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Revenue chief predicts

Some will lose if '6' wins

Kelly Laughlin
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Every registered voter has voiced concern over the personal and widespread economic effects of property tax relief Measure 6. But what of the legal consequences?

A Boardmanship Workshop, sponsored by the Oregon State Board of School Superintendents, Board Members, on Oct. 11. Guest speaker Richard Munn discussed what problems the Oregon legislature would

be confronted with by the passage of property tax relief Measures 6 or 11.

Munn, chief executive officer of the Legislative Revenue Office, cited what the Oregon legislature "would be likely to do" with each of the possible laws' provisions.

Between the two measures, Munn noted that Ballot Measure 6 would create the most difficulty for the Oregon legislature to deal with. One is the assurance that the legislature would have in making sure each piece of

property will pay no more than \$15. per \$1,000 dollars in property taxes.

"The legislature has to decide how much each coded area, or taxing district, paying the same property tax would receive," he said.

Munn said that equitably allocating the tax rate would "cause horrendous political problems."

Every district in Oregon, you can almost be certain, will be at the legislature, trying to get a different slice of the pie."

In the past, according to Munn, the legislature used to

let everybody be winners, in a little way, if not a big way. "In my own judgment, under Measure 6, there are going to be some absolute losers," he said.

While discussion remains of making a constitutional amendment by the legislature to revise measure 6, Munn said, "Traditionally, it is unlikely that they will even touch it, the politics aren't there."

"Generally, when you have a constitutional law, the legislature is reluctant to take any action on it. It's more likely that they would let it be implemented as it stands, see how it works, and let the people inform them what's wrong with it," he said.

Munn expressed the problems that a constitutional amendment would have concerning "budgetary assurance."

"If they can come to an agreement, what's every taxing district going to do about their budgetary process-with the implementation of an amendment? Will each district know how much money they'll receive in revenue sharing from the state? Will they know what rate they'll be allocated, and by the beginning of the fiscal year, have a budget plan approved?" Munn asked.

If the legislature can get political consensus by way of an amendment, and it's voted down in the middle of the legislative session, then "they're that much farther behind the entire process. Until a constitutional amendment is approved taxing districts can not be assured how much

money they'll have, and as a result, how much to levy for when they go to the legislature," he said.

In Munn's opinion, the legislature is not likely to put out an amendment in the middle of the session, if 6 goes through.

Without an amendment, however, the legislature would have to deal with the rate allocation process. In his estimation, it causes some big political problems.

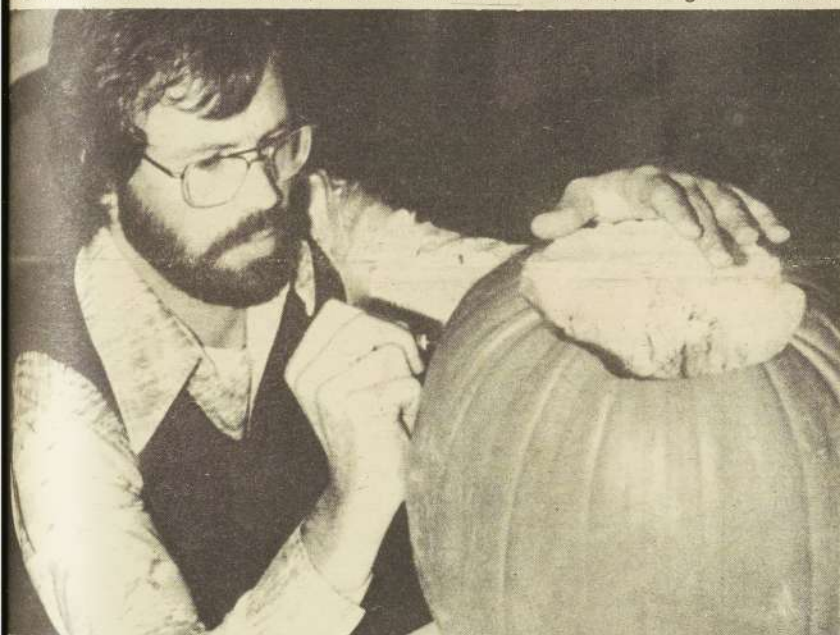
Munn said there are no constitutional or political problems with Measure 11 and presents no legal difficulties.

The basic reason is that the legislature was involved closely with the intent of the measure during its construction.

Munn did cite "items the legislature would have to wrestle with pending passage of the measure."

"Under the first section, there will be a question as to how the legislature will deal with the separation of the tax. Will the entire tax be paid, and then half refunded? It's likely though, that the separation will be made at the assessor's office. The tax bill would be mailed to the property owner, and be made liable to pay one half," he said.

Another factor that will receive probably the most attention at the next legislative session, "would be the review of the present appraisal process. Under 11 there's definitely been signs of recognition in the measure that there's something wrong with the current system," Munn said.



Community Center Mall was converted into a giant pumpkin patch Friday at luncheon during a carving contest sponsored by Associated Student Government. Chris Johnson earned the top prize of \$10, Mary Cuddy carved her way to a \$5 second place prize and Joanne McCaully took third place to win a free ticket to the Friday night ASG Halloween Party and Dance.

Photo by Kelly Laughlin

FTE decline prompts investigation

Declining enrollment among community colleges over the three years has been the focus of some concern among education officials.

This year marks the lowest time equivalency, (FTE) for the 1975-76 school year, according to Chuck Adams, director of admissions and registration at the College.

The decline, which is typical of Junior Colleges, shows a leveling off, as this year's full time enrollment just matches that of a year ago at this time.

The 1975-76 school year showed the peak in enrollment," Adams said. "The time equivalency has been

dropping a few every year since then."

The declining enrollment statistics account for a lot of study, for Gary Haroldsen, enrollment coordinator. Haroldsen scopes community interest and needs in an effort to determine how the college can best serve them.

"Many factors affect college enrollment," Haroldsen said. "The economic state of the county is a pretty consistent rule to go by. In years of inflation, when jobs aren't too rare, people don't feel education is so important. In times of recession, people want to feel more secure in their jobs, and increase their knowledge of marketable skills,

consequently college enrollment increases."

Over the past seven or eight years, college students have undergone a change of interest as far as educational goals are concerned, according to Haroldsen.

"Students used to be pretty consistent in having the general goals of getting a degree," he said. "At the present time, this has changed, with more and more students attending college for general self enrichment, or to achieve a short term goal, and leaving after only a term or two. There has been a high growth factor in Clackamas County over the past seven or eight years, this

also accounts for many of the varying interests."

Because of the need for higher awareness of community interests, three surveys have been taken since 1974. Other methods of determining the needs of the community are follow-ups done on the students who chose to "drop out" or quit after registration. Also a long look is being taken at the current students on campus, considering the average sex, age, financial and social levels.

"It is a very complex situation," said Haroldsen. "We want to find out all the things we can do to speed up the realization of student goals."

"This includes looking ahead to future student's needs, watching trends in business, and making guesses on what the occupational needs of the future will be," he said. "Current grade school enrollments are even considered to get a hint of the future enrollments."

"There is less output from the high school's than there was a few years ago, so in order to keep our enrollment up, we are looking into the community. We also hope to improve the facilities on campus, which should account for an increase in enrollment," said John Hakanson, College President.

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ARCHIVES

