

Aloha man starts Packwood resignation petitions



ALOHA (AP) — A businessman who says Sen. Bob Packwood should resign over sexual misconduct allegations announced Tuesday he is spending \$15,000 on a petition drive to send a message from Oregon to the Senate Ethics Committee.

"I can't be fooled by his lies," said P.J. Mulcahy, a landscape contractor who says he is acting independently.

Mulcahy, 50, plans to distribute up to 200,000 petitions asking for Packwood's resignation or expulsion from the Senate. The petitions ask those who sign them to mail or fax the forms directly to Sen. Richard H. Bryan, D-NeV., chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee.

A spokeswoman for Packwood said the senator would not comment on Mulcahy's efforts.

"It's just more of the Betty Roberts cottage industry to get Bob Packwood," said Julia Brim-Edwards, a Packwood aide in Portland, referring to a former Oregon Supreme Court chief justice leading the effort to force a resignation.

Mulcahy said he decided to act because he believes the claims made by 23 women who say Packwood made improper advances, including grabbing them and kissing them.

The first of the allegations surfaced in a Nov. 22 story by *The Washington Post* following Packwood's re-election to his fifth term. The Oregon Republican since has been the target of growing criticism that has led to an Ethics Committee investigation.

"I believe the allegations are true, in my heart," Mulcahy said at a news conference held at his Aloha office.

He said the senator's refusal to publicly discuss details about the allegations makes voters believe he is trying to hide from the truth.

"We're not asleep out here in Oregon," Mulcahy said. "I don't personally know Mr. Packwood, nor his accusers. I'm just a citizen concerned about morality."

A longtime Packwood supporter, Charles Slepian, said Mulcahy is ignoring the duty of the Senate to decide what action, if any, should be taken.

"Whether Mr. Mulcahy distributes 10, a thousand or a million petitions, our

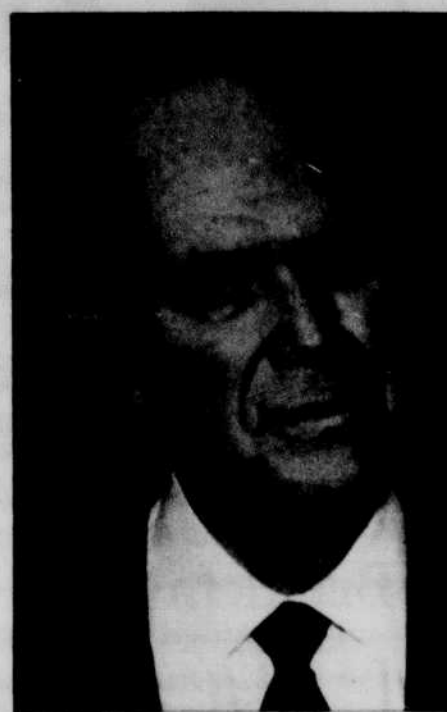
'I don't personally know Mr. Packwood, nor his accusers. I'm just a citizen concerned about morality.'

— P.J. Mulcahy, calling for senator's resignation

answer is still the same," said Slepian, who helped organize Oregonians for a Fair Hearing to support Packwood. "We are not ready to give up on the Constitution of the United States, and it says you have right to a fair hearing."

Mulcahy said his petition drive was one of the few ways an average voter can make his feelings known. He accused Packwood of using the Ethics Committee as a shield from public opinion.

Slepian responded that Packwood expects a full and fair hearing from the committee. He said many of the senator's critics are simply using the charges as a weapon to get rid of a political opponent.



Sen. Bob Packwood

Senator to avoid Seaside conference

SALEM (AP) — Embattled Sen. Bob Packwood has decided to skip this year's Dorchester Conference because of fears his opponents would try to disrupt the event he founded years ago.

Packwood, who faces a Senate Ethics Committee investigation into his alleged sexual misconduct, earlier had announced he would attend the conference March 5-7 in Seaside.

But his top aide, Elaine Franklin, said Tuesday that Packwood had learned a group that's trying to force him from office planned to register its members as Dorchester delegates and then disrupt the meeting.

"The senator has too much history with the conference to allow that to happen," Franklin said. "He did not want to be the cause of this disruption."

One of the leaders of the anti-Packwood group, Oregonians for Ethical Representation, denied that the group had plans to disrupt the Republican meeting on the Oregon Coast.

"There is no effort of any sort that I know of," said Betty Roberts, a former state Supreme Court justice who ran against Packwood in 1974.

"He is bowing out because he has become 'radiation man.' No one wants to be close to him," Roberts said. The president of this year's Dorchester meeting,

Peter Gray, said he was disappointed that the founder of conference had canceled out.

"The senator is always welcome at the Dorchester Conference and I will look forward to his attendance at our 30th anniversary in 1994," Gray said.

Gray earlier said the controversy surrounding Packwood had helped generate publicity for Dorchester, which was created by Packwood in 1965 to provide a forum for moderate Republicans.

Packwood, in a prepared statement, said delegates to the annual Republican meeting "deserve a forum free from disruption and demonstrations."

"I have concluded that my presence will distract from the real focus of the conference," the Republican senator said.

Packwood has been dogged by protests and controversy since November, when *The Washington Post* first reported allegations from women who said Oregon's junior senator had made unwanted sexual advances.

Gray earlier said he had heard no negative comments from Republican Party activists about Packwood's plans to attend this year's Dorchester meeting.

The Republican senator was met by protesters at nearly every stop he made during recent swings through the state.

OCA initiative plans fall behind schedule

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Citizens Alliance is pushing back the projected election date for some of its anti-gay initiatives from June to September.

In some cases, the delays are because of challenges to the measures, alliance Chairman Lon Mabon said Tuesday. In other cases, it is taking longer than expected to get signature-gathering drives under way.

The OCA plans petition drives in 25 cities and eight counties. The group originally planned to have the issue on the ballot in each of the locales, if enough signatures were obtained, on June 29.

Now, the OCA hopes to have about half the elections in June and the others in September, Mabon said.

So far, signatures are being collected in about a third of the areas where the initiatives have been filed, he said.

The OCA sponsored Measure 9, the statewide anti-gay rights initiative that failed last year. Another statewide campaign is planned next year.

The alliance's local initiatives would deny minority status for homosexuals. They also would prohibit the use of local government funds to assist or condone homosexuality.

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