

Lawmakers urged to break spending limit

The 65th Oregon Legislature convenes today in Salem, and not without its share of problems. Lawmakers now find themselves faced with some well known problems, including one very tall hurdle that just might take all of the six month session to clear.

The major problem is the state's spending limitation, which proponents say needs to be broken and which critics have pointed out might hamper the legislators' abilities to finance the truly needy areas of the state.

The "minor" problems facing the legislature are the \$107 million crime and corrections package, a \$115 million school financing package and a \$29 million budget for Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's highly-publicized Children's Agenda to help caulk the gaps in the state's social services areas.

But surely the legislature has recognized the need for the Children's Agenda, the need for more money in the educational arena and the need for 1,100 new prison beds.

These are the truly needy areas to be addressed by the legislature. And in order to finance these programs, the legislature must come to terms and break the state's spending limitation. With predictions that the state's economic growth in the next two years will exceed the nation's, it only makes sense to spend the wealth in much needed places.

The state's general fund is expected to embrace \$4.475 billion in the next biennium — \$415 million more than can be spent under the spending lid. Goldschmidt wants to break the lid by \$225 million to finance his programs and proposes spending \$4.425 of the \$4.475 billion that the state will take in. All this and no new taxes, too? Such a deal, though Goldschmidt also has proposed an even longer list of state fee increases ranging from fishing licenses to college tuition (which unfortunately places the University somewhere between Stanford and Harvard in terms of tuition).

Opponents of the spending proposals are quick to point out that spending all but \$50 million in the state's income over the next two years won't leave enough for emergencies. But if the legislature won't take care of the state's problems now, while they have the chance, then just when do they expect to do so?

The limitation can be broken by a majority vote, as was done in 1987 to allocate \$125 million for mental health programs and basic school support. We vote to break the lid. It's time the state legislature did the same.

Federal budget could ruin economy, timber industry

As if the Oregon Legislature's financial kinks aren't enough, the Reagan administration intends to reveal a budget today that could seriously cripple the state's economy. But not if Democratic Reps. Peter DeFazio and Les AuCoin have anything to do with it.

The plan to be submitted to Congress will include the lift of a 1968 ban on the export of logs from U.S. Forest Service lands — making an exorbitant reduction in the supply of logs for Oregon mills; and the diversion of funds from timber sales to a national forest firefighting fund — funds that now go to the state's counties in lieu of taxes.

Apparently, the Reagan administration is making a last-ditch effort to ease the nation's budget deficit. But in doing so, they have failed miserably at understanding the economic nightmare that would occur in Oregon, Washington and Idaho — AuCoin has calculated a loss of 2,500 jobs in the Western Oregon timber market alone.

While DeFazio and AuCoin have no idea where President-elect George Bush stands on these issues, they have noted that it will be impossible for Bush to rewrite all of Reagan's budget.

But Oregon's Representatives have promised to make this a "fight or die issue." And so do we.



Letters

No choice

I'm tired of the kind of black-mail, sponsored by a partnership of business and government, which says we must choose between the quality of our environment and decent employment for working men and women.

The most recent example is the lawsuit to limit old growth timber harvest filed by the Oregon Natural Resources Council, et al. An effort deemed an "attack on all Oregonians" by Senator Mark Hatfield at this year's conference of the Association of Oregon and California Counties. Senator Hatfield raised the specter of less money for school districts as a result of reduced federal timber revenues.

What kind of choice are we given when asked to choose between educating our children and saving a national treasure like Oregon's Old Growth forests? That is no choice at all! And I don't buy Sen. Hatfield's assumption that we are not capable of achieving both goals. Are we not the richest, most powerful nation on Earth? Something is deeply wrong if, indeed, that choice must be made. And if, in fact, that choice does not have to be made — what can we conclude? Only that our leaders are lying to us.

John L. Jordan
Eugene

Who noticed?

Your recent Editorial entitled, "Symbols on directory a simple 'Whitewash'" is exceedingly unfair and arrogantly blown out of proportion. For

instance, there is a person of color in the front page of the Student Directory. He is located in the inset photo of the letter U, but that is not my point, nor is it what I am referring to. But how many people, who received a Student Directory bothered to even notice that there were five people in the foreground of the Directory and none of them were of color?

In the article you stated, "the people who publish the directory have forgotten that there are people of color at the University." Are you implying that the publishing company is a group of white supremacists, who are devoted to the oppression of black people? I don't think so, and I would estimate that your opinion would be that of the minority.

You also posed the question, "And what about people of color who would like to attend the University?" What about them? I'm assured that the University administration is dedicated to enrolling a diverse group of people, and the printing of the Student Directory, in no way, should influence a student's decision to attend the University of Oregon.

We, as Americans, and I personally have fought for civil liberties and equal rights for blacks, as well as, many other minorities. In my view the Student Directory has no racist overtones whatsoever. I was, however appalled to read a narrow-minded perception of a perfectly innocent situation.

Dean A. Huard
PPPM

Live in peace

Despite powerful claims pas-

sionately expressed in the Emerald on behalf of Palestinians and Israelis, the problem won't go away nor solve itself. Both peoples must eventually learn to live together in peace.

The "zionist" Martin Buber taught, "The human world is today split into camps, each of which understands the other as the embodiment of falsehood and itself as the embodiment of truth ... The dividing line ... doesn't coincide with any political or geographic boundaries. The ultimate fight is one between the human and the sub-human. We're on dangerous ground if we believe that any individual, nation or ideology has a monopoly on rightness, liberty and human dignity."

"True dialogue between peoples will only be possible when the mistrust which divides the world into hostile camps is overcome ... In the closed sphere of the exclusively political there is no way ... to relieve the present situation ... It is this powerlessness of politics which must be recognized before it is too late ... by those who will come together out of the camps and talk with one another, despite their criticism of the opposing system. In genuine dialogue each partner, even when standing in opposition to the other, heeds, affirms, and confirms their opponent as an existing other. Only so can conflict ... be humanly arbitrated and led toward its overcoming ... and a new step taken toward a true humanity."

We must encourage and empower Palestinians and Israelis advocating non-violence, negotiation, reconciliation, security and justice by heeding them and ceasing our attacks.

Rabbi Hanan Sills
Eugene

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Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is submitted.