

Photo by Bob Baker  
Fourth District Rep. Jim Weaver blasted Republican opponent Ross Anthony at a press conference Monday for what he claimed were several distortions of his voting record.

## Weaver says challenger distorting voting record

By Hank Trotter  
Of the Emerald

Fourth District Rep. Jim Weaver leveled charges against Republican challenger Ross Anthony at a Eugene press conference Monday of "running an entirely negative campaign based upon distortions of my record."

Weaver accused Anthony of not understanding the tradition for a "clean and honest" campaign in Oregon's southwest congressional district.

He presented a packet containing press clippings and copies of Congressional records answering in detail three of Anthony's claims that Weaver has been "misrepresenting the facts" of his own record.

"I am hopeful that by documenting Mr. Anthony's distortions of the facts and misrepresentations of my record, we can lay his type of campaigning to rest and continue the race for Congress in the manner I and most Oregonians expect," Weaver said.

Anthony had accused Weaver of misrepresenting his vote on the special tax break for Congress, claiming Weaver "voted for a bill which permitted the IRS to create a special \$75-a-day tax deduction for members of Congress."

Weaver said he voted against the tax break, H.J. 325, September 30, 1981. The bill passed anyway, removing the \$3000 limit on each congressman's tax deduction for expenses incurred in Washington.

Weaver later co-sponsored a bill which repealed the tax break July 15, 1982.

The congressman said he did vote for H.R. 5159, the "Black Lung Benefits" revenue bill on Dec. 15, 1981, which the Senate later amended with "a tax provision to give the IRS the authority

to set the level of deduction for the tax break which had already passed."

Weaver said he voted for the Senate version the following day knowing that "defeating the Black Lung Benefits Bill would not have defeated or repealed the tax break. It would still have been in effect."

Weaver contended "defeating the Black Lung Bill would have denied benefits to black lung victims."

Anthony had also attacked Weaver's "credibility" concerning two timber-harvesting bills, the Wood Residue Utilization Act and the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act. Anthony said Weaver falsely took credit for the Sustained Yield Act because it was passed in 1960.

Weaver maintained that he fought for and was "intimately involved" in the creation of the Sustained Yield Provision to the 1976 National Forest Management Act and acknowledged he had no connection to the 1960 legislation.

Anthony also questioned Weaver's claim that he wrote and passed a Wood Waste Utilization Act, thereby providing jobs for Oregonians.

Weaver stipulated in a booklet entitled "Setting the Record Straight: The Truth About Jim Weaver's record" that he wrote the Wood Residue Utilization Act. Weaver called Anthony's distinction between residue and waste "silly and ridiculous."

Anthony had said he wants to clarify the record, adding Weaver must "face me and the voters to explain his misrepresentations."

Weaver declined Anthony's call for a "debate along the lines which Mr. Anthony has suggested," but added that he would accept "joint appearances." He said it was likely they would appear together in mid-October before Eugene's Sierra Club.

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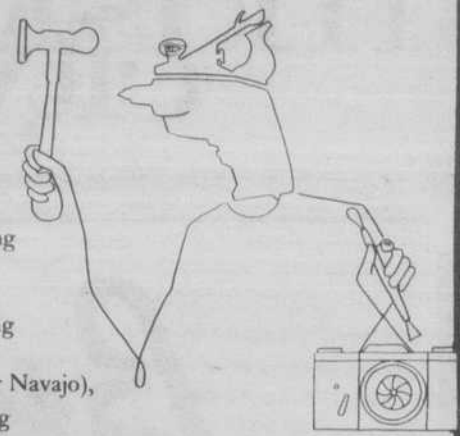
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