

Senate should not prevent injunctions

Oregon's long-time public servant Sen. Mark Hatfield is an able legislator and a cagey politician, but he doesn't play fair.

Last month, Hatfield entered into the conflict between the state's timber industries and concerned environmentalists. After being frustrated by the environmentalists and unable to mediate a solution at the Salem summit, Hatfield took his case to the U.S. Senate.

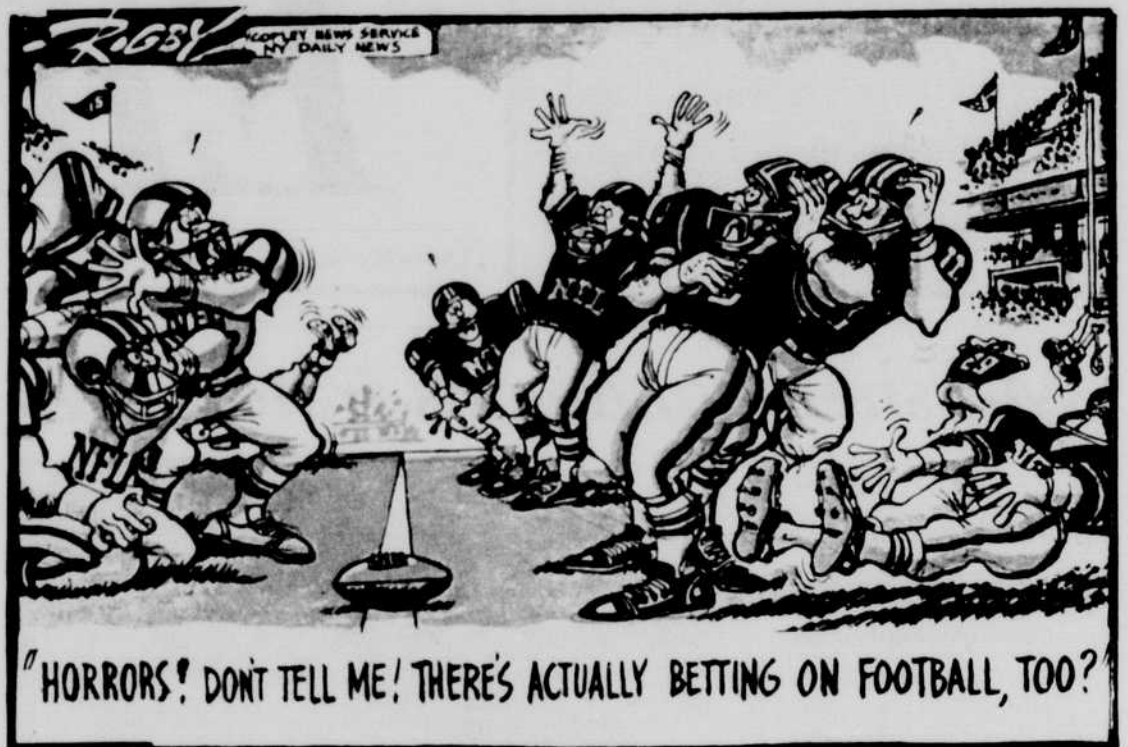
Along with Sen. Brock Adams (D-Wash.), Hatfield has added legislation to a Department of the Interior spending bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee Tuesday. Their plan calls for the logging of 10 billion board feet of federal timber for fiscal year 1990, preserves large tracts of ancient forests and lifts federal court injunctions if environmentalist coalitions don't free up 1.25 billion board feet held up in lawsuits over continued logging.

More disturbingly, the legislation would also prohibit environmentalists from using new injunctions to block timber sales in the 1990 fiscal year. This is where the senator is playing unfair — Hatfield can take his concerns about the state's timber to a higher authority; he wants to prevent his environmentalist opponents from being able to do so in the courts.

Environmentalists are rightfully fearful and angry about the injunction prohibition, and it is the one provision that should be dropped. The timber industry is hesitant but willing to accept the Hatfield-Adams plan; environmentalist coalitions say the 10 billion board feet level is too high. That both sides are unhappy with the plan is an excellent indication that it is close to a reasonable compromise.

But prohibiting injunctions is unreasonable. To do so would give the industry carte blanche to violate clean water, air and forest practice acts, important concerns that have nothing to do with the spotted owl, without fear of reprisals.

