

REGIONAL

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST

Six northwest Republican senators score 'zero' with environmentalists

■ **CONGRESS:** Republicans and Conservationists battle in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Slade Gorton and six freshmen House Republicans from the Northwest were among a record 135 Congress members who got the lowest ratings Wednesday from the League of Conservation Voters.

Support for the environment fell in Congress last year to its lowest level since the league began its voter scorecard a quarter century ago, the nonpartisan political group said.

"In our 25-year history, the league has never witnessed such an egregious attack on our environmental laws," league President Deb Callahan said during a news conference at the National Press Club.

The record 135 lawmakers "didn't cast one single vote for the environment," she said, earning "zeroes" in the 1995 scorecard.

The league evaluated more than a dozen key floor votes in the House and 13 in the Senate, including votes on logging, mining, drinking water, oil drilling in the Arctic national wildlife refuge and protecting endangered species.

Defenders of private property rights countered with their own scorecard Wednesday, naming

"champions" and "enemies" based on some of the same votes.

"Our scores show that this Congress is much more supportive of property rights than any Congress in recent memory," said Chuck Cushman, an activist based in Battle Ground, Wash., who formed the League of Private Property Voters in 1990.

With few exceptions, the "heroes" on the property rights list were the "zeroes" on the conservation list.

Conservation activists who delivered saplings to the "zeroes" on their list were confronted by staff members for Western Republicans bearing a box of canned foods they said would be donated to food banks to help unemployed loggers, miners and ranchers.

"Since the League of Conservation voters and Clinton policies are putting people out of work, we wanted to give the league these canned goods," said Kurt Christensen, a staffer for the House Resources Committee.

Earlier, four demonstrators chained together in black-and-white striped prison garb protested outside the National Press Club with signs describing themselves as "Prisoners of Endangered Species."

"It's fitting they came in jail

clothes because what they are doing to the environment is criminal," said Sarah Anderson of the League of Conservation Voters.

Twenty-three senators and 62 House members got perfect 100 percent scores from the environmentalists. Rep. Christopher Shays of Connecticut was the lone Republican in that group.

It included Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and all three Oregon House Democrats, Elizabeth Furse, Peter DeFazio and Ron Wyden, who since has been elected to the Senate.

The conservationists gave "zero" ratings to freshman Republican Reps. Wes Cooley and Jim Bunn of Oregon, and Linda Smith, Doc Hastings, George Nethercutt and Randy Tate of Washington, as well as Gorton, R-Wash.

Rep. Rick White, R-Wash., earned 31 percent, Jack Metcalf, R-Wash., 15 percent, and Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash., 8 percent.

Washington Democratic Reps. Jim McDermott scored 92 percent and Norm Dicks 85 percent.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., saw his conservation rating fall from 34 percent in 1994 to just 7 percent in 1995. Former Sen. Bob Packwood had a "zero" rating, missing two of the votes that came after he resigned.

DeFazio announces plans to run for Senate

■ **CAMPAIGN:** Sen. Mark Hatfield's seat will be hotly contested for when he retires at the end of the year

EUGENE (AP) — U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio planned news conferences in Eugene and Portland Thursday amid a report that he is preparing to run for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Mark Hatfield.

The Register-Guard, quoting unidentified sources, said the Oregon Democrat is preparing to run for the seat now held by Mark Hatfield.

DeFazio, 48, will have to give up his seat in the U.S. House to run for Senate.

DeFazio spokesman Patrick Dorton said Wednesday he had no comment on the published report.

Hatfield, who has served in the Senate for 30 years, plans to retire when his term expires at the end of the year.

Bob Packwood, Oregon's other longtime senator, resigned last October amid allegations of official and sexual misconduct.

DeFazio, 48, sought Packwood's seat but lost a

December Democratic primary to Ron Wyden. DeFazio's term expires this year and in order to run for Hatfield's seat, he will have to give up his Congressional position.

Wyden went on to beat Republican Gordon Smith in the election to fill Packwood's seat.

Bend businessmen Harry Lonsdale and Tom Bruggere, the retired founder of Mentor Graphics, are the other two Democratic contenders for Hatfield's seat.

Bruggere said he is ready to run against DeFazio and is planning a well-financed, high-profile campaign against him.

"There are some stark differences between us," Bruggere said. "I'm in it for public service. Peter's in it for a career."

Lonsdale said he is looking forward to a spirited, issue-based campaign. He said he differs from DeFazio in several key areas, including campaign finance reform, forestry policy and gun control.

Smith has left the door open for another run at the U.S. Senate. He is scheduled to announce his decision March 2 when he gives the keynote address at the Dorchester Conference, an annual GOP gathering.

Washington man shot bugging brother-in-law's home

■ **PROWLER:** The man had been in the house several times hoping to find his estranged wife

COOS BAY, Ore. (AP) — A Spokane, Wash., man shot and killed by his brother-in-law had been bugging the house in hopes of finding his estranged wife, the district attorney said.

District Attorney Paul Burgett said Wednesday the investigation was ongoing, but he had seen nothing to warrant criminal charges in what appeared to be a case of self-defense.

Awakened by the sounds of a prowler early Monday, Noah

Salinas armed himself with a handgun and, with his wife, Marie, began searching the house, Burgett said.

They found John Lee Humphrey, 32, of Spokane, Wash., hiding behind a couch in the front room.

"He kind of stands up and looks like he's going for his gun," Burgett said. "Mr. Salinas shoots him several times."

Humphrey was armed with a 9mm automatic pistol, Burgett said.

Burgett said Humphrey was apparently obsessed with finding his estranged wife, Priscella Humphrey, who is Salinas' sister.

Sheriff's deputies were at Salinas' house on Saturday after he reported finding a tape recorder wired to the telephone and hidden under the house.

After the shooting, they found an electronic bug in the house.

An associate of Humphrey told investigators Humphrey had been in the house several times to change batteries, Burgett said.

Humphrey had stayed at the Salinas house last December after a confrontation with police in Spokane, Wash., in which he shot himself in the leg, and had a key to the Salinas house, Burgett said.



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