

# Oregon representatives discuss various health care plans

By Janay Blazejewski  
Emerald Contributor

The chambers of the Eugene City Hall filled to overflowing Tuesday as young and old alike came to voice their concerns over health care issues.

The meeting, led by Oregon Congressional Representatives Peter DeFazio, Ron Wyden, Les AuCoin and Mike Kopetski, was a forum to discuss four different health care proposals, particularly the "single-payer" approach, also

known as the Canadian system.

In 1990, 37.4 million U.S. residents were without health insurance, DeFazio said. In addition, he said, 11 percent of the average U.S. citizen's income was used to pay for health care in 1990, a 60 percent increase since 1970.

"We're paying more and getting less," AuCoin said. "And I think that's a raw deal for Oregonians and Americans."

DeFazio thinks that the Russo Bill, which is a single-payer approach, can alleviate these problems. It would im-

plement a government-sponsored, publicly financed and administered system.

State governments would administer the plan under federal assistance and the delivery of services would remain in private hands, he said.

The single-payer plan would be financed through a new six percent payroll tax on employers, increases in corporate and personal income taxes, a long-term health care premium on senior citizens, state contributions and

maintenance of current federal health care spending.

Three other proposals discussed at the meeting include the "pay or play" plan, the "tax option" plan and the "fine tuning" approach to health care.

Under the "tax option" plan, employers would be required to provide health care benefits for workers. Unfortunately, DeFazio said, most small businesses would not be able to afford the system, subsequently going bankrupt.

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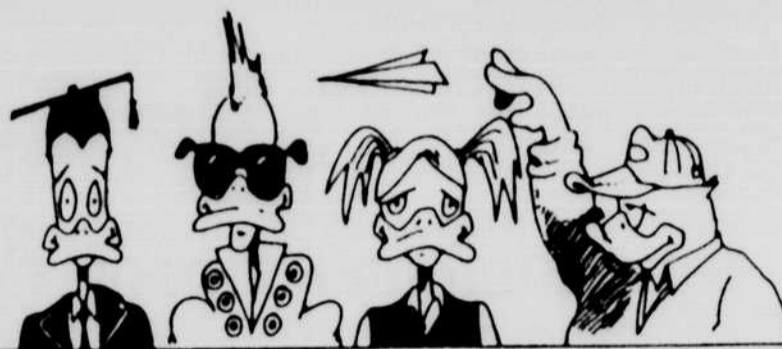
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