Because the Hatfield-Adams plan is a bipartisan bill, it seems likely to clear the Senate floor, where it would then have to be reconciled with the House's version that doesn't include the timber rider. Environmentalists are promising a fight; some national legislators (such as Vermont Democrat Sen. Patrick Leahy) are waking up to how wrong it would be to limit the right to judicial review. In the end, what was a local issue may be decided by national policy, but let's make sure that the folks at home have a say — and continue to have a say — in what that policy is.



Parking fee increase part of the games

Local citizens and merchants are pleased as punch that Eugene is hosting the VIII World Veterans' Games this week, and we too are excited to welcome such a prestigious event and the 10,000 international visitors it brings to our community.

That's why it is with some trepidation that we complain about a practice that, while it was probably meant with good intentions, seems to put a damper on the games.

In case you haven't noticed, the parking meters along University Street, and others in the campus area, have undergone a sudden price increase. Where they used to cost 25 cents for five hours, now a quarter will only get you 30 minutes.

Preying upon tourists is a time-honored practice; certainly, the University and community should expect to receive some revenue from the games. But a ten-fold markup seems exorbitant. Do our tourist friends realize how much they're being gouged?

Perhaps the price increase was intended to control traffic around McArthur Court and Hayward Field during the games. If that's the case, we agree that the students who usually use these meters should be expected to surrender them for a week for the benefit

of the city. But a little advance warning would have been nice.

Whatever the reasoning behind the increase, there is a larger concern of ours. Particularly aggravating is the fact that the machines no longer accept anything but quarters. It is no longer just enough to have a pocket full of change, now it has to be the correct change. Maddening as this is, we wonder if it isn't also part of the plan. This kind of frustration both makes the Lane Transit District bus system more attractive, easing traffic congestion, and increases illegal parking ticket revenues from those who can't dig up the change.

Thinking about all of what went into the parking meter increase instills a certain sense of paranoia in us, which is unfortunate at this time of festivities. We don't want to ruin anybody's fun. Perhaps we are just oversensitive about the parking issue, that frequent bugaboo of the University community, where students will tell you there is never enough by campus and too much by Sacred Heart hospital. We recognize this too.

Only one thing might make us happy. How about some streetcorner change machines during the games?

Forum

Already troubled farmers worried about toxic chemicals

By Dixon Terry

There are rumblings on America's farm today, and the trouble goes well beyond dry weather.

After more than 20 years of federal policy promoting more intensive yields, mostly through application of more

groundwater. Pollution, poison and hunger plague urban and rural people alike, but the connection between these issues seems to have escaped many of those fighting for family farms, clean water and safe, affordable food. This disunity is a burden we can no longer bear.

Since the early 1960s, our government has pursued an export-oriented, low commodity price policy that has benefitted only conglomerates that deal in agricultural inputs, processing and trade. These policies have resulted in greater pesticide use and soil erosion, have not fed the domestic poor and have made it impossible for developing nations to build food self-sufficiency. The 1985 Food Security Act, latest in the line of low-price policies, has succeeded in putting taxpayer dollars in farmers' pockets, but this notion of rural welfare, like "decoupling" schemes which pay farmers a flat fee regardless of their production, encourages the abuse of agricultural chemi-

cals and clearly has not made food any more affordable.

The advocates of low-price commodity policies are the very same people who sell finished food products to consumers and agricultural chemicals to farmers. Farm policy will be at a crucial junction in 1990, and environmentalists, farmers and consumers must take advantage of the opportunity presented by the debate over the 1990 farm bill. Working toward a common goal today will allow advocates of safe and sane agriculture policy to overcome the pressure from corporate agribusiness which gave us the 1985 farm bill.

The economic incentives needed to move the agricultural base into a low chemical program are great. Higher market price supports, which will reduce federal subsidy payments, is the first step to take to build sustainable agriculture.

The second step is to enhance existing acreage set-asides with direct marketing

controls. This would reduce chemical use quickly and substantially by removing the incentive for intensive production.

Finally, farm-specific transition plans must be developed and implemented to phase in

sound agricultural practices. A complete reorientation of federal research and extension services must accompany this transition.

Dixon Terry is an Iowa dairy farmer and president of the National Family Farm Coalition.

Commentary

and more chemicals, farmers in many parts of the country are wondering about their personal health as well as their economic well-being. For example, a 1988 Peter Hart survey conducted for the non-profit organization Rural Voice found 75 percent of the farmers questioned ranked exposure to toxic chemicals as their number one concern.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) found in a 1987 study that 1.5 million Americans may contract cancer due to exposure to contaminated

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