

Editorial

Senate votes prudently on aid to Philippines

The Senate rejected a bill providing an additional \$200 million of foreign aid to the Philippines in a 51 to 43 vote Monday. The Philippines now are the model of democratic reform, but this vote was a prudent one.

The bill passed the House following Philippine President Corazon Aquino's speech in a joint session of Congress last month. Her speech prompted the House to approve the increase in aid, although the increase itself squeaked through with only a six vote margin.

The sad fact is that the United States doesn't have another \$200 million to add to foreign aid. Congress, facing strict budgetary constraints this session, cannot simply add the additional aid to the deficit. President Reagan has already threatened a veto of Congress' pork-barrel appropriations bills for the 1986-87 fiscal year.

It is also important to see what Aquino will do in the upcoming months, as she rewrites her country's constitution, consolidates the economy, badly damaged during the Marcos reign as president, and tries to contain communist aggression from guerrilla groups in the Philippines.

She was received very warmly by the American banking community and is currently negotiating with the International Monetary Fund to refinance the Philippine's national debt. We should watch her progress; the additional foreign aid may not be necessary.

Aquino also has not committed herself on allowing the important American naval bases in the Philippines to remain when their leases expire in 1991. Some senators argued that if we hope to keep our bases in the Philippines, we must be willing to give all available aid to her fledgling government, although members of Aquino's cabinet have leaked rumors that Aquino does not intend to renew the bases' leases.

With a \$200 million ante, this is an expensive gamble.

The bases are not only important to the United States for maintaining waterways in the Pacific, but to the local Philippine economy as well. Many Filipinos are employed at the bases, and base personnel support the surrounding community. Some Filipinos believe that without the bases, the surrounding cities would disappear.

It is reasonable for the United States to ask Aquino to commit herself to maintaining the bases, when the United States is committing itself to maintaining foreign aid to the Philippines.

American support for the Philippines is clear from the very close vote on Capitol Hill; probably no other nation would have come so close. What's more, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., who opposed the bill, is seeking a compromise bill by which the increase can be approved.

Unfortunately, the current bill would have taken the additional \$200 million from foreign aid to other countries, most of whom are already having their foreign aid cut by 20 to 30 percent.

Flux in dorm assignments part of University housing

Of the 60 students waiting in temporary housing for a dorm room, eight remain. Though inconvenient, the necessity of staying in a temporary room is a characteristic of University student housing.

Each year, about 10 percent of students with reservations in the dorms fail to show up and claim their rooms. Rather than let beds go empty, the University housing department overbooks the dorms to account for these no shows.

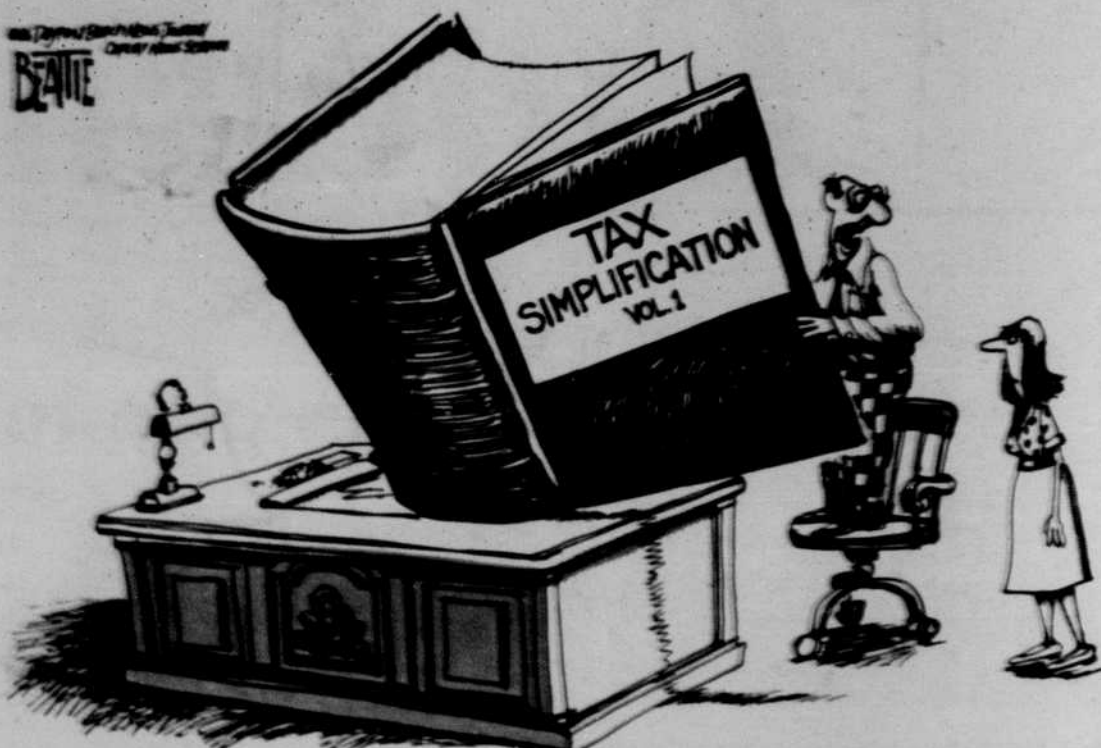
In Corvallis, only 2 percent of students with reservations fail to claim their rooms, causing few of the same problems in budgeting and assigning rooms.

