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Senate president Fadeley doesn't know if he'll support Atiyeh's tax increase

SALEM (AP) — Senate President Ed Fadeley said Monday he hasn't made up his mind whether to support Gov. Vic Atiyeh's proposed state income tax increase.

"I'm not running around saying 'no new taxes,'" the Eugene Democrat said at his first formal news conference since his election Friday to the Senate's top job.

Atiyeh is proposing a flat 1 percent net receipts tax — a form of income tax — in addition to existing state income taxes to balance his recommended \$3.3 billion general fund budget for 1983-85.

Fadeley said one advantage of the governor's tax plan is that it wouldn't require establishing a new bureaucracy to collect it.

Disadvantages, Fadeley said, include that the net receipts levy would be a new tax and that it "waters down the ability to pay" theory of taxation. The 1 percent figure would apply no matter what the person's income level; other income taxes are on a sliding scale, with a higher percentage assessed against people with higher incomes.

Fadeley said one reason he appointed Democratic Sen. Charles Hanlon of Cornelius as chairman of the Senate Revenue Committee is that other Democrats vying for the post all are public employees.

"People who live full time on tax dollars shouldn't be in charge of the tap," Fadeley said. "I'd rather have someone run the committee who doesn't sup at the public trough."

Other contenders for the top job on the committee that will handle tax measures were Democratic Sens. Frank Roberts of Portland, Clifford Trow of Corvallis and Rod Monroe of Portland. Roberts and Trow are teachers at state universities, and Monroe is a high school instructor.

Fadeley didn't name any Republicans to one of the 14 panels he appointed Monday, the Trade and Economic Development Committee.

That prompted criticism from Senate GOP Leader Tony Meeker of Amity. He said the party especially deserves representation on that committee because it's a permanent panel that functions year 'round unlike most committees, which go out of business when the Legislature adjourns.

Fadeley told reporters he wasn't aware that he hadn't given a committee slot to the Republicans, who are outnumbered 21-9 in the Senate.

Meeker later met with Fadeley and afterward said Fadeley told him the lack of a GOP member on the panel was an oversight. Fadeley pledged to consider changing the committee lineup, Meeker said.

Justice Blackmun wears abortion tag

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Author of the abortion decision," Harry Blackmun said softly and slowly as if re-studying the phrase. "We all pick up tags. I'll carry this one to my grave."

When the Supreme Court legalized abortion 10 years ago, it used Blackmun's words, carving his inevitable niche in American history.

"I knew it was a no-win case, but I didn't ask for the (opinion-writing) assignment," Blackmun said in a rare on-the-record interview.

"I am mildly annoyed at those, law professors included, who personalize it. It was a decision of the court, not my decision. There were seven votes," Blackmun said of the landmark ruling in a case entitled *Roe vs. Wade*.

Nevertheless, most of the estimated 45,000 letters since delivered to the Supreme Court's marble temple on Capitol Hill have been addressed to Blackmun.

"We still receive eight, nine or 10 letters a day," he said. "Some are very supportive, very lovely messages. But most are very abusive. The more recent ones are as abusive as the initial ones."

Ignoring the advice of fellow justices against reading such mail, Blackmun says: "I want to know what the people who wrote are thinking."

They have called him a murderer, a butcher, even Pontius Pilate. They have compared him to the Nazi overseers of genocide.

On occasion, as recently as last year on the campus of the University of Georgia, his speaking appearances have been picketed.

A devout Methodist, Blackmun has read letters of condemnation sent to him by Methodist clergymen.

"I'd be less than candid if I said it does not hurt, but not as much anymore," he said. "People misunderstand. I am not for abortion. I hope my family never has to face such a decision."

Blackmun is convinced, however, that the Supreme Court was on solid legal ground when it ruled that a woman's constitutional right of privacy includes the right to end an unwanted pregnancy.

"I still think it was a correct decision. We were deciding a constitutional issue, not a moral one," he said.

Reagan's son Ron hangs up his tu-tu

NEW YORK (AP) — Ron Reagan, the son of Pres. Ronald Reagan, has quit the Joffrey Ballet and plans to retire from dancing "to pursue other interests," a spokeswoman for the ballet company said Monday.

Reagan's departure came less than a month before the start of rehearsals for a national tour that begins at the Kennedy

Center in Washington on Feb. 22, according to Rima Cohe, the spokeswoman.

"We are sorry that he will not be continuing as a dancer," said Robert Joffrey, director of the ballet. "We have believed he had the capabilities for a career since he first came to the Joffrey Ballet School as a scholarship student on July 2, 1979."

In October Reagan, 24, attracted national attention when it was learned he was collecting unemployment.

Hours before his father told the nation on TV that economic recovery was coming, his son was photographed standing in line at the state unemployment office at Sixth Avenue and 20th Street in Manhattan.

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