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Packwood: ERA to pass senate

MEDFORD (AP) — Sen. Bob Packwood told a Medford audience Wednesday that the Equal Rights Amendment will be passed in the current congressional session.

The Oregon Republican also told a gathering of the Medford Soroptimist club that if the ERA dies it will die in the Republican Senate as the 1984 election year approaches.

Packwood added that the death of the ERA is not a burden he wants the GOP to carry.

There will also be a renewed effort in this Congress to overturn the Supreme Court's ruling legalizing abortion, the senator said. Packwood added that he'll fight just as hard against that move as he did last time.

"The Supreme Court has said you have a constitutional right to make a choice whether or not you want an abortion," he said. "It's like a constitutional right

on freedom of speech or a constitutional right against self-incrimination."

Packwood said he thinks abortion foes will try to pass a constitutional amendment banning abortions this year because they failed to get Congress to overturn the Supreme Court ruling.

"I may have to spend an extensive amount of time discussing the issue if it comes

on the floor again," he said, "an extensive amount of time."

That statement was apparently in reference to Packwood's lengthy filibuster against last year's anti-abortion bill.

The senator said he believes Congress did the right thing in imposing the new excise, gasoline and user's taxes being protested by independent truckers.

Hey, edible lottery tickets here

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (AP) — A bill collector who says the state lottery is taking too big a bite out of family food budgets wants to turn the tables.

The lottery would be more palatable, he says, if the tickets were edible.

"People change their priorities when they have a chance to win a fortune. The whole concept of the lottery is a pie in the sky and people who can least afford it are the ones trying to strike it rich," Joe Fletcher, who works for Financial Services Association of Walla Walla, said Wednesday.

Fletcher proposes manufacturing lottery tickets from pressed beef, pressed fruit or protein wafers similar to those used for communion.

"You could lick off the numbers," he said.

But some people found the idea hard to swallow.

"Maybe (Fletcher) would like to tell us how to go about making edible tickets," said Steve Greenfield, a representative of Scientific Games Co., of Atlanta, Ga., which makes the tickets.

Ticket materials cost less than one-tenth of 1 cent, he said. Edible tickets could cost up to 10 cents each and eat into state profits, said Greenfield, who was in Olympia Wednesday on a weekly visit with lottery officials.

"We've had people say that blind people can't use the tickets because they can't see the numbers. They've asked us to put fruit flavors behind each number so they could smell if they've won," he added.

He said a small percentage of people might buy lottery tickets instead of food or other necessities but "most would buy cigarettes or something if they weren't buying the ticket."

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