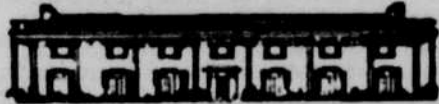


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REFORM

Continued from Page 1

"The politicians are in charge. They believe the public is unwilling to increase taxes," said Margaret Hallock, director of the University Labor, Education and Research Center.

In July 1992, when the House refused to allow a special vote in September by mail ballot, Gov. Barbara Roberts opted not to put the Oregon Tax Plan on the November ballot.

Roberts should have compromised and put the Oregon Tax Plan before the voters on the November ballot, said University President Myles Brand. "We should have had something out to be voted on. Arguably it would have failed, but we should have started the process," Brand said.

Roberts said in a recent meeting of the Association of Oregon Faculties that "timing is everything," and until Oregonians see and understand the cuts, they won't support tax reform, an idea that has been dubbed the "blood-on-the-table strategy."

"There is never a good time to put a tax proposal on the ballot. The longer you wait, the harder it is," Brand said.

Roberts said it would have failed.

"To have gone to the ballot and failed would have killed any opportunity that we had for another year," she said.

There is an abundant number of other tax proposals in the Legislature right now, including a bridge financing proposal by Rep. Cynthia Wooten.

Bridge financing addresses budget crises over the short term. It provides a short amount of time to change the system for the long term.

"There will be lots of bridge financing proposals. It will happen at the end of the session. They can't afford to talk about taxes now," Hallock said.

"It's definitely a fall-back position if you don't get tax reform," she said.

Brand and the Oregon Student Lobby prefers

'I've seen nothing to indicate that the majority of legislators are ready to do the hard stuff — come up with a tax proposal for voters.'

— Rep. Jim Edmunson,
D-Eugene

Rep. Tony Van Vliet's sales tax proposal.

Vliet's proposal, House Joint Resolution 4, provides standard exemptions for food, utilities, rent, mortgages and medical costs. The bill also includes state income tax reductions.

The money raised by HJR 4 is mandated to go to public schools up to the community college level. Brand prefers Vliet's proposal to others because it would stop the effects of Measure 5 at the end of 1993.

Hallock, who is a former state economist, said she would rather see a gross-receipts tax because it would broaden the tax base and keep rates down.

The gross-receipts tax is an excise tax on business that is levied against gross income, gross proceeds of sales, or the value of products.

"If all businesses pay it on their entire receipts, you could keep the rate really low. In Washington State, the rate ranges from one-half percent to one-and-a-half percent," she said.

Speaker of the House Larry Campbell has a proposal that would stop further rate reductions required by Measure 5.

House Joint Resolution 60 would permanently retain the 1993 property tax rate limitation for schools and limit increases in single-family residential assessed values to 2 percent.

"That would make a huge difference to schools. That would leave some flexibility for the schools through property taxes. We would have to pay a lot less through income taxes," Hallock said.

Bosnian Serbs reject peace plan

MOUNT JAHORINA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian Serbs' self-proclaimed parliament effectively rejected a U.N. peace plan to end the war in Bosnia early Thursday by voting instead for a referendum on the plan.

The vote defied pressure from the Serbs' backers in Yugoslavia and abroad, and heightened prospects of military intervention to end Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II.

After the vote, the president of Serb-dominated Yugoslav Dobraica Cosic said, "The (Bosnian) parliament took the worst decision, and I don't know what the next night will bring."

In New York, Bosnia's U.N.

mission slammed the decision.

"It's pretty damn clear that the Serbs have no intention of following any directive from the West," said Miles Ragusz, spokesman for the Bosnian mission, told The Associated Press.

The vote past midnight came after days of furious diplomatic efforts to get the Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan, already approved by Bosnia's Muslims and Croats.

At the meeting, leaders from Greece and Yugoslavia joined Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic in pleading with the lawmakers to accept the plan to avert military intervention.

Karadzic, who accepted the

plan Sunday at a peace conference in Greece, said, "Either we accept this plan, or we can expect fierce attacks by NATO forces."

CORRECTION

An article in the May 5 issue of the *Emerald* deleted part of a statement by psychology Professor Jacob Beck. Beck said he doesn't believe the new race, gender and non-European requirement is anti-Semitic, but he does believe it ignores Jews as a racial group.

The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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