

Atiyeh visits campus, views new facilities

Governor Victor Atiyeh discussed many facets of his role as Governor and views toward the changes taking place in the U.S. Government during a student press conference held last Wednesday at the College.

Atiyeh's government background began when he was a member of the Oregon Legislature in 1959. It was there that he came into contact with the new, developing school of higher education; the community colleges.

Since the legislature passed the community colleges financing bill, Atiyeh has visited all thirteen community colleges in the state, ending with Clackamas Community.

In regards to the tuition hikes which are taking place in most state colleges, Atiyeh related increased tuition to the ever-growing costs of housing, schools, and "everything in general."

"We are trying to stop inflation," he said. "One way to help students and businesses, would be for them to join and work together, like on the job training."

When asked about the closure of Estacada School district and possible intervention, Atiyeh said, "There is a limit to the authority of the state legislature."

Oregon Superintendent of Schools Verne Duncan has arranged for a special emergency election that will take place in December."

The governor explained that Estacada's problem is a matter of 'who is in control.'

"Can you have local control to the extent that it can close the school?" Atiyeh queried. "I don't think the school will close, but there is no way we can force a school to stay

open and force tax payers to pay for it.

"Some people think that if you stimulate the economy to create jobs, then the economy will improve," Atiyeh said. "All of our original wealth comes from manufacturing and 85 percent of all jobs in the U.S. are provided by small business. There is absolutely no incentive to the small businessman to work hard. The more he or she makes, the higher the taxes," Atiyeh claimed. "Government has been a disincentive for anyone wanting to get ahead." ting to get ahead."

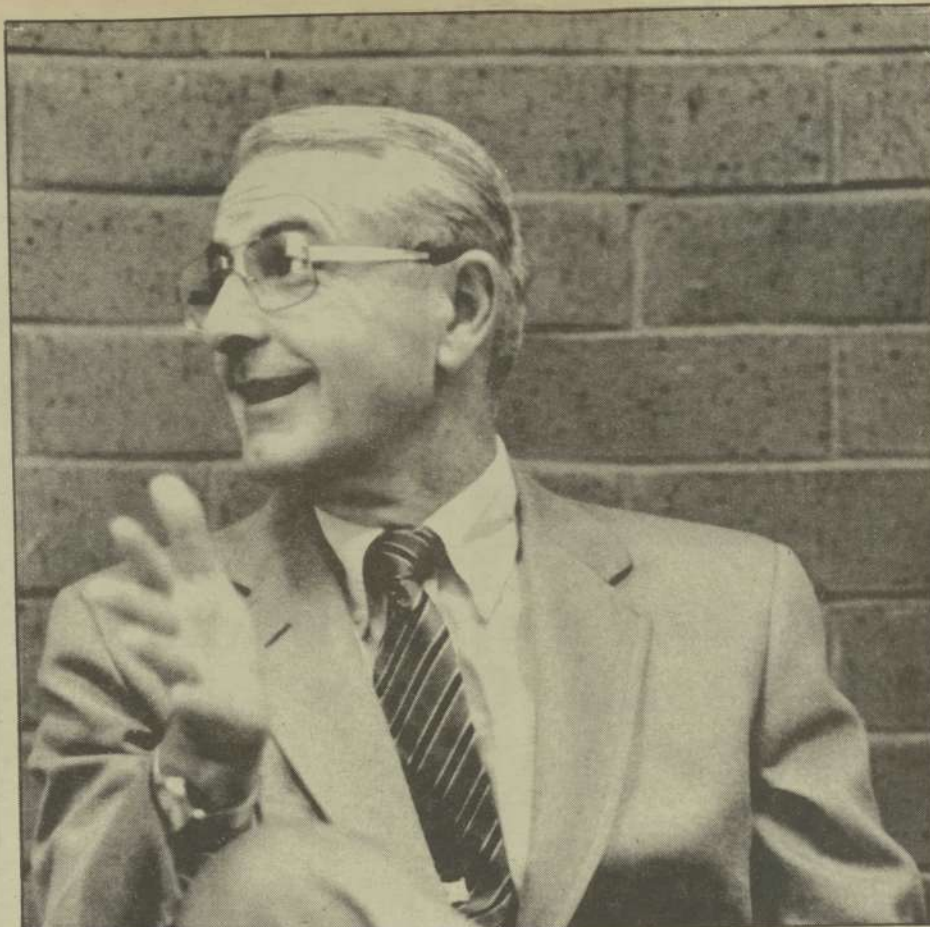
Atiyeh then compared the nation's money deficit to a person who has been hooked on dope and is suffering from withdrawals. He said, "We keep saying to ourselves, all we need is one more fix to help get us through this little crisis, and it never ends."

Atiyeh said that it's beginning to end with the President's economic theories. "The president has reduced the interest rates, they are definitely down now," Atiyeh stated.

"The nation forgets so easily," he added, referring to the Carter administration. "Inflation was up 20 percent and the interest rates were 22 percent. We have to change what we're doing. The Reagan policies will be the way to fix that," he stated.

One student journalist asked the Governor why he is a member of the Republican party. "I find the Republican party's philosophy fits mine and I'm uneasy with the Democrat's policies," Atiyeh said.

"Oregonians are fiscally conservative," he said. "They want common sense out of their government and don't want their money wasted."



Atiyeh explained the difference between both parties in terms of "for" and "against" the people. "Republicans are less willing to provide for government and more willing to provide for the people," he said.

Interest rates have been the main cause of the fall in Oregon's timber industry, according to Atiyeh. While his office doesn't have much power to get this industry back on its feet, Atiyeh said there is a "timber strategy panel" which he has been appointed to figure out some alternatives for the industry.

The Governor mentioned the "campaign rhetoric" of Don Clark, a candidate for governor. Clark had stated that

Atiyeh was in agreement with "Reaganomics," and that he was doing little for the state in these times of recession.

"It's that kind of view that has us in trouble. One thing he hasn't said, is what he'd do about it," Atiyeh replied.

"There have been several accomplishments in Oregon's government for which Atiyeh is proud. "One important goal was to have a more effective government," he remarked.

"The Oregon tax dollar is well spent, and there is no waste in the dollar," Atiyeh boasted. "The department heads are hard working."

A second accomplishment for Atiyeh was the reduction of the human resource budget by

\$400 million dollars. "We have a reformed government now and this is more effective," he said.

In the area of human interest, the governor was asked if there was a conflict of interest when he posed for the milk television commercial.

"No," he said. "Milk is a product that Oregon sells nationally." Atiyeh said he was mainly promoting Oregon, not milk. The Oregon Dairy Association offered to pay Atiyeh for appearing in the ad, but Atiyeh refused to be paid.

When the Association persisted, Atiyeh asked for a different form of payment. The dairy association put on an ice cream feed at Fairview Hospital.



SAM CROSBY, ASG president greets Gov. Vic Atiyeh last Wednesday.



CHUCK SCOTT, SCIENCE department chairperson shows Gov. Atiyeh and College President John Hakanson (right) the Pauling Science Center.

Story by Kristi Blackman

Photos by Duffy Coffman

Wednesday, Nov 25 1991

