

# Commissioners to decide Sales tax plan referred to county

By Michele Matassa  
Of the Emerald

The proposed Oregon state sales tax rounded one more curve on the road to public vote Tuesday, as the Lane County Legislative Committee decided unanimously to refer the plan to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

The commissioners now must decide whether to request an election next spring for the proposed 4 percent tax.

The state Legislature passed a bill during its recent special session requiring that a majority of each of the state's local governments — county and city governments and school boards — ask Secretary of State Norma Paulus to hold an election for the tax prop-

osal before voters have the opportunity to decide the issue.

The tax plan, designed to provide state property tax relief, contains a government expenditure limitation that would restrict spending to the highest amount of covered appropriations in the last six fiscal years prior to fiscal year 1985-86, said Bud Rainey, senior management analyst for the county.

Rainey said that request for an election is not "ratification or support one way or another (for the tax plan)."

Commissioner Bill Rogers, who chairs the legislative committee, expects the Board to recommend an election.

"Many people who are philosophically opposed to sales

tax see nothing wrong with sending it out and letting people vote on it," Rogers said after the meeting.

Rogers said he supports not only the election, but the tax itself. The plan's spending limitation shouldn't affect the county government severely because "we have such a low tax-base expenditure," he said.

Pending approval by local governments, voters will have a chance to judge the proposal on March or May, 1984.

So far, three counties, five cities and one school district have requested an election, says Donna Morgan, administrative assistant to the state's director of elections.

Before an election is approved, 122 cities, 163 schools and 19

counties must request one, Morgan says.

The Legislature determined this ratification process when it passed the property tax relief plan, which contains four bills.

In the main bill, the ratification process accompanies the constitutional features of the sales tax and government expenditure limitation.

A separate bill would implement the sales tax and expenditure limits if approved by voters.

Special election provisions for the referral to the voters make up the third bill. The last, which already is law regardless of public vote on the sales tax, freezes property tax rates, with some exceptions, until 1987.

## 'Myths' lead to nuclear conflict, author says

By Melissa Martin  
Of the Emerald

Soviets wear black hats and are the root of all evil while Americans wear white hats and are sinless in the eyes of the Reagan administration, Los Angeles Times writer Robert Scheer told a University crowd Tuesday.

And if Reagan continues to believe a build-up in nuclear weapons will lead to prestige, power and influence, the world will face a future nuclear war, Scheer said.

"If we keep on with simplistic thinking that we can do anything and they can do nothing then we are headed for war," said the author of a recent book, "With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush and Nuclear War."

Scheer called for more com-

munication between the Soviet Union and the United States because "there has never been such tension between the two super powers as we have now."

The "Star Wars system" has

nuclear arms devices circling above our heads as a way of protecting ourselves."

American people and the Reagan administration share several myths about nuclear war,

**'If we keep on with simplistic thinking that we can do anything and they can do nothing then we are headed for war'**

— Robert Scheer

brought the world to the most dangerous stage of the nuclear arms race, Scheer said.

"We've taken civil defense into the heavens and we see it as a nuclear umbrella," Scheer said.

"Like Star Wars, we have

Scheer told the packed PLC lecture hall.

The nation thinks the Soviets are responsible for the world's problems, and don't believe Soviet concern for national defense can be justified. These

simplistic ideas are at the heart of the nuclear arms race, he said.

And the idea that the United States disarmed during Carter's arms control period while Soviets took advantage of the situation to build up their weaponry is also false, he said.

"The U.S. built every nuclear system it wanted to build," Scheer said.

But the American people aren't the only ones with misconception of Soviet society, Scheer said. In a recent interview with Scheer, Reagan called the Russians "godless monsters."

Scheer called this a simplistic categorization of a complex society.

"If we don't challenge perceptions we can't deal with the arms race," Scheer said.

## State senators fly to Nicaragua Saturday

A group of 11 women, including Oregon state Senators Margie Hendriksen, D-Eugene, and Jeanette Hamby, R-Hillsboro, will leave Saturday, Nov. 5 for a 10-day tour of Nicaragua.

It is the second in a series of

tours organized by the Nicaraguan Women's Association and the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America.

The diverse group consists of women from Oregon's business and professional fields, as well as

state and local government. The only non-Oregonian to participate in the tour will be Washington Senator Nita Rinehart, D-N.E. Seattle.

While in Nicaragua, the group will meet with several high level

government officials, including the Minister of Health, Tea Guido, and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nora Astorga.

The group will also visit an open prison farm project and talk with members of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Committee.

The women emphasize that the trip has a strictly educational rather than political, purpose and that group members will pay their own expenses.

"I want to learn what is going on in Nicaragua," says Hendriksen, "I feel that Oregonians are concerned about Central America and I want to be able to speak about the situation drawing on my own personal experiences."

Hamby said that in addition to gaining "a first-hand look at the situation" she hopes to establish a hospital contact through which medical supplies can be channeled.

"As soon as I can find an individual and an address at the hospital, there will be a continual shipment of medical supplies from St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland to Managua," says Hamby.

## Residents dismiss hazards cited by BPA

By Paul Ertel  
Of the Emerald

Several area residents say the Bonneville Power Administration has exaggerated the possible health hazards of weatherization and should expand its energy conservation program.

Residents responded Tuesday to a recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued by the BPA at a public hearing in the Eugene Conference Center. The statement says sealing air leaks in homes can increase the concentration of various air pollutants.

Started by the BPA in 1981, the weatherization program subsidizes installation of insulation in electrically heated homes. It also subsidizes house sealing

weatherization, such as caulking, weather stripping, and installing storm windows, but 70 percent of area homes are not eligible for this program because their levels of air pollutants are considered too high.

Currently, the BPA is considering whether to expand the program, maintain it at its present level or delay action for three to five years to conduct further research.

Norman Clark of the BPA said expansion of the program could conserve enough energy to provide power for 26,000 homes and save the BPA \$26 million per year, but these savings must be weighed against the possibility of producing from 2 to 65 lung cancers

per year because of the pollutant problem.

But Fred Walter of Cottage Grove said the effects of the pollutants can be mitigated by using heat exchangers and dehumidifiers.

Chris Attneave of Eugene called the BPA's report on the hazards of weatherization "overkill." "It looks like the Bonneville doesn't want to do the conservation," he said.

Representatives of the Eugene Water and Electric Board, Lane Electric Cooperative and OSPRIG also spoke in favor of weatherization.

One resident, however, came out against expanding the pro-

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