

Governor proposes financing program with lottery revenue

BEND (AP) — Gov. Neil Goldschmidt on Tuesday proposed greatly expanding Head Start preschool programs by financing them with 30 percent of net lottery revenue.

The governor disclosed his plan in a "state-of-the-state" address that kicked off a four-day speaking tour around the state.

Goldschmidt said he'll ask the 1991 Legislature to send the voters a proposed constitutional amendment to allow using lottery proceeds for Head Start.

The governor told a public forum sponsored by the Bend Chamber of Commerce that his goal is to make the program available to every eligible child in the state, a number estimated at about 15,000.

About 3,900 children ages 3 and 4 are now enrolled in Head Start programs in the state.

The constitutional measure passed by voters to authorize the lottery in 1984 requires that 34 percent of the proceeds be used for economic development.

Goldschmidt wants to use 30 percent of that amount, es-

timated at about \$20 million a year, for Head Start. The cost for the program to serve every eligible child would be about \$35 million a year, the governor's office said.

Federal and other state funds would make up the difference in cost.

The governor, who hasn't officially announced whether he's seeking re-election, said the program is an extension of the Children's Agenda effort he launched two years ago.

Head Start programs provide education, health and social services as well as parent education.

"By getting these children ready for school, we free our teachers to do the job they were trained to do — and do very well — prepare children for life," Goldschmidt said.

He said he'll also ask lawmakers to expand financing of drug and alcohol treatment programs so they're available for every addicted pregnant mother and all children under 18 who can't afford treatment on their own.

"No child of Oregon is going to have to stand in line to get help," he said.

Goldschmidt said he was proposing "that we take a stand for the children of the shadows, the ones ill-provided and ill-equipped to learn and prosper."

"These proposals, taken together, will be the biggest economic development decision Oregon is ever going to make," he said.

Goldschmidt also announced he will create a state commission on drug-addicted babies with the goal of ensuring that pregnant, addicted women get treatment.

The panel will be headed by former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts of Portland.

The governor said his programs are aimed at a better qualified work force and "ultimately will mean the transfer of thousands of Oregonians from the tax-supported rolls to the taxpayer rolls; from having cells built for them to building a future for themselves."

Goldschmidt also said the state is on the rebound from conditions he inherited when he took office in 1987.

Portland to confiscate cars of drunk drivers

PORTLAND (AP) — City officials are pursuing formal forfeiture proceedings to gain ownership of three cars seized under a new ordinance aimed at drunken drivers and patrons of prostitutes, a city commissioner announced.

"This is the first of what I hope will be many," commissioner Earl Blumenauer, who developed the law, said Monday as he showed reporters a white 1983 Cadillac Coupe DeVille with red leather seats.

Under the law, which took effect Dec. 15, police officers have seized nine cars from drivers with suspended licenses due to drunken driving convictions and 18 cars from men arrested in prostitution cases.

The police and city attorney jointly decide which cars the city will try to take permanently. The city then will auction it off, keeping the revenue.

Blumenauer said it is more likely the cars would be those worth more or those whose drivers have the worst records.

Paul Elsener, the deputy city attorney handling forfeitures, said he's developing some "floating criteria." For example, if a driver is drunk or resists arrest, the city would be more likely to seize his car.

The three cars are the white Caddy, with a blue book value

of between \$5,900 and \$4,300; a 1974 Mercury Capri, which police say is worth about \$700; and a 1973 Ford Maverick that the owner estimates is worth \$300.

All three drivers had suspended licenses from drunken driving.

The Cadillac was driven by Thomas E. Solorio, arrested Dec. 29 on suspicion of drunken driving. Solorio is classified an "habitual offender" for his driving record.

The Capri was driven by Kenneth Courtney, stopped on suspicion of careless driving on Dec. 23. Police had an outstanding warrant charging him with escape because he didn't report to the Multnomah County Restitution Center.

Courtney was carrying a loaded handgun concealed under a car seat and resisted arrest, police said. Courtney is not the car's owner.

The Maverick was driven by Randy Corwin, arrested for failing to obey the police and for reckless endangerment on Dec. 28. Corwin is not the car's owner.

Blumenauer said the city would probably make money by selling the Cadillac, but that the other cars would be losers. However, he said, the drivers had such lousy records, it was worth taking the cars.



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