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Salem Scene

by Jack Zimmerman

Were Primary Voters Revolting Against Funding Or Spending?

The suggestion Oregon voters have just conducted some sort of massive tax revolt -- fostered by many pundits even before all the ballots were counted -- is tempered by a less-hasty appraisal of the May Primary Election.

True, money measures generally suffered defeat.

And editorial writers were quick to pounce on this point to declare a mandate for a change in the system of taxation. Gov. Tom McCall said defeat of revenue measures was a clear indication the people were ready to accept his plan for tax and education finance reform. One newspaper even succumbed to the point of naively declaring the Legislature now must surely get the message.

Lawmakers in this state have had the "message" for many years. And they have labored diligently to change Oregon's system of taxation. But the same voters who turned up their noses at money-raising schemes last week also have refused to accept a sales tax, an overhaul of the income tax program and when offered relief from property taxes, have taken advantage of the plans in most numbers.

Election officials -- influenced by record registration figures and past Primary voter performances during presidential election years -- were forecasting heavy turnouts at the polls. And they had reason to be optimistic. Young people between the ages of 18 and 21 were voting for the first time. Turnouts for Presidential Primaries since 1960 ranged from 71 to 73 per cent of those registered.

But only about 65 per cent cast ballots last week. And where was the youth vote? Along with revenue measures, another statewide proposal to conform the Oregon Constitution with that of the federal government regarding the 18-year-old vote also failed to receive voter sanction. Although moot because of ratification by the Legislature last year, one would think the newly enfranchised youth would support the issue in droves.

The point in belaboring the less-than-expected voter turnout revolves, however, around the so-called "revolt mandate." The question must be asked: If people really are fed up with the tax system, wouldn't one expect them to express that dissatisfaction in record numbers?

And back to the money measures -- only one was really a threat to the taxpayer. It involved an optional \$10 per motor vehicle registration levy to support city and county governments. The other two, capital construction bonds and irrigation bonds, were self-liquidating.

On the other hand, those same voters earlier this year approved an additional levy on cigarettes and have been turning out to support local school financing in a manner unmatched since 1966. State School Supt. Dale Parnell reports local school budgets and other revenue elections are achieving voter support at a four-out-of-five rate.

While the voting was going on during the Primary last week, only 56 of the state's 339 school districts had yet to obtain budget approval.

Property taxes have provided a large share of financing for education and for local government. And, depending on how you care to interpret the problem, a large share of local government and education funding stems from the income tax.

In view of all the factors in-

volved, many (including some of those currently wrestling with various tax reform proposals) are beginning to wonder if there is a suitable alternative to the present tax system.

It doesn't take an election to prove people resent taxes. But Oregon taxpayers carry their share of the burden and have proven their willingness to punge up for schools and social programs at a rate that has earned their state a "high service" reputation when it comes to caring for the less financially, physically and mentally fortunate.

Now comes the suggestion the so-called tax rebellion has progressed apace with inflation. Rising costs of all kinds cut deeply into every pocketbook, be it that of a homeowner or renter. At the same time Oregon has become more urbanized and the demands for local government services have skyrocketed as a result.

Local government today is Oregon's fastest growing "business." And from an employment standpoint, few endeavors match the 151,600 workers receiving government paychecks. State and local education, for instance, employ more than all the lumber and wood products industries put together.

One can't help but wonder if Oregon voters aren't becoming more concerned with spending than funding. Refusal to accept fiscal ballot measures doesn't necessarily mean people don't want quality education or the services of local government.

It could mean they do want things changed. Perhaps they believe they're paying enough now. Inflation has meant they've had to tighten their belts. Maybe they do want reform. But to many who are closest to the issue, there is a growing suspicion taxpayers don't want any revolutionary change in the way they pay their tax dollars. It's just possible they're trying to say they don't want to pay any more than they are now and they'd like to get what you might call "more for their money's worth."



To The Editor:

I note in a recent issue of the NEWS that the District 2 C.J. School Board has ordered re-submitted to the voters without change, the 1972-73 Budget proposal, which was overwhelmingly defeated at the May 1 election. This action is nothing more than a stern rebuke, reflecting on the intelligence of the patrons of the district, whom the Board suggested as having a lack of understanding of the Budget generally. I am a firm believer in education, but like many others I don't feel that we are getting value received. You will note that this present Budget is \$151,911.00 in tax dollars higher than last year's Budget.

