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Measure 2 may harm Albany

ALBANY (AP) — If Ballot Measure 2 passes in November, Albany schools could meet the financial crisis by imposing a list of stringent money saving actions, according to a citizens' advisory report.

Those actions could include closing and consolidating schools, laying off up to one-fifth of the staff, eliminating programs and services, and freezing or reducing salaries.

Howard Hickam is an Albany banker and chairman of the nine-member citizens' group. He told the Albany School Board Monday night it would take a combination of the op-

tions to come up with the estimated \$5 million Measure 2 would sap from district coffers.

"That's 35 percent of our present budget," he told the board. "If our budget has to be reduced by that amount, I don't have to tell any of you here that our district will face hard times ahead."

If approved, Measure 2 would limit property taxes to 1½ percent of assessed value. Voters could override the limit in elections in which at least 50 percent of registered voters take part.

"No one of the options would do the job... but we can meet the crisis if it does develop," Hickam told the board.

"It's important the community work to make sure the darn

thing doesn't pass," he added. Committee member Gary Dahlinger suggested residents pick up copies of the report from the district office, and share them with friends.

"Talk to people one-on-one," he said. "It would be tragic (if Measure 2 passes)."

Hickam said the advisory committee met nine times to study the impact of Measure 2 on Albany schools. Its job was to come up with options the district could take if the measure passes.

Among the options it detailed to the board:

- Move to a four-day school week, saving \$652,000.
- Eliminate 21 programs, including kindergarten, music, driver education, school nurses, counseling, library, athletics and free and reduced-price lunches.
- Reduce services and programs in 13 areas, including adaptive physical education, programs for those with learning disabilities, speech and hearing problems, and the emotionally disturbed.
- Freeze or reduce salaries at 1984-85 levels.

Senate passes timber bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate overwhelmingly approved and sent to the House on Wednesday a bill that would allow companies facing bankruptcy because of a depressed market for lumber and plywood buy their way out of government timber contracts.

The contracts were signed in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when there were predictions of increased home building, at prices well above today's market value for timber cut in national forests.

Although he said he disliked the bill, Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, voted for the compromise measure he had forced on Western senators. Metzenbaum said the final version could save taxpayers as much as \$1.9 billion.

He blamed the situation on a "wildly speculative bidding binge" that drove contract prices to 400 percent of the appraised value of the timber.

If a timber contract cannot be met when it comes due, the government usually resells the timber and bills the original purchaser the difference between the bid price and the final selling price.

During debate on the issue, Sen. Daniel J. Evans, R-Wash., said by forcing companies to honor the contracts "we would be requiring companies to pay from empty treasuries."

Some firms already have gone out of business, he said, because they were obligated to buy the timber and process it into lumber and plywood at a price that could never be recovered at today's market prices.

Other companies are in bankruptcy proceedings and may be saved by the new legislation. But Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., said that because companies will be forced to buy at least 45 percent of the timber they contracted for, "there are some companies for whom this is not enough."

Thursday, September 27, 1984

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Place: Gerlinger 103
Time: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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Place: Gerlinger 103
Time: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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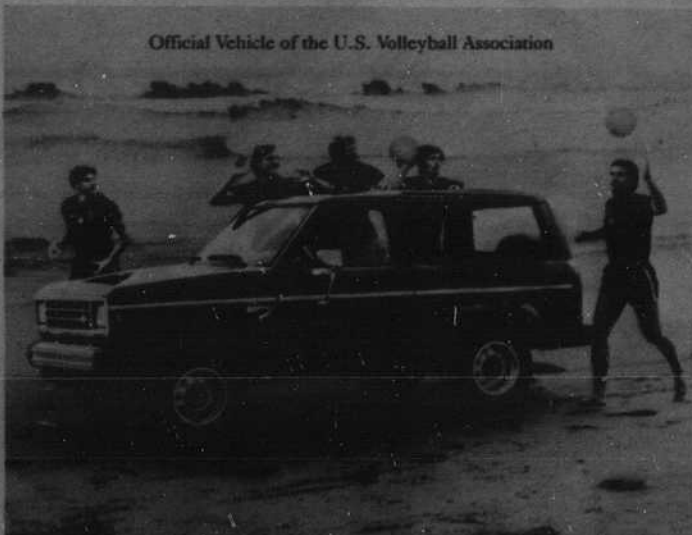


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