

Dix passes police lie detector

SALEM (AP) — State Rep. David Dix said Tuesday that he has passed an Oregon State Police lie-detector test on his involvement in a former top aide's removal of a campaign finance document from the state Elections Division office.

The House majority leader also said he is cooperating "in every way I can" with a criminal investigation into the incident and with an audit by the Secretary of State's office into the House Democrats' 1988 campaign finances.

One of the investigators in the criminal case, state police Capt. Dennis O'Donnell, declined to confirm whether Dix, a Eugene Democrat, submitted to the polygraph test last Friday. But O'Donnell also said he "wouldn't deny" that Dix took the test.

State police are investigating whether the document incident amounted to the crime of tampering with a public document, a misdemeanor subject to a \$2,500 fine and a one-year jail term.

Dix said a two-hour polygraph examination covered questions about his role in events surrounding the removal of a page from a campaign finance report that was filed by the House Democratic Caucus last November.

Dix's former top aide, Carl Wiederaenders, has admitted taking the page from the report on the morning of Sept. 19. After Wiederaenders resigned six days later, Dix said

Wiederaenders "accidentally tore it out" of the report.

Wiederaenders' resignation came as scrutiny into discrepancies in the Democrats' finance reports was rising. Since then, the Democrats have admitted their financial reports are a mess and have pledged to get them cleaned up.

The page that was taken failed to report a \$10,000 contribution to the caucus from Rep. Hedy Rijken, D-Newport.

Dix said he was asked during last week's polygraph examination if he had knowledge beforehand of Wiederaenders' plans and if Wiederaenders ever admitted intending to remove the page.

"The investigation will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that I didn't talk to (Wiederaenders) about it, I didn't discuss it with him," Dix said.

On the morning the page was stolen, Dix said he went to the Elections Division office at about 9:30 a.m. He had neither seen nor talked with Wiederaenders, he said.

Dix said he and Elections Manager Larry Bevins discovered that the relevant page was missing and that Bevins told him that Wiederaenders was the last to view the file earlier that morning. Dix said he immediately went to his office, found Wiederaenders and the missing page and returned it to Bevins.

Smith says old growth pact win for environmentalists

By Les Blumenthal
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved legislation Tuesday to allow more logging of the Northwest's old growth forests and to protect spotted owls, but one congressman said the so-called compromise was really a surrender.

The legislation was part of the interior appropriations bill for fiscal year 1990, which was approved by the House on a 381-41 vote. Final approval by the Senate is expected this week.

Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore., said Congress was caving into the demands of "radical" environmentalists and the legislation would result in a "substantial and grievous reduction" in harvest levels.

"This is beyond compromise, this is surrender. This is not peace in our time," said Smith, quoting former British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

He warned the legislation

would do little to end the litigation that has tied up timber sales in the region's federal forests.

"This agreement is not the short-term panacea some would have you believe," said Smith.

Smith said the legislation would result in a 15 percent reduction in timber sales in the federal forests over the next 12 months, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs.

"We are downsizing the timber industry because a few radical preservation groups say so," said Smith, adding Congress was in effect declaring the owl an endangered species by "congressional fiat."

But in a series of heated exchanges with Smith, Democratic Reps. Les AuCoin of Oregon and Norm Dicks of Washington state defended the compromise legislation.

"I regret my colleague from Oregon finds fault with this compromise," said AuCoin. "I find fault. But you can't sit on a porch a job a snowball and call it surrender."

AuCoin said the legislation would save roughly 11,000 jobs in the Northwest threatened by current court injunctions barring logging in old-growth forests which provide prime nesting habitat for the owl.

"I understand the gentleman's frustration," said Dicks. "But sometimes in the political process you have to deal with what is practical and doable."

Dicks and AuCoin said that more than 100 House members had expressed opposition to a Senate-passed timber plan, which Smith supported, and had vowed to oppose any effort to pass it in the House.

"I supported the Senate amendment too, but it wasn't going to pass," said AuCoin. "It's better to save 11,000 jobs than get mowed down in a ball of flame."

But Smith wasn't about to back down.

"I always thought a majority around here was 218 (votes) and not 100," said Smith. "Radical environmentalists have precipitated a three-ring circus in the forests, the Congress and the courts."

The compromise legislation, which has the reluctant support of many industry and environmental groups, will allow 9.6 billion board feet of timber to be sold in the region's federal forest during the fiscal year that started Sunday.

It also imposes strict deadlines on the courts for resolving appeals of individual timber sales, requires that about half the sales currently enjoined be released and requires that federal agencies "minimize fragmentation of environmentally significant old-growth forest stands."

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