On April 5 I attended the open Budget hearing at Pacific High School. I had two complaints, one that the salary bracket is jumping at the rate of \$30,000 per year and no attempt is made to reduce the personnel in line with the decreasing enrollment. Other districts are doing this. At Coos Bay the superintendent of that district in explaining said,

"We have reduced the amount of money in a direct relation to the reduction in number of students." He also noted that 15 positions were dropped from the instructional program.

My second complaint was the addition of a 25% surtax amounting to \$122,125.83 listed in the Budget as "Taxes to be levied but not received in ensuing year." Recently in the Sheriff's office at Gold Beach, I received a copy of the current delinquent property tax list. I was unable to get a list of the Coos County area of 2 C.J. but presume the delinquency to be proportionally the same as Curry County. There are just four parcels of property listed in the Curry County tax foreclosure list which are within the limits of School District 2 C.J. The original total amount of these taxes was \$2191.06 for the four year period from the 1967-68 year to and including the 1970-71 year. Now checking the 1967-68 Budget we find the total taxes levied that year were \$298,869.95 and of this amount only the \$2191.00 could be written off as a loss at this time and this loss figures less than 3/4 of 1%.

Therefore the School District during the four year period has virtually collected all of its funds of the 1967-68 Budget, so I ask just why do we now have to be charged a 25% Surtax. What incentive has a person to pay all of his taxes before November 15 to get a 3% rebate when at the same time he is being charged a 25% Surtax. Does this make sense to you?

Recent press reports state that this method of taxation for education is unconstitutional, so say the Supreme Courts of five States. (California, Texas, New Jersey, Minnesota and Wyoming).

The matter is now before the various courts in several other states including Oregon. Remember the next Budget election is on Friday June 2, and don't forget to vote.

Respectfully yours

LOUIS L. KNAPP
Langlois, Ore.

SENIOR CITIZENS
DINNER DATED

Senior Citizens will hold a potluck dinner June 5 at 6 p.m. at the American Legion hall. The business meeting and dinner will be followed by cards.



Board Hires Summer Help

By motion the Curry County Board of Commissioners approved liquor license renewals for the following firms:

Reynold and Margaret Rundbert, dba Sixes Store, Mary Lou Hamer, dba Elk River Store, a PB license; Pistol River Store, a PA license; Cedar Bend Golf Association, Inc., for a RMBB license and Jot's Resort for a DB license.

The date of June 21, 1972, was set for a hearing on a petition submitted by Archie E. Florence and Lawrence D. Anderson for formation of Camellia Park Sanitary District, by board of Commissioners.

Glen Bodell was hired as part-time Assistant Custodian and Court Boice and Jim Baumer were hired as summer help for park maintenance.

The Commissioners inspected the overlay being put on Elk River road. All road personnel were taking advantage of the first good weather, therefore no road meeting was held last week.

OBITUARIES

Ida Morrell

Funeral services for Ida M. Morrell will be held today, Thursday, June 1, at 1 p.m. in the First Community Church with Rev. Andy Baxter officiating.

Mrs. Morrell died at her home on 11th St. May 29. She was born Sept. 26, 1909, in Tekoe, Wash., and had lived here for the past 20 years.

She was married Oct. 14, 1933, to Harold Morrell, who survives her.

Other survivors include three sons: William J. of San Bernardino, Calif.; Clinton G. of Portland and Virgil V. of West Lynn; three brothers: Benoit Yoss of Elsie; Henry Yoss of Manjanta; and Carl Yoss of Aloha; and two sisters, Sylvia Zepernick of Milwaukee and Anna Rowley of West Lynn.

Interment will be in Port Orford Cemetery, Brandon Chapel of Coos Mortuaries was in charge of services and arrangements.

Donald Kirby

Services for Donald Kirby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Kirby of Port Orford, were held Wednesday, May 31, at 1:30 p.m., in the Coquille Chapel of Coos Mortuaries. He was born Aug. 18, 1943, at Lewiston, Mont. He had been a resident of Coquille for 15 years and had been employed as an auto mechanic. He was a member of the Coquille chapters of the Elks and Eagles.

