

NUCLEAR FREE ZONE



БЕЗЪЯДЕРНАЯ ЗОНА



David Seavy

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OREGON INITIATIVES

by Barbara McLaughlin

Because we do not know beforehand exactly what our elected officials will do with the power we bestow upon them, the only real way we have of imposing our will on a too-often unresponsive government is through the initiative process. And that process is alive and well in Oregon. As in past elections, there will likely be a number of issues on the ballot in November brought to the people from the people — at least there are half a dozen or more in the signature collecting stage. Sixty-two thousand valid signatures need to be gathered by July 1 for the honor of having Oregonians decide the fate of each initiative. The following paragraphs will describe some of the issues their sponsors hope will be so honored.

"Phases out Nuclear Weapons Manufacture with Tax Credits, Civil Penalty." (Ballot title). Commonly called the Oregon Economic Conversion Act, this initiative would make it illegal in Oregon to produce nuclear weapons or parts after January 1, 1990. In addition, a governor's task force would be set up to help the four or five Oregon businesses affected convert to the production of consumer goods. Tax credits, specifically the lesser of thirty percent of the certified cost of conversion, or total tax liability for three successive years after certification of conversion, would be awarded to those companies that convert. Those that don't would be subject to a maximum civil penalty of five thousand dollars a day. Contracts in effect before the act passes could be completed.

This is Oregon's chance to establish a precedent, like we did with the bottle bill, that shows a commitment to a truly peace oriented economy and one that could go a long way in reversing the arms race. Chief Petitioners: State Representative Wayne Fawbush, Don Skinner, Ashland Peace House, Laura Powell, New Clear Vision. Sponsored by Citizens for a Nuclear Free Oregon.

"Prohibits Nuclear Power Plant Operation Until Permanent Waste Site is Licensed." This initiative would force Trojan to shut down until the federal government has licensed a site for the safe, permanent disposal of high level nuclear waste. Currently Trojan and other nuclear power plants around the country have to store spent fuel rods in ponds onsite at each individual plant. Trojan's pools are only fifty feet from the Columbia River. Because huge amounts of waste are generated by nuclear power production, many plants are having to expand their storage ponds and have become defacto waste disposal sites. The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council has concluded that Portland General Electric might have to store waste at Trojan until its license expires in 2011.

This initiative addresses the issues of adverse health effects to the people of Oregon, environmental degradation and undue financial burden to support the industry as well as recognizing the existence of a present and projected energy surplus in the Pacific Northwest. Chief Petitioners: Gregory Kafoury, Arthur Honeyman, Wheel Press, Inc., Lloyd Marbet. Sponsored by Forelaws on Board.

"Supercedes 'Radioactive Waste' Definition." In 1984 Ballot Measure 9 dealing with the storage of radioactive waste was passed by Oregon voters. Through legal maneuvers, loopholes and

a ruling allowing only their experts' testimony. Teledyne Wah Chang in Albany has been able to continue storing wastes on the banks of the Willamette River. This initiative would close these loopholes by setting into law a definition of waste which would include those produced by the production of zirconium, hafnium or niobium, containing specified quantities of radium 226. These metals are produced by Wah Chang, which is currently promoting them in television, magazine and newspaper advertisements. Passage of this initiative would force Wah Chang to move its waste from its present location. Chief Petitioners: State Senator Bill Bradbury, State Senator Jeanette Hamby, Lloyd Marbet. Sponsored by Forelaws on Board.

"Requires Labeling of Food Irradiated for Preservation Purposes." This measure requires wholesale and retail food distributors to put warning labels on food irradiated with radioactive isotopes. The label must have a black border and must state: "Warning: This product has been radiated with radioactive isotopes for purposes of preservation, the health effects of which are unknown." It defines "food" as "fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry, eggs, dairy products, spices, herbs, and other natural and processed products offered for sale for human or animal consumption," according to the explanation on the initiative. Chief Petitioners: Hale Lee Weitzman, State Representative Dave McTeague, Doctor John D. Summer.

On the other side of the political fence, several bills were introduced in the U.S. House and Senate that promote food irradiation. Companion

bills titled "Federal Food Irradiation Development and Control Act of 1985" were introduced by Washington State Legislators Sidney Morrison in the House and Slade Gorton in the Senate, both of whose districts include Hanford which supplies Cesium 137, a byproduct of nuclear weapons production, used in the food irradiation process. The Act would change the definition of irradiation from an additive to a process which would mean that labeling of irradiated foods will no longer be required by federal law. Research and development would be mandated and financed by the federal government, a joint operating commission for food irradiation would be established within the Department of Agriculture to promote food irradiation and the Act would prohibit state and local governments from regulating food irradiation independently, and would also forbid them from requiring labeling or other consumer protection. Further, the Act states that "Congress finds that irradiation of food... is safe and wholesome" and encourages public "understanding and acceptance." S. 288 was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry in the Senate, and HR 696 was referred to the Armed Services, Agriculture and Energy and Commerce Committees in the House. A bill similar to the Morrison bill, HR 3504 was referred to the Energy and Commerce and the Science and Technology Committees in the House. It is very important for our legislators to hear our views on this.

Back to the initiatives:

"Prohibits Mandatory Local Measured Telephone Service." Mandatory local measured service is a way to force us to pay for each local phone call the way we pay for each long distance call. Chief Petitioners, Eric Stachon, Oregonians for Affordable Phone Service, James Bernau, National Federation of Independent Business, Thomas Novick, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group. Sponsored by OSPIRG.

"Bars Substances Which Can Cause Cancer, Mutations from Waters, Foods." This measure would make it illegal to place synthetic substances with known carcinogenic or mutagenic characteristics into our state water supplies or human food chain.

If you feel strongly about safeguarding and promoting a livable and moral Oregon, please help. At the very least sign a petition or two or six. (If no one has approached you, contact me at 436-1644 or Box 59, Cannon Beach 97110.) If you would like petitions to circulate, contact Forelaws on Board, Room 202, 320 SW Stark, Portland, Oregon 97204, or Peter Moore, Oregon Peace Network, 333 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97301, or phone 371-8002. Every signature counts.

Chuck and Barbara McLaughlin live in Cannon beach and are members of the North Coast Citizen Action for Lasting Security (CALS). They are co-editors of THE HANFORD DEBATE, which is sponsored by a grant from The McKenzie River Gathering Foundation.

NUCLEAR FREE
MADONNA

THIS PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED IN JANUARY BY THE ASSOCIATION TO SAVE MADONNA FROM NUCLEAR WAR (ASMNW), IN CINCINNATI.

The ASMNW is pleased to announce the establishment of the "Madonna Nuclear Free Zone," consisting of the New York metropolitan area, most of New York State, portions of Michigan, and the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The zone is defined as beginning at a fifty-mile radius from anywhere Madonna lives or socializes more than twenty days in an average year.

The zone is being ruled perennially "Nuclear Attack Hands Off."

Also, the embassies of those countries currently equipped to attack Madonna are being contacted and asked to commence negotiations with the ASMNW. The countries include the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Great Britain, and Red China.

We would like to thank in advance the leaders of these great nations and their people for their future compliance with our demands.