

Timber may get federal reprieve

WASHINGTON (AP) — Northwest lawmakers said Thursday night they were near agreement with other congressional negotiators on legislation to give the Northwest timber industry a temporary reprieve in the battle over the spotted owl.

"It's gone beyond the 50-50 stage," Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore., said when the meeting ended. But he warned that unless those who threatened a House floor fight over the old-growth issue back down, any

compromise would be in jeopardy.

"We've got some promising concepts but loops have to be closed on all of them," AuCoin added.

"We have a broad outline but there can still be difficulties in the details," said Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash.

Lawmakers were searching for a way to ensure Northwest mills of a steady supply of timber from the region's old-growth forests over the next year while the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service decides whether to protect the northern spotted owl as an endangered species.

Rep. Chet Atkins, D-Mass., and Nick Ashmore, an aide to House Speaker Tom Foley, joined Dicks and AuCoin in the late night talks.

Lawmakers refused to discuss specifics. They said numerous people must be consulted Friday morning before any agreement was taken to a House-Senate conference committee meeting scheduled later in the day.

Foley, Rep. Sidney Yates, D-Ill., who chairs the House interior appropriations subcommittee, members of the Oregon and Washington congressional delegations and critics of Senate-passed legislation were among those who still must be consulted, Dicks and AuCoin said.

A floor fight is possible if no compromise can be presented to the conference committee and Northwest lawmakers fear they could lose such a fight.

AuCoin said earlier that unsolved issues included: the level of timber sales in the Northwest's federal forests over the next 12 months, the definition of old-growth forest and how much spotted owl habitat should be preserved.

Probe, pressure grows in caucus leader fiasco

SALEM (AP) — Oregon House Democrats, faced with a widening probe of their financial record-keeping and the resignation of their caucus administrator, voiced support Thursday night for House Majority Leader David Dix.

For his part, Dix announced several steps the House Democrats would take in the wake of continuing questions about reporting of political contributions to House Democrats.

He said a three-member committee would pull together the various financial records of the caucus and turn them over to the secretary of state's auditors by the end of next week.

After that, a certified public accountant will be hired to handle the financial matters of the caucus, the Eugene Democrat said.

Dix called Thursday night's meeting to give caucus members an update in the wake of this week's resignation of caucus administrator Carl Wiederaenders.

Wiederaenders quit after it was disclosed that he took a page from a caucus financial report he was examining in the secretary of state's office.

Secretary of State Barbara Roberts has asked the state police to investigate whether any laws were broken. She said Tuesday it appeared the missing page had been torn from the file.

Dix said he believes Wiederaenders took the document by mistake and that he returned the page to the secretary of state's office immediately after he discovered Wiederaenders had walked away with it.

The caucus has come under scrutiny for apparently not reporting some contributions, including one for \$10,000 from state Rep. Hedy Rijken, D-Newport.

The page Wiederaenders took from the secretary of state's office showed Rijken's donation hadn't been listed in the caucus financial report.

Besides the state police investigation of Wiederaenders' actions, the secretary of state's office also is auditing the caucus and two other Democratic campaign funds.

Celebration Continued from Page 4

Take Beltline to Springfield, 42nd Street exit, and turn left.

12-5 p.m. Bike race will start and finish at Second Avenue and High Street.

12 p.m. Bed races on Eighth Avenue between Willamette and Park Streets.

2 p.m. Trike-cathalon, same location as bed races.

3 p.m. Waiter/Waitress competition, same location as bed races.

4 p.m. Bucket Brigade, same location as bed races.

Shows and Demonstrations
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Albany Street Rods Show on Willamette Street between 10th and 11th Avenues.

11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Society for Creative Anachronism. See Sat-

urday

Fairs, Carnivals and Markets
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday Market and Farmer's Market.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Country Roots.

12-5 p.m. Youth Fair.

12-6 p.m. Midway.

Entertainment

1-3 p.m. Dance Ability Workshop for the disabled and non-disabled, in the Hult Center's Studio One.

1-5 p.m. "Celebrating Diversity" at the Downtown Fountain Stage showcases folktales and music from many cultures.

2-5 p.m. Classical Corner.

3:30 p.m. Sandunga at the Hult Plaza Stage.

5 p.m. The Dub Squad at the Eighth and Willamette Stage.

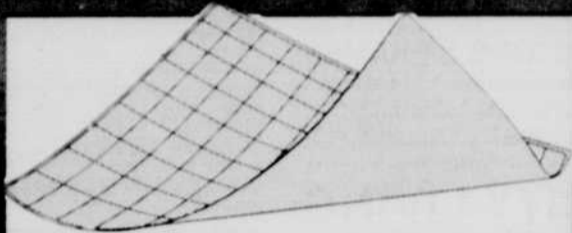
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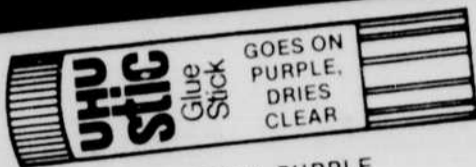
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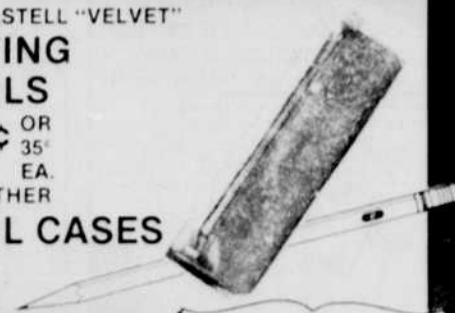


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