

Packwood says no to Aucoin spending idea



PORTLAND (AP) - Sen. Bob Packwood on Monday rejected a proposal by Rep. Les Au-Coin that they limit campaign spending to \$1 million apiece.

But he did take his Democratic challenger

up on an invitation to debate.

'I am ready to start these appearances immediately," Packwood said. "In addition, I am readying a series of 10 debates or joint appearances to take place around Oregon in August, during the congressional recess.

AuCoin kicked off his campaign Saturday by challenging Packwood to a series of debates. He also proposed that both candidates play it clean in television ads, reject ads bought by independent groups and limit their advertising budgets to \$500,000 each and overall campaign spending to \$1 million.

'Congressman AuCoin comes a bit late to the suggestion," said Packwood, who has amassed a \$5.5 million war chest.

He blasted AuCoin in TV ads aired before the primary election,

in which AuCoin beat Harry Lonsdale by 330 votes Packwood has said he plans to surpass the \$7 million war chest

he raised for his 1986 campaign, the richest in Oregon history. 'Congressman AuCoin has pledged to raise \$4 million for this race, and I have been raising money on that basis and will spend it accordingly," Packwood said

The senator said he was willing to play it clean in TV ads, but he accused AuCoin of being nasty first.

"Just the day before he offered his challenge, AuCoin called me a demogague' on the timber issue," Packwood complained.

Packwood said he would pledge to "stick to issues, record and statements made.

"I will not, for example, impugn motives, such as claiming that Congressman AuCoin introduced legislation for the real estate industry because they were prepared to spend \$100,000 in his primary campaign," Packwood said.

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her tax proposal (a sales tax is likely to be included).

Voters will either have a tax plan to vote on in a special election or may be able to choose from more than one during the November general elections, such as the "splitroll" plan supported by Oregon Fair Share. The group is collecting signatures to put this proposal, which would increase business taxes, on the ballot.

Some lawmakers have balked at the idea of a special election in September, saying it wouldn't give voters enough time to become informed. However, Sarah Carlin Ames, a spokeswoman for Roberts, said the governor believes a new tax tax plan is an issue that needs the undivided attention of Ore-

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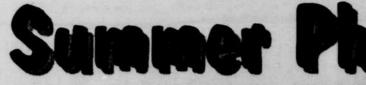
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"The governor is adamant that September would be a better date," Ames said. "She wants Oregonians to know exactly what they're voting on, and in November, with the presidential election and everything else, it just wouldn't get the focus it needs."

Although the administration is legally barred from taking a position on political issues, the ASUO will take a stand on whatever new tax proposal(s) goes before the voters.

ASUO President Bobby Lee said plans are under way to mail out 12,000 letters that will explain the need for replacement revenue, what's being voted on and how to register to vote. The letters will be mailed if a new tax plan emerges from the special session. The ASUO also plans to have tables set up during the summer throughout campus with information and registration cards.



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