Surviving are two daughters, Lila and Lori Kirby of Eugene, his parents, and two brothers, Douglas of Gardiner, and Duane of Coquille.

Interment was at Myrtle Crest Memorial Gardens.



THREE MEMBERS of the local Business and Professional Women's Club acted in an impromptu skit during the 51st annual State BPW Convention May 5, 6, 7, to promote the candidacy of member Evelyn Moir, Gold Beach, as State Finance Chairman. Left to right, they are Shirley Richards, Marie Hawks and Betty Bigelow. Mrs. Moir was not the winner.

Abundant Food Schedule Noted

The abundant food schedule for north Curry residents is June 7 for persons with last names beginning from A to C; June 14 for D through I; June 21 for J-Q, and June 28 for R through Z.

Pickup and delivery is at the fairgrounds in Gold Beach between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 noon, and 1 to 3 p.m. on scheduled days.

Log Export Hearing Set

A June 22nd hearing on the need to control log exports has been set in Washington for Administration witnesses, interested members of Congress and other persons or groups who cannot attend the field hearings in Salem, Oregon, June 8-9. Senator Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) who will conduct the hearing, announced Monday.

As ranking Republican on the International Finance Subcommittee of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Packwood will chair the log export hearings both in Salem and Washington. An earlier hearing, scheduled for May 4 in Washington, was postponed because key government persons could not participate at that time.

The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in room 5302 of the New

Senate Office Building (the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee room).

Purpose of the hearing is to evaluate the effectiveness of the so-called Morse Amendment, which limits exports of timber grown on public lands in the Western United States to 350 million board feet per year, and to consider alternatives to the Amendment which expires at the end of 1973. The problem of substitution, where a company exports logs from its private lands and buys public timber for use in its mills, also will be discussed.

The hearings in Salem will be held in Room 20 of the State Capitol Building. Sessions will begin at 9 a.m.

Bear Camp road is open

Bear Camp road #3400 from Agness to Grants Pass (Galice) is now open for public travel.

This road was previously closed to all but truck and four-wheel drive vehicle traffic due to snow and rough conditions; however, sufficient road repair work has been done to bring it up to the standards of a secondary road, according to the forest service.

SHOP HOME TOWN STORES FIRST

Two Reading Programs On

Two summer reading programs are on tap for local youngsters, three to 13 years of age, the Port Orford library board announced today.

For children from three to seven years, there will be a weekly story time, held from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on Thursdays, at the library. The first story will be presented on June 8, and continue well into August.

Students in grades two through eight can blast-off in an outer-space reading club. Register your name at the library any time before June 17... then read the books you want and win prizes for the number of books you read. More prizes story will be presented on June 8, and continue well into August.

Both... LOW PRICES & STAMPS

SALAD MACARONI AND SEA SHELLS	MISSION 22-OZ	29¢
PAPER TOWELS	CORONET JUMBO Roll	29¢
WESSON OIL	48-OZ	99¢
LAUNDRY SOAP		
AJAX		69¢
MARGARINE	MAZOLA LB	49¢
MACARONI & CHEESE	KRAFT 7 1/4-OZ	19¢
DINNERS		
MUSTARD	NALLEY'S 32-OZ	33¢
COFFEE MATE	11-OZ	79¢
FOIL ALCOA ALUMINUM	12X75	79¢
CATSUP	DEL MONTE 14-OZ	25¢
CLIP TOP CARROTS...	2 LBS	25¢
CANTS	4 FOR	\$1
BONELESS PORK ROAST	LB	59¢
PORK STEAK	LB	69¢



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Saturday

JUNE 3

SEW and SEW

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LOCATED AT
Washington and 7th St
Across From The Bank

HOURS:
10:00 A. M. TO 5:00 P. M.
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY



BIG FISH CONTEST

For the largest fish caught from the Port Orford jetty by a youngster 12 years or younger. Between June 3 and July 3 Win a No. 2065 Rod and No. 2200 Reel. You must register in advance at the THE DOCK (Charlie Tuna)