

Fadeley: Alter tax

SALEM (AP) — Sen. Ed Fadeley, one of the most vocal sales tax foes in the Oregon Legislature, called Monday for major changes in the sales tax package approved by the House.

In an appearance before the Senate Revenue Committee, the Eugene Democrat said the Legislature should refer a 2 percent sales tax to the voters — not a 5 percent tax like the one passed by the House.

Fadeley also said the sales tax should be submitted to Oregonians in a vote-by-mail election, and that the Legislature should be blocked from trying to make any changes in the sales tax for 10 years.

His comments came as the Senate revenue panel continued its work on the House sales tax plan.

Fadeley, who was Senate president in the 1983 session, said although the sales tax plan being considered by lawmakers this year is different from last session's version, it is still flawed.

"I oppose this bad tax. It is not fair," he told the committee. "I would urge a 'no' vote by the people."

A 2 percent sales tax could be crafted so that homeowners and renters would get as much property tax relief as they would under the 5 percent sales tax approved by the House, Fadeley said.

That could be accomplished by using the sales tax money to provide property tax relief only to homeowners and renters, rather than giving across-the-board relief to both residential and commerical landowners as is proposed in the House version, Fadeley said.





WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan pressed Congress on Monday to move ahead with the MX missile program, arguing it is vital to America's security and the success of U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms talks next week in Geneva.

"Without the Peacekeeper, our chances of reaching an equitable agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce significantly the size of our nuclear arsenals are substantially lowered," said Reagan. "Peacekeeper" is the nickname he gave the long-range nuclear missile.

In a report on the missile, Reagan urged Congress to release \$1.5 billion in funds frozen last fall for 21 new missiles. Those missiles were approved by Congress two years ago, and they are scheduled for deployment early next year.

Reagan's report warned that if Congress delays or eliminates the program on the eve of the Geneva talks, "the impact could be far-reaching, extending not only to the failure of the strategic negotiations, but (it) may affect the broader East-West relationship as well."

The report cites an increased Soviet military buildup during American debate on the MX program as well.

In a speech to the National Association of Counties, Reagan called the Geneva talks "the most important set of arms discussions this nation will likely conduct in this decade." And he said the House and Senate votes on the MX "will directly, perhaps dramatically, affect the outcome at Geneva."

"Just as a strong bipartisan congressional vote to move ahead with Peacekeeper would send a signal that America comes to Geneva united and resolute," Reagan said, "so a negative vote in either house would undercut our negotiators and send a message to Moscow that America is an irresolute and divided nation whose divisions can be exploited at Geneva. That must not happen."

The president's report will be followed by the introduction of a resolution in Congress that sets a timetable for a series of House and Senate votes on the issue shortly after the talks begin in Geneva. The votes are expected about March 20, White House officials say.

National security adviser Robert McFarlane told the American Legion convention that the MX was necessary "so the Soviets can see that the American people are firm in their resolve to maintain their security interests whatever the sacrifice required may be."

The MX, with its 10 warheads and 8,000-mile range, provides a dramatic improvement in accuracy compared with the existing Minuteman missile force. But the MX has been challenged because it would be based in silos that are now considered vulnerable to a Soviet first strike.

Student killed in traffic mishap

(AP) — A cold front that swept through the state has been blamed in the traffic death of a University student Sunday.

Holly Henderson, 20, a physical education major from Kingstown, R.I., was killed Sunday after the vehicle in which she was riding skidded on icy Highway 58 about 60 miles east of Eugene. Oregon State Police said the westbound car crossed the center line and crashed into another vehicle.

Court reinstates Oregon ruling

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a case involving an Oregon burglary suspect, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday that a suspect's confession to police after he was advised of his so-called Miranda rights can be used as evidence even though an earlier confession was obtained without advice of rights.

The 6-3 decision reinstated Michael Elstad's 1981 burglary conviction in Polk County. The nation's highest court said Elstad's first incriminating statement to police, made without his being advised of his right to remain silent, did not taint his subsequent confession.

Writing for the Supreme Court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said, "A suspect who has once responded to unwarned yet uncoercive questioning is not thereby disabled from waiving his rights and confessing after he has been given the requisite Miranda warnings."

The Oregon Court of Appeals had reversed Elstad's conviction after ruling that the initial police questioning unlawfully tainted the subsequent confession.

Oregon Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer expressed satisfaction with the ruling. "In our judgment, the court properly recognized that a voluntary confession given after full warnings should be admitted to help determine the truth." he said in a statement released Monday in Salem.

The decision "delivers a potentially crippling blow to Miranda and the ability of the courts to safeguard the rights of persons accused of crime." Justice William Brennan wrote in a dissent for himself and Justice Thurgood Marshall. Brennan said the decision "threatens disastrous consequences."

The Supreme Court's 1966 Miranda decision requires police to warn all criminal suspects in custody that their answers may be used against them and that they have the right to remain silent or have a lawyer present during police questioning.



