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Edmunson

Continued from Page 1

Eachus vacated the post after being appointed by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt to the three-person Public Utility Commission in September. Eachus subsequently was confirmed by the state Senate on Oct. 8.

The heavily democratic District 39 in northwest Eugene includes the River Road area, Santa Clara and Bethel. Edmunson, Below and Hare are registered Democrats.

In remarks made before the commissioners voted, Edmunson outlined problems Lane County and District 39 face today. Edmunson listed these as property value assessment, property tax collection, the corrections system, urbanization and rural land development.

Edmunson said Lane County is 17 assessors short in keeping up with tax rolls. He pointed out Portland is 16 assessors short but has three times the population.

In the area of property tax collection, Edmunson noted Lane County collects \$6 million in taxes annually, but \$3 million of that is spent running the county taxation and collection department. "The legislature needs to find a way to relieve that cost for us," he said.

Edmunson called for diagnostic centers "for people convicted of crimes but waiting for sentencing," instead of forcing them to take up jail space as they await pre-sentence investigations to be completed.

He called for the county commissioners to choose a state representative who would be willing to work on a "team" with other legislators.

Below cited his long-time work as a fireman and said school finances and economic development were the most important issues facing legislators today. He also noted that annexation by the city of Eugene is wrong if it is against the will of those being annexed.

"I don't believe residents are opposed to sewers. They are opposed to the cost of sewers," he added.

Hare emphasized his background, saying "My claim to this office is based on my record and my commitment to education."

"We need responsible schools but we need schools with the resources to give children what they need to compete," Hare said.

The county commissioners praised all three nominees before selecting Edmunson. Following his selection, Edmunson said he had already filed for the District 39 seat in the 1988 election.

Eachus had represented the district since 1985. He won notoriety in the late 1960s when, as ASUO president, he traveled to Hanoi to present a peace treaty to the Vietcong. Prior to that, he was editor of the Oregon Daily Emerald.

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