

The expenditure limit was set to deal with budget surpluses, but "almost immediately we went into an economic decline," Hosticka said. "Since our expenditures were low, that established a new base," he said.

Because the growth rate in the state budget from biennium to biennium can reach but not exceed the growth rate in personal income over the previous four years, "when you go into an economic recession you can spend all you want," Hosticka said.

"Now that we're coming up, we got caught in the squeeze," with the limit still declining but revenues currently increasing, Hosticka said. "The way the expenditure limit is written, it ties you into the problems of the past," he said.

"The question now is really how we are going to restore things we cut over a long period of time," such as faculty salaries, Hosticka said.

Goldschmidt admitted his budget doesn't solve the problem of Oregon's national standing in terms of faculty salaries. "We're trying to do this inside of very, very tight revenue constraints. We've done just the best we really can," he said.

He maintained that he is committed to raising salaries over time. "The chancellor, (William Davis), and the State Board (of Higher Education) have no quarrel in this office with their attempt to try to catch up," he said.

At the same time, the success of the Riverfront Research Park is not dependent on increasing faculty salaries, Goldschmidt said.

"You cannot contend on the one hand you've got the best scientists in the world on the campus...and on the other hand say that nothing will work if you don't get the amount of salary money you want," Goldschmidt said.

Raising tuition to increase faculty salaries is not within the governor's control, he said. Davis discussed that proposal with university and college student body presidents a week ago Friday.

"I didn't oppose it, and I don't need to do anything," Goldschmidt said. "That decision is either going to be made by the Ways and Means Committee or by the chancellor or the State Board or somebody," he said.

"If I were a student right now I would be worried about whether I could afford to go to school, but I'd also want to make sure I had the best faculty in the world because the reputation of my diploma depends a little bit on the quality of the

school. More than a little bit," he said.

Goldschmidt also responded to criticism from the Oregon Student Lobby concerning his proposed \$1 million merit-based aid program in contrast with an increase in the need-based aid of only \$1 million.

"I would not support a change that would have money that is now committed to need-based loans or grants switched to the merit program," Goldschmidt said.

"The amount isn't large," and the merit-based aid program is in addition to money allotted for need-based aid, he added.

"I think it deserves a hearing," he said. "At this point that's a whole policy issue for the Legislature."

The governor also has asked the Legislature to approve funds for a staff person to handle higher education issues. The primary responsibility of the position would be to "just basically equip the governor better to be an advocate for education," Goldschmidt said.

"If anybody thinks that the chief executive of this state is tooled up to work with it, you should look at where the comparative resources are. They just aren't over here," he said.

The governor's liaison also would deal with "the whole question of how we work the federal agenda for higher education, and how we make the connections between the Centers of Excellence and the Oregon economy, which right now are not very explicit," Goldschmidt said.

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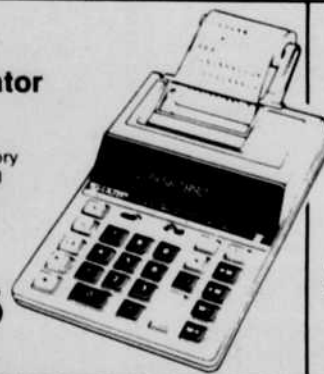
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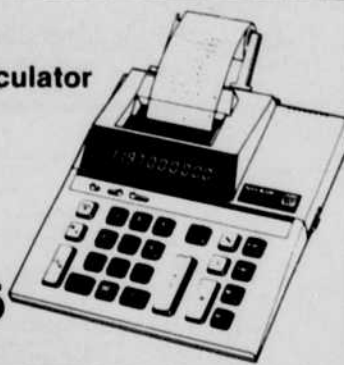


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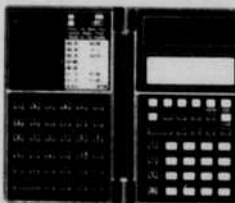


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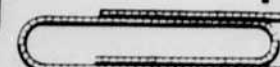
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