

# Editorial

## Packwood supports Oregon's interests

Sen. Bob Packwood has been an effective and intelligent congressman representing Oregon since 1968, and he wins our endorsement.

His opponent, Democrat Rick Bauman, deserves credit for entering the campaign late, with enthusiasm and good ideas, after Rep. Jim Weaver withdrew his candidacy.

Packwood, however, is a powerful senator, and continues to support Oregon interests as he pursues national legislation.

This support is shown by his help in achieving funding for University science buildings, establishing a reforestation trust fund for the replanting of timber land and his support of Oregonians in his development of the historic tax reform bill recently signed into law.

Packwood often has been a thorn in the Republican party's side on issues of environmentalism, labor, feminist legislation and abortion rights. This shows his dedication to a broad range of issues free of party affiliation.

He was one of three senators who prepared a report criticizing President Reagan for sending predominately military aid to El Salvador rather than economic aid. He will oppose aid to Nicaraguan Contras as long as the Sandinistas do not support revolutionaries in neighboring countries.

Packwood has also pledged staunch opposition to the Department of Energy's plan to make Hanford, Wa. a federally licensed nuclear waste site. His opposition, joined with other Northwest legislators, is the leverage the Northwest needs to prevent the DOE from placing that site in Hanford.

Packwood has been an effective national legislator and an advocate for Oregonians. We give him our endorsement to continue in this role.

## Goldschmidt has edge in gubernatorial race

The race that everyone is watching this fall is the gubernatorial race between Norma Paulus and Neil Goldschmidt. The two have very similar stands on most issues; the big question is what leadership each can provide.

We support Goldschmidt. Both candidates have the energy and ideas Oregon needs for economic strength paired with support of education and the needs of Oregonians, but Goldschmidt has the edge in proving himself to be effective and innovative.

Whether mayor of Portland, secretary of transportation in Washington D.C. or vice president of Nike, Inc., Goldschmidt has shown himself to have the gumption to bring major changes to Oregon.

As mayor of Portland he brought about the light rail, attracted businesses downtown and reduced the burglary and juvenile delinquency rates.

He has good ideas for the state, including seeking private donations to support Oregon education, providing state loans to students and introducing legislation to force divestment of state funds from South Africa.

Goldschmidt has the energy and will to make these ideas work.

There is another benefit to a Goldschmidt victory; Paulus has made Oregon politics her career, and will certainly continue to do so. Thus Oregonians would benefit by having both these politicians providing leadership for the state.

## Bain's tax experience gives legislative plus

The sincerity of Republican William Bain's campaign for state representative of District 41 and his experience in the Assessment and Taxation offices give Bain the edge, and our endorsement, in this race.

Bain supports bringing community colleges into the State System of Higher Education, and giving special attention to the Centers of Excellence and master's business administration program. He also feels Oregon needs to retain its graduates by maintaining a favorable business climate.

He supports a comprehensive look at the insurance problem, focusing on high court costs and contingent lawyers' fees as problems.

Bain's experience as tax assessor will help him to responsibly confront tax bills before the House. He opposes the tax measures on the ballot, and will help the Legislature recover funds if any of the tax measures pass.



"Next time, they'll never spot us with our pants down in Nicaragua with these!"

## Tax measures could be devastating

Ballot measures 7, 9, 11 and 12 present tax reform options to Oregonians. They are not good measures and could have effects ranging from bad to devastating if passed.

- Ballot Measure 7 would amend the Oregon constitution to provide a 5 percent sales tax. Besides being a regressive tax and not taking as much tourist money as its supporters would have us believe, a sales tax has been voted down in Oregon every time it has been put on the ballot.

- Ballot Measure 9 would amend the constitution to set a maximum property tax rate and limit annual increases in assessed property value to 2 percent.

Higher education would not be hurt directly but could suffer when funds are diverted to save elementary and secondary education. The Legislature will be forced to choose between basic school support and other state and local services in the competi-

tion for reduced tax revenue.

Property tax limitation measures are unpopular and have failed in previous elections. Hopefully the voters will turn it down once again.

- Measure 11 would make exempt from taxation 50 percent of a residence valued at up to \$25,000, and Measure 12 shifts state income-tax brackets to create revenue to fund these exemptions. Of all the tax measures these are the best, but we still do not support them.

Our biggest concern with the tax-bracket shift is what effect it will have in conjunction with the new national tax-reform bill. The national legislation is designed to tax corporations and businesses more; the impact on corporations and businesses could be doubly severe.

The tax shift would place a heavier burden on upper-income taxpayers and corporations, and the effect could be to drive them out of the state.

## Measure 4 creates utility commission

Ballot Measure 4 would convert the public utility commissioner's office into a three-person committee. This measure would make deliberations of the Public Utility Commission subject to Oregon's Open Meeting Law and would allow for public access to utility rate increase decisions. We endorse it.

Currently, the public utility commissioner can make decisions about utility rate increases behind closed doors, without public hearings, as the commissioner has

done as recently as December of last year.

A commission would not only be open to the public, but would create broader representation in utility rate decisions; the measure stipulates that no more than two of the members of the commission be of the same party.

Every other state has a commission rather than a single commissioner, and the payoff is open, representative utility rate decisions. Support Measure 4.

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