The University housing department is not supported by the state; its only source of income is student room-and-board fees. These must pay for the administration and maintenance of on-campus housing, and the approximate \$700,000 yearly mortgage payment on the dorms.

Thus the number of residents is directly tied to what student services the housing department can provide. With high numbers of dorm residents, the department can provide extra student services, such as the recent renovation of Carson Hall.

Considering the uncertainty in the room assignment process, the housing department is doing an admirable job of maintaining student housing, despite some of the inconveniences.

BEATE



"That's what I was afraid of... you can't deduct medical expenses if you get a hernia using this manual."

Letters

A comment

As the seasons change, so do the University surroundings. I noticed some changes worth commenting on.

The greekies were absent, and with their absence came less trash around campus. I realized that the beer distributors must have mourned over the drastic reduction in revenues. I wasn't sure they could bear this burden. However, all is not lost. Yesterday, I saw a group of relieved beer vendors making the rounds to all the frats on Alder. I'm not sure, but I swear I saw a beer vendor crush a beer cup and toss it on the ground in some ancient ceremonial act to christen the new year.

However, this wasn't the most important change. The Delta Zetas had their house at 19th and University remodeled. Until school is in full swing, you won't hear the frat boys talking on Mondays about how well these ladies worked during the weekends. But the house is what I wish to comment on, not the residents' open-door policy. These ladies had this old house remodeled and then wrecked it. They took out the porch and put in some silly front stoop that resembles all the other houses.

They also added some rooms that completely destroyed the beauty of this once majestic house.

The real question I ask these ladies is, why did they paint the house virgin white?

Blake Louis Sliter
Political Science

A bit loud

Engines running, hammers hammering, drills drilling and saws sawing. Do these sounds interest you? If yes, then come to 221 Allen each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m. to take in all these obnoxious sounds of construction — all for the very low price of \$495 per term.

And as a bonus, if you register now, you might even catch the faint whispers of Mr. Ponder's lecture. Don't miss this chance!

Shana Campbell
Journalism

Real life

I would like to respond to Pete Fina's letter (Oct. 1, "Save Money").

Apparently you have never

been in need of public assistance. If you had, you would be aware of the extensive application (procedures) that must be filled out with information concerning one's income, bank accounts and other assets.

Public assistance is for surviving on until one's situation improves. As income or assets increase, so does the amount of assistance decrease.

To save money implies a surplus. If one has a surplus of money, then there is no longer a need for public assistance.

I suggest that you come out of your evidently sheltered and comfortable existence and hit the streets for some real-life economic education.

Caitlin Hecsh
PPPM

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 or style. Letters to the editor should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300, EMU.

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