

LETTERS ToThe EDITOR

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conditional use permit or a building permit.

A member of the District Attorney's office, in a recently written opinion, states that a conditional use permit in this case was not mandatory. Why not? What determines the difference or should I ask who determines the difference? In both cases they are private water systems for the use of residential subdivisions.

The engineer involved in the Mt. Hood project has indicated to the county he will pursue a building permit and submit a landscaping plan which, hopefully, will bring the tank, its adjacent pump house and newly added 'doggie house' (wonder if it contains a bottle of Clorox) into a more upgrading environmental effort.

This is all well and good—but how about that conditional use permit? With two more such facilities allegedly headed for the mountain community will the same slipshod methods prevail? Will the county again allow sitings without benefit of citizen input? Sitings that conceivably could repudiate their own land-use concepts. The Mt. Hood Community Preliminary Plan specifically recommends that Lolo Pass Road be designated a scenic roadway but only a miracle can save that tank and its accoutrements from being an eyesore for years to come.

Apparently the county's conditional use permit ordinance is like tired elastic—it easily stretches. Or then again, it might be so written as to defy consistent interpretation. In either case the people are entitled to something better.

M. Kasper
1725 N.E. 64th Ave.
Portland 97213

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, May 1st, we will have an opportunity to place Oregon in a place of leadership on tax reform and school support.

A majority of Yes Votes on Measure 1 will remove the yearly agony of budget vote failures in communities all over our state and particularly for our own Sandy Elementary School and Sandy Union High School. School boards and school administrators will have an invitation to give full attention to the effectiveness of teaching and quality of product. Home owners who have reluctantly voted No on school budgets because the real estate tax on their homes was a great burden need do so no longer.

As a side benefit from passage of Measure 1 it is reasonable to think that the City of Sandy budgets will receive a more favorable response from voters who have felt under strain meeting real estate taxes on their homes.

The tax reform aspects of the measure we vote upon Tuesday are alone worth all the great amount of study, public debate, and research that has gone into Measure 1. A Yes vote endorses the principle that those individuals, public and from Oregon's natural resources pay back a share of profits to the public. This beats the sales tax idea of laying the heaviest load, in relation to income, on those least able to pay.

Our state superintendent of schools, the Oregon School Boards Assoc., Oregon Education Assoc., Federation of Teachers, and the Oregon Parents and Teachers Assoc. all say that Measure 1 is good for kids and for schools. Our governor says it is a "peoples" bill. Even though not in favor of it, lobbyists for the Chamber of Commerce state that it will benefit eighty per cent of the people. That fact alone should warrant a favorable vote.

Yours truly,
W. Pete Sulzbach
Rt. 3 Box 560
Sandy, Ore.

To the Editor:

Milton Fox of Brightwood let me and the Forest Service have it last week in our newspaper. Mr. Fox represents a faction of the Hoodland Planning Group which majors in groaning, nit-picking criticism and negativism when it comes to restrictive land use planning. Part of this faction consists of local persons who are presently hauling into the mountain community freeway displaced houses—a gaggle of which is sited on Clear Creek at the junction of Lolo Pass and Truman Roads. Far better to be a bird watcher than a land despoiler with an over-

whelming urge to convert every available inch of land into an area where birds have been replaced by dollar signs. In the eyes of the Forest Service, restrictive land use planning is of high priority, second only to timber harvesting and production. On one point, Mr. Fox is quite correct—funds for campgrounds are scarce, due, in great part, to the funds that must be used to rescue Timberline Lodge from complete deterioration, a precaution long overdue.

No plot or secrecy was or is involved. The Hoodland Planning Group was ably represented at the preliminary structural meetings by its chairman and the Hood River Commissioners did not, as Mr. Fox claims, view the joint planning with skepticism. Two of their three commissioners had resigned and the two new Commissioners asked for information regarding the funding.

To find out what this is really all about, be at the meeting Tuesday, May 1, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Sandy High School when the Mt. Hood Planning Unit will present its plans and goals to the public.

James M. Olsen
District Ranger

To the Editor:

Your editorial on McCall's school bill and tax relief leaves me in complete agreement!

Subtle factors are in motion, through organizations such as Tri-Met, Port of Portland consolidation, City-County government, etc., to remove the separation of powers at various levels of government. The excuse is usually economy, the reverse is usually true. It's the people who lose their voice, choice and money; their right to be heard.

It's our money spent and our children's education. We're not sheep to be led by administrators. We're interested in both the "how" and the "why."

Mr. Sulzbach's position, oddly, seems to be weighted always on the side of establishment and not pro-people! He and Mr. Charles O. Porter toot the same horn!

I took issue with him on the necessity of kindergarten. Kindergarten, the argument goes "orients a child to be socially prepared and well adjusted to enter grade school," but children are amazingly and wonderfully adaptable creatures to the realities of life a year later, at first grade levels! There are those who'd make it compulsory to start schooling at age three, with the same excuse!

I have a good example to present to back my argument! I moved here 25 years ago from Minnesota, and that state has had a compulsory kindergarten law for at least 51 years, for I had to go and I'm 56.

