

# 'No' vote on 15 received as blessing

by Helenmarie Nelsen  
Contributing Writer

Hurrah, for post-election blessings! Oregon's controversial election is over and the absentee ballots have all been counted. All of us have a lot to be thankful for. Or do we? Or, who does?

The answers depend on how our favorite issues or candidates came out in the final count. Amid the moans of disappointment from the voters who did not see their important ballot measure pass or fail, we can see the hushed and silent prayers of thanks on the faces of the voters who voted "no" on Measure 15. These were voters who knew what their reasons for voting it down were, voters vindicated by the 51 percent who agreed with them. To make the 49 percent losing voters feel better, we wish to soothe the ruffled feathers of Measure 15 proponents by stating some of the most significant reasons this measure was supposed to fail.

It proved to all of us that it should never have been put on the ballot written so erroneously, confusing while persuading the voters, thus causing the close margin between the "yes" and "no" votes.

Many of us recognized that Measure 15 was clearly an amendment to the state constitution, giving the state a law that would have to be followed until another election could make an amendment to the amendment. If it had passed, the homeless, chronically mentally ill, the se-

nior citizens and anyone beyond the age of 18 (or over the junior college level), would find no help available for them if needed. This would have included hospitals, jails, social agencies, doctors or counselors needed to help them fight for their better health, social acceptance and equitable rights

opening social agencies that were closed down by the passing of Ballot Measure 5 in 1992, and for expanding and reopening wards at Dammasch and Pendleton MI hospitals," Kulm stated.

"We won't have to put up with the 'roadblocks' we have run up against every time we travel to Salem to speak with the legislators. They will have to listen to us now," Kulm said.

"One of the big problems will be the ensuing fight with the educators (who wished this measure had passed). They hold a bitterness toward the AMI's goals.

They now will have to convince their legislators to find ways to make the monies granted to the schools more effective, without cutting 30 percent away from the other 70 percent segment of the communities needing more funds to guide the hundreds of still mentally ill (MI), homeless and older citizens that are increasing in numbers on our streets and in need of help," Kulm said.

Doris O'Hara, another well-known retired educator in the Clackamas area, is also relieved that Measure 15 did not pass. Although she is still an educator for the state, teaching at Cascade College helping with the illiteracy of the technically skilled (having insufficient education in the literary skills

necessary for them to proceed into the work field or more advanced training in colleges), O'Hara agrees with Kulm that Measure 15 was a poorly written bill.

"Money is needed for education, and also for agencies, to help alleviate crime. The problem is...who is going to pay for it," O'Hara said.

"Our first attack for change will be against the closure of Dammasch Hospital (now slated for April 1, 1995). If the state should decide to sell Dammasch, we (CAMI) and the Washington and Multnomah County AMI's will fight for the monies from the sale to be placed in a trust fund for the support and care for the MI's, and not into the state's general fund (as it is now slated), which could go to any other fund the state decides on," Kulm said.

Kulm and all the AMI supporters feel that all the monies gained from the sale of Dammasch belong to the AMI's and their causes.

cured, like Parkinson's Disease or diabetes.

"Our second attack," Kulm continued, "will be heard in January 1995 when we will be sending letters to many organizations and legislators, urging their support for our causes. We will be appearing in Salem to personally present our problems and needs to them with members of the tri-county AMI's and some of our struggling sons and daughters with us."

When asked what his prayer for this Thanksgiving season is for himself, Kulm replied without hesitation, "I pray that somehow the public will realize that this sickness of the brain is not a choice, and that they will accept these ill persons with dignity and not reject the MI's efforts to become well as they become able again to function and work in the community.

"Holidays are always hard for the MI. Our loved ones do not always feel well enough to join us,

but we are thankful for the answers to our prayers that we have witnessed, and will continue to pray for further success for our MI's as we continue in our efforts to educate the public toward their support," Kulm added.

So, with all the voters, let us pray for more blessings on this Thanksgiving season. Blessings that will allow us to prosper and grow (even amid all our adversities) into the New Year!

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-Harold Kulm  
President, CAMI

"Money is needed for education, and also for agencies, to help alleviate crime. The problem is ... who is going to pay for it.

-Doris O'Hara  
Cascade College

Dammasch has been supported for years by the donations of the families and supporters of the MI's for the ongoing care and well-being of their loved ones who are ill with brain diseases that can be controlled and sometimes

## Reagan, greatest leader of all times

by Eric Eatherton  
Staff Writer

While I was thinking of some subject matter for my column (I'd encountered writer's block at the time), I turned on the news. I heard our beloved former President Ronald Reagan disclosing his having Alzheimer's disease. I also heard of the recent election victories by the Republican party, giving it control of Congress for the first time since Eisenhower was president.

Having heard all this, then, I decided to write a tribute on this former leader of our nation.

To speak of Ronald Reagan is to speak of perhaps our nation's greatest leader in recent times. If he wasn't the architect of the largest peacetime economic recovery in our nation's history, at least he was, by signing the tax cuts of 1982 into law, the contractor. Up until that time, the top tax rate any American could pay was 70 percent. The new law brought it down to percent.

By keeping more of what they earned, the average Americans were able to buy more items with the new found money. That set

into motion the recovery from the recession Reagan had inherited from his predecessor, Jimmy Carter. It was a recovery that lasted eight years.

Reagan also handled foreign policy like few before him. He wasn't afraid to tell the Soviets they'd deal with the best defense technology in the world if they tried to force upon other parts of the world their brand of Marxist socialism ("communism"). The "Star Wars" defense system worked so well the first time, it scared the Soviets into eventual nonexistence.

He did so well as president, in fact, that in 1984, not even 4000 votes in Minnesota kept him from winning all 50 states.

But it wasn't so much what he did in office that I respect Reagan as for what he represented while in office-or out of office, for that matter. He represented, in my opinion, what hard work can do for you in America. Before he became president, Reagan had been Governor of California. Before that, he was an actor.

Reagan's status as the "elder statesman" also had its advan-

tages, as it translated to more maturity and wisdom. And you know we need that in a leader.

I was nearing my eighth birthday, when Reagan took office in '81, and was thus not really concerned for what was going on at that time. Now in college, and looking back on what he did, I realize what he was doing the whole time. What he did should serve as a model for future leaders.

There were certain things he knew during the '80s which could be taught now (especially now with a Republican Congress); e.g. capitalism starts with the individual and more disposable income for the individual (tax cuts are one way to accomplish this) means more tax revenue down the line. And government's effectiveness works in inverse relation to its size.

I know not when the next great leader of our nation will come, but when they do come around, they will know what to do. 'Til then, though ... thank you for eight years of a job well done, Mr. President. You will always have my respect.



From all of us here at *The Clackamas Print*, we would like to wish you and your families a very safe and happy Thanksgiving.