

Watt's comment the last straw

Oregon Senator Robert Packwood has joined with nine other Republicans calling for the resignation of Interior Secretary James Watt. While, at the same time, conservative Republicans have closed ranks to defend Watt, urging him not to resign.

How many times during Watt's tenure as Interior Secretary have his actions divided the administration, members of the Senate and the country?

Packwood, and the other Republican senators, rather than acting as a partisan, is working in the best interests of the country. Watt should be dismissed from his cabinet post — immediately.

The last straw was Watt's comment in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce last week, where he described a commission he had appointed to review his coal-leasing program as having "every kind of mix you can have. I have a black, I have a woman, two Jews and a cripple."

Watt should be driven from his cabinet post not just for this remark, but for the other offensive remarks and callous actions that have accumulated during Watt's tenure as Interior Secretary.

The offensive comment is reminiscent of the ex-agriculture secretary under former Pres. Gerald Ford Earl Butz', whose "joke" about blacks told to John Dean, ex-presidential counsel under ex-Pres. Richard Nixon, forced his resignation.

Assistant Senate majority leader Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, typifies the conservative Republicans defending Watt. He says Watt is "not a bigot. Jim Watt is a God-fearing man who is really quite a Christian gentleman." Rallying to Watt's defense because of his Christianity is an insult to Christians. If Watt is indeed the "God-fearing" man Stevens says he is you'd think he'd be capable of Christian charity toward the handicapped.

Watt's characterization of his commission "mix" according to race, gender, religion and affirmity is consistent with the shoot-from-the-hip mouth that has defined Watt's rather dubious service as Interior Secretary.

Finally, Watt has proven as an Interior Secretary he is more of a detriment to the Reagan administration and country in general than an asset. But don't expect Pres. Ronald Reagan to swiftly remove Watt. The fact that the whole senate is forced to cast a vote calling for Watt's ouster shows Reagan's reluctance to act.

There's a real tendency in this administration — and it must stem from Reagan himself — to ignore the incompetence and glaring errors of their cabinet appointments. Reagan would rather accept a "forced" resignation from a cabinet member (which he's done frequently since taking office) than admit having appointed an incompetent.

Watt should be dismissed and not permitted to submit a resignation. A resignation paints over the stain Watt has cast on the post of Interior Secretary.

Happy birthday Hult Center

Belated birthday wishes to the Hult Center, Eugene's bouncing one year-old baby of a performing arts center.

About 2,500 people, dressed to the nines, joined entertainer Pearl Bailey in a rousing "Happy Birthday" to the center on Saturday night. However, most of us can sit back and remember the memorable shows we've seen at the Hult Center to express our best wishes.

The financial problems, the name of the center itself and much criticized retreat taken by Hult management tarnished this first year backstage. The financial problems will be resolved and the public's ire over the center's name will be forgotten in time. And the Hult Center will continue to be a place all Eugene can come for an evening's quality entertainment.

Happy Birthday, Hult Center.

The Emerald



letters

Don't confuse

I thought this bit of information might interest some of the leftist don't-confuse-me-with-the-facts crowd on this campus who love to label anybody to the right of Jane Fonda as a fascist warmonger yet tell us that the Soviets are basically trustworthy guys.

According to one of your own type of publications "People's World" (July 23, 1983) the Polish trade union Solidarity (the largest work force working for democracy in Eastern Europe) has "given its open support for the installation of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe."

While relatively small, yet well-organized "peace" groups in Western Europe oppose practically everything NATO does (while ignoring Soviet buildups) Solidarity's leaders have stated: "The Pershing II missiles have substantially greater deterrence than the older missiles."

Solidarity also said the Western Europeans "peace" groups were "in the hands of Moscow" and "works for the USSR."

It's interesting that people who've experienced Soviet imposed totalitarianism are willing to have missiles aimed at them rather than allow the Soviets to become so superior in military strength that they could have the ability to further their objectives worldwide without obstructions.

Michael Cross
senior, political science

Not 'caring'

Less than three weeks ago, more than 45 registered nurses and additional auxiliary personnel at Sacred Heart General Hospital were laid off. These people were given less than four days notice of their impending job losses.

Some of the people affected by the layoff are single parents, or are the sole income providers for

their families. This sudden, unexpected loss of income has proven to be, in many cases, a traumatic blow to the economic stability and welfare of these taxpayers and their families.

In our society it is a common expectation and courtesy between management and employees to provide a reasonable notice — usually two weeks — when there will be either a layoff or termination on the part of either respective party. Such notice provides an opportunity for those affected people to make other arrangements. For laid-off employees this might include tending to such matters as finding a way to put food on the table, a roof overhead, etc., when employment ends.

Sacred Heart General Hospital advertises itself as a "caring" institution. It has been my experience as a long term employee at Sacred Heart that the nursing staff and auxiliary personnel do provide excellent health care to the people of Eugene. One cannot help but wonder, however, the extent to which Sacred Heart management cares for its own employees when it employs such outmoded practices as telling employees: "In four days, or less, you are out of a job."

It seems very clear that in a "caring" institution such as Sacred Heart, nurses can depend on fair and reasonable treatment by management, only to the extent that their union (The Oregon Nurses Association) bargains for and sets down specific guarantees in a written contract with hospital management and then insists the contract be honored.

Ellen Manchester
RN, Eugene

Gripes

I wish to share some remarks and gripes I heard about the tax

levies for the Sept. 20 election.

The state and city police are doing an excellent job. Crime has been reduced seven percent in the past few months without the Sheriff's patrol. Leave the patrol cars in limbo, it will save a bundle for the taxpayers. Why have overlapping law enforcement? (Double taxation.)

Too much money is squandered on repeated elections. County government refuses to recognize the meaning of the word "no".

Sheriff Burks has the unmitigated gall to sue the commissioners. If there are state mandated services, allow the state to do the litigating.

Two compassionate commissioners voted against putting a proposed levy of the second time. (Too many foreclosures of homes, too many out of work.)

Why do we have to tote books to the public libraries when they have access to state, city and school libraries — plus radio, TV, etc.?

Commissioners have found \$4500 to enhance each of their salaries.

So called fringe benefits are exorbitant. Of Lane County employees one-third of their salary is classified as a fringe benefit. This amount is added to the salary.

They also found \$449.55 for a junket trip July 17 to Milwaukee, Wis.. This \$449.55 was spent for three nights lodging for three people (not including air fare, meals, etc.). Nice vacation. One person could have done the job with a tape recorder, if the trip necessary — which is questionable.

Last gripe, but not least. Outrageous salaries of the administrators.

Mary Hickey
Eugene

oregon daily emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published Monday through Friday except during exam week and vacations, by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 97403.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

News and Editorial 686-5511
Display Advertising and Business 686-3712
Classified Advertising 686-4343
Production 686-4381
Circulation 686-5511

Editor
Managing Editor
News Editor
Assistant News Editor
Editorial Page Editor
Photo Editor
Sports Editor
Associate Sports Editor
Entertainment Editor
Night Editor
Associate Editors
Higher Education
Departments and Schools
Student Government
Features
Politics
Community
General Staff
Advertising Manager
Classified Advertising
Production Manager
Controller

Debbie Howlett
Sandy Johnstone
Frank Shaw
Brenda Thornton
Cort Fernald
Dave Kao
Doug Levy
John Healy
Angela Allen Morgan
Frank Shaw
Doug Nash
Melissa Martin
Jim Moore
Joan Herman
Brooks Dareff
Michele Matassa
Darlene Gore
Sally Oljar
Victoria Koch
Jean Ownbey

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your Turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your Turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

Letters to the editor and "Your Turn" columns should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.