increasing the admission requirements for the undergraduate degree program. Even with its present enrollment levels, the department is having problems meeting the course demands of majors, much less serving non-computer science students who would like a background in computers.

And computer majors find lines of students waiting to use terminals at the computer center around the clock. Many students who can get terminals only at 3 or 4 a.m. soon will be shut out when the computer center begins closing from midnight to 4 a.m. to save money.

The computer science situation is an example of a "growth problem" that planning committee members have identified as one of five concerns they hope to deal with. Suggestions and proposals will be presented to the faculty before the end of spring term.

During its past two meetings, the committee has shifted gears and begun discussing specific areas that need attention at the University. In addition to problems of resources needed for growing programs, the committee is discussing coordinating existing programs, creating new programs that involve several departments, creating new degree programs, and reorganizing existing programs.

Wednesday, the committee also talked about the status of remedial courses at the University. During the last legislative session, the Legislature ordered state

colleges and universities to make all remedial courses self-supporting. A \$93 fee for remedial writing courses — Writing 040, 049 and 091 through 093 — began this year, and remedial math fees are being discussed.

However, the need for such courses continues to increase, to the point where about one-half of all entering freshmen now must begin in the remedial math course, said mathematics Prof. Charles Curtis.

He suggested the University begin letting high schools know the remedial courses probably will be

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phased out during the next few years.

"We have an incredible number of students who come to the University unprepared — certainly in writing," agreed CSPA Prof. Ed Weeks.

Committee members agreed to ask the Academic Council of the State System of Higher Education to discuss the problem. That council, composed of higher education vice presidents, probably will be only the first step toward getting the word to high school students that admission standards are going to get tougher in the next four or five years, Curtis said.