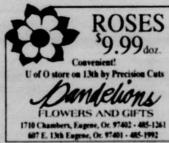


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# Report charges pork-barreling



House Speaker Tom Foley, Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield and Washington Rep. Norm Dicks are among lawmakers spending for constituents and special interests last

year, a watchdog group said Tuesday

But Foley and aides to the other lawmakers defended the projects, including \$10 million for the Oregon Health Sciences University and \$2 million for a National Park Service interpretive display in Tacoma, Wash.

In its annual "Congressional Pig Book Summary," the non-profit group Citizens Against Government Waste reported that despite growing concern about the deficit, wasteful spending continues.

'The '1993 Congressional Pig Book Summary outlines some of the most egregious examples of wasteful pork-barrel spending approved by a Congress claiming to have cut the budget to the bone," the group reported. "Once these projects are funded, they grow like a cancer, consuming more and more tax dollars every year.

The list includes \$19.7 million for the International Fund for Ireland. The group said congressional committee sources told them the money was requested by Foley, D-Wash.

In the past, American taxpayer dollars in the fund have been used for a golf video and pony trekking centers, the group said.

But Foley told reporters the money goes to create jobs in Ireland to help "end the sectional, sectarian fighting and violence.

"I think it's one of the best investments we make abroad in any country for any purpose," the speak-

Congress has been appropriating about \$20 million annually for the fund since 1986, said Robin Webb, an aide to Foley. The European Community. Canada and Australia also contribute in an effort to create jobs in Ireland, she said.

"There is a bipartisan group of about 100 mem-bers of Congress — Friends of Ireland — who have been sympathetic to the cause of the International Fund for Ireland," she said, adding that the money is directed at both Irish Protestants and Catholics.

Citizens Against Government Waste said last year's energy and water appropriation bill ear-marked \$10 million for the Ambulatory Research and Education Building at Oregon Health Sciences

Is that a pork barrel project?

"Absolutely not," said Bill Calder, Hatfield's press secretary

'It is part of a continuing vision Mark Hatfield has to improve the medical research facilities in Oregon, to make it one of the leading research facilities in the country," Calder said.

'Sen. Hatfield is committed to medical research throughout the country and has appropriate measures to see the funding is adequate through a variety of appropriations bills. Most of the federal grants for research are funded through the energy and water bill," he said.

# Oregon may restrict triple-trailers' access

PORTLAND (AP) - The state Department of Transportation is proposing a ban on triple-trailer rigs for weekends and holidays on some two-lane highways in Oregon.

The administrative rule would affect 500 of the 3,500 miles that are open to triple trailers.

Marshall Coba, vice president for government relations of the Oregon Trucking Associations, estimated that the restrictions would add millions of dollars to shipping costs because goods

would have to be transported in smaller trucks. But the industry supports the restrictions because it wants to maintain a good safety record and reduce annoyances to motorists on crowded two-lane highways, he said.

All we're trying to do is make triples better," he said.

The restrictions are part of a triple-trailer safety package approved by the transportation department last week. The administrative rules would take effect as early as March 16, unless they are challenged by at least 10 citizens or an organization with 10 or more members. The state would then hold a hearing before deciding whether to adopt the rules

A statewide ballot measure that would have banned triple trailer rigs on all Oregon roadways was soundly rejected by voters last fall. Bills have been introduced in the Legislature to limit triple trailers to interstate highways.

### Legislator may run for governor

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) Rep. Bob Smith said Tuesday he is considering running for gov-

'It is obvious, under the leadership of Gov. Barbara Roberts. that Oregon needs leadership. the Oregon Republican said from his office in Washington. D.C. "Oregon is in the most desperate state it has been in in my memory.'

Smith said he is exploring whether Oregon wants a fiscal conservative like himself to cope with the budget constraints of the Measure 5 property tax limit.

A decision isn't likely until next fall, he said.

Roberts has said she will seek

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