

Pentagon out, higher ed. in, he says

DeFazio blasts Long's IRA suggestion

By Shawn Wirtz
Of the Emerald

Peter DeFazio, Democratic candidate for the 4th Congressional District said of higher education: "I'm going to defend to the hilt the programs we have now, and also try and increase the funding."

"After we cut \$60 to \$70 billion out of the Pentagon we can spend some of that money to restore domestic spending and use the rest of it to offset the deficit, and higher education would be one of my priorities," DeFazio said.

According to DeFazio, since 1980, "They've increased the military 100 percent and cut back education 35 percent. The priorities are not right."

DeFazio blasted his opponent Bruce Long's proposal to grant tax exemptions on Individual Retirement Accounts established for the purpose of funding a college education.

"That would require that either the students or their families have a large enough income that they could put aside all the money they need for college in one of those tax exempt accounts. My experience is that wouldn't work," DeFazio said.

"What he's saying is he supports Gramm-Rudman that will gut the existing plans we have. It will cut back on work-studies, cut back on NDSL's and Guaranteed Student Loans, and substitute this private sector thing where you get to save all the money you need before you go to college," DeFazio said.

"It's impossible in today's economy for someone to do that. It's just another one of these disguised cuts in our social programs," he said.

"The long-term competitiveness of the United States in the national economy has got to come from being the best-educated society," DeFazio said.

"Getting more money into education is going to provide

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spin-offs," he said.

As an example, DeFazio said he considers photovoltaics to be the next renewable energy source. "We had the lead for a number of years because we were funding research programs in the universities. Then Reagan got in and he just cut it all out," he said.

"Now we are going to have to buy the photovoltaics from another country," DeFazio said.

DeFazio said he would not try to bring Oregon federal tax dollars home by procuring defense contracts. He predicted states which rely on defense contracts will experience a recession.

"Buying into defense now is buying into the top of the market when it's about to fall," DeFazio said.

"The first thing we have to do is stem any further loss. The Gramm-Rudman budget will cut back on all the things that are important to Oregon," he said.

"The highest priority we have in the federal government is infrastructure investment," DeFazio said.

DeFazio said he would try to



Peter Defazio

obtain Federal Aviation Administration monies for Mahlon Sweet Airport and federal funds for improved access to Coos Bay's port.

Additionally, DeFazio said, "I would propose that we should not increase our power rates."

"One of the greatest advantages we have in marketing the Northwest is our cheap power," DeFazio said.

"We should stop the rate increases by decreasing the BPA (Bonneville Power Administration) budget and terminating the WPSS (Washington Public Power Supply System) investment so far under the mothball-

ing. My opponent strongly opposes that because he says someday we'll have to finish those plants," DeFazio said.

"Secondly I'm proposing that instead of shipping the power to California, we should set up a program where we market that power to new or expanding business in the Northwest," DeFazio said.

In regard to U.S. foreign policy concerning Central America, DeFazio said he opposes aid to the Contras.

DeFazio said the downing of the American plane in Nicaragua, "Shows that we are very close to fighting an act of war."

"I'll do anything to stop people 18 to 19 years old from fighting a war in Central America," he said.

"The struggle is not communism versus capitalism. The struggle is an indigenous people who want a decent standard of living," DeFazio said.

DeFazio said of Long, "He tries to say he supports the peace process and the Contras. You can't do that," he said.

"In fact the Nicaraguans agreed to sign a peace treaty two years ago in September, which was acceptable to the United States until the Nicaraguans said they would sign it. Then we said it was unacceptable," DeFazio said.

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