Our oldest son, Phil Jr., attended kindergarten there and went to 1st grade here, while his brother Ed, without kindergarten, entered 1st grade here 2 yrs. later.

I, too, wondered at the "backwardness" of Oregon education until I noticed not one iota of difference in social adjustment, adaptability & learning. Both were equally good students, both liked school and wanted to go, both adjusted socially equally well. I might add that we were pretty hard up in those days, so poverty didn't seem to deprive them, either—and they wore 2nd hand shoes from the shoe repair and Goodwill clothes.

Teaching them that "the heart" is what counts in folks and not "the pocket book," to "think and evaluate" truth for themselves, regular worship of the being who gives all knowledge, God, and being home for love and discipline when they needed me, did make a difference.

Is school to make one a well rounded citizen aside from preparing for work, I wonder? I think so. Nursery schools and kindergartens can't fill that need parents can!

Sincerely,
Mrs. P.J. Bernard
Rt. 1 Box 498
Sandy, Oregon 97055

To the Editor:

I do not believe that the full implications of Planning Commission Chairman Benson's public statement at the Clackamas High School on Thursday night in which he admitted the inadequacies of the proposed comprehensive plan for Clackamas county is completely understood. Perhaps one reason is that

Benson issued a very complicated statement on a very simple matter. About ninety-nine per cent of all the people I know who have studied the "plan" agree that the plan in its present shape is a dismal failure. Few, however, can agree with the full text of Mr. Benson's statement.

With a plethora of such words and phrases as "re-write", "amend", "revise", "make changes" and "take necessary steps to convert" Chairman Benson appears to be saying that a decision has been made to preserve the basic document by patching up all of the holes shot into it by the two nights of hearings. I for one do not believe that Clackamas county can be forced to accept a patch-on-a-patch-on-a-patch for its comprehensive plan. If such a decision has been made it may well be the next stumbling block in preparing an acceptable plan for the county. The initial mistake in the present plan was its failure to first obtain and then adhere to any public consensus on the exact nature and purpose of any planning at all. That failure is written into the basic structure of the present plan and no amount of re-writing or re-vising its technical and regulatory texts will correct that fundamental shortcoming.

A second part of Planning Commission Benson's statement has already raised a number of new questions and revived some old ones. This paragraph in Benson's statement is so dictatorial and so out of context with the admitted short-comings of the present plan and the admitted necessity to build a new plan that I present it here just as it was released:

"4. That we are not interested and will not tolerate any reshaping of origins of the present plan and the personalities involved."

To get the full import of the above statement it is necessary to review certain situations that exist in Clackamas county. One is the admitted failure of the present plan. Planning Director James Hall has been in full administrative control of the development of this plan and its failure is his failure. Second is the admission by Benson that the original contract for the plan between the county and the Oregon State Board of Education may not have been fulfilled. Hall was in complete administrative charge of that responsibility. Hall is also under investigation by the Board of County Commissioner's Review Committee on more than a dozen other charges of incompetence and failures. Whether or not the "Review Committee" will put together a finding on those charges acceptable to the County Commissioners,—and the people of the county,—is still to be determined. However, to the satisfaction of many observers, many of the complaints of incompetence in the direction and administration of the planning department have been amply justified by the scramble to correct the deficiencies identified at the Nov. 1, 1972 hearing.

There is a sobering similarity between the delaying tactics with which the charges and complaints made against Hall at the Nov. 1, 1972 county commissioner's hearing are being diluted or forgotten and the statement by Benson that the "origins" of, and "personalities" involved in the present plan are also taboo subjects for ordinary citizens. There are two things wrong with that attitude. They are: (1) Neither the Planning Commission nor its Chairman has the legal or moral right to draw a cloak of protective secrecy around the incompetence and inefficiency with which a public employee may have administered a contract involving public monies, and (2) the Planning Commission and its Chairman does have the responsibility to, from time to time, review the work of its Planning Director, and to evaluate his work in terms of program requirements and fulfillment. AND SO DOES THE PUBLIC! We know what the public's evaluation of the present plan has been. One wonders how long we will have to wait for a similar decision by the Planning Commissioners.

Wm. E. Sanderson
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Estacada, Ore.

IED budget increase vote May 7

The Clackamas County Intermediate Education District (IED) will hold a tax increase election on May 7, if the special tax issue is defeated Monday.

But if the election is needed, the IED in Clackamas County will be seeking an increase of \$11,074,738.19 for 1973-1974. This amount is over the constitutional limitation of the district which is \$6,212,547.12.

This current year the IED has a budget of \$5,860,893.59.

The IED uses its funds to help equalized

the support of school districts within the county and to fund some county wide programs.

The Sandy area school districts also will be voting on an "at-large" member to the IED board. Seeking the position are Harold F. Juedes, principal of Lot Whitecomb School in Milwaukie, and Richard Groener, a state senator.

Voters will vote on the issue at the same time they vote on local school district budgets. All of these budgets depend on the outcome of Monday's election.



PORTLAND CITY Commissioner Lloyd Anderson keynotes Mt. Hood Community College "Man and the Land" Conference Friday, April 27. Public is encouraged to attend and voice opinions on freeway construction and land use planning.

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