

Editorial and Opinion

Chamber Should Push for New Sandy Report

The opportunity of publishing a brochure that details the benefits of Sandy as an attractive setting for new industry and other business groups may be well worth consideration by the chamber of commerce. There is a lot to sell here, yet no one has taken the lead in compiling an updated survey of economic indicators.

The last economic survey of the entire city is 13 years old and shows its age. The city had a population of 1,315 in 1964, and the 1965 economic survey by Kozlovski Associates of Lake Oswego projected continuation of the 1950-60 annual growth rate of 1.3 percent. The study listed 656 industrial jobs here and 635 service-related jobs. Service-related jobs were not expected to increase significantly, due to the city's proximity to Gresham. And the survey listed agriculture, forestry, furniture and wood products operations as primary employers.

Sandy has changed from the sleepy "non-urban" town in that 13-year-old economic report to a booming town of 2,500 with houses crowding out farms and industrial newcomers replacing forestry.

The need for a broader tax base, combined with the bargain that Sandy has to offer prospective industry (in comparison to other sites) make an updated brochure on Sandy doubly attractive.

And perhaps the money required to compile the survey will fall into the city's lap with the recent announcement of Housing and Urban Development funds available to area cities through

Clackamas County Housing and Community Development Agency. Some \$7,885 could be available to Sandy the first year to plan a three-year program for community development. Certainly, such money would be well spent in planning a possible restoration of a block area in the city's downtown core. But the city of Sandy must do a selling job and gather market research information just to gain approval to write such a three-year plan.

Current market research on the city should be available today, and the research should be in brochure form that would provide easy reading for outside developers and investors outside the sphere of government.

Dr. Jim Robb, a market researcher presently on leave from Portland State University, said that such a brochure to sell Sandy could be done for less than \$17,000. How much less would depend on the scope of the research and the number of brochures to be printed from the results. The brochure could outline Sandy's current economic status, available services, educational facilities, and description of population by occupation and buying habits. Robb said that he's done similar surveys for many cities in Oregon.

A brochure on Sandy is something that the chamber of commerce should take into consideration as a positive way in which volunteer help, a pooling of available market data and a little cash could go a long way toward selling Sandy. (V.B.)

Slowdown Crippling Image of Airlines

Unprecedented numbers of people have been flying domestic and foreign airlines this summer. The airlines have done and are doing extremely well because they usually are a quick, reliable and comparatively inexpensive way to travel.

But labor disputes are beginning to cloud the horizon. Because of recurrent strikes, air travel no longer is always reliable or quick.

Northwest Airlines pilots have been on strike since last spring; scratch most cities on Northwest routes. An air controllers' strike in France caused chaos in much of Europe several weeks ago.

Pan Am was struck briefly

earlier this week. Various airports throughout the Western World have been crippled by strikes off and on this summer. Last year when we were in Copenhagen, our trip home was delayed for about 30 hours when baggage handlers went on strike.

Employees of airlines have just as big a stake in the recurring unrest as do the airlines. A lot of people might travel some other way, or perhaps not at all, if unscheduled delays in far-distant airports continue to occur. Reliability and speed are the two big things the airlines have to offer — and they're losing these.

can be assured. President Carter is willing to take that risk.

Carter could be ruined politically if the summit fails and a Middle East war results. But if he and his advisers could arrange a lasting settlement, the political reward would be immense. In one fell swoop, Carter would reverse his decline at the polls and probably insure his re-election.

The stakes are extremely high, as all the participants are fully aware. This could be one of the most important meetings of the 20th century.



Salem Scene

'Allies' tackle the cost of food

By JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Business and government are cooperating again.

They're doing it voluntarily. Everyone stands to benefit — especially consumers concerned by steadily mounting prices they pay for food in the neighborhood supermarket.

Most news involving business and government these days tends to picture the two as adversaries, with the former accused of wrongdoing and the latter attempting to correct an alleged fault. The fact business and government conduct many activities as allies in a spirit of friendly cooperation seldom generates headlines.

But here's an example that will attract the attention — and gratitude — of food shoppers.

This cooperative program officially is called "Sanitation for Health and Profit." It is being coordinated and conducted through joint auspices of the Oregon Retail Council, the state Department of Agriculture and the Department of Food Science and Technology at Oregon State University.

While not unique in the United States, the Oregon program is among the first to be conducted along guidelines established by the national Food Marketing Institute in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration.

Essentially, it is a course of instruction for food market personnel. It is designed to provide greater understanding of good sanitation and food-handling procedures in order to achieve high standards of product integrity and reduce spoilage and waste.

Full curriculum includes preliminary home study and a one-day course covering food protection, sources of contamination, food-borne illness, food spoilage, employee hygiene and work habits, housekeeping, sanitation and pest control and testing for certification.

Course sessions, which are being conducted at statewide locations, begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m., followed by a one-hour test to achieve certification by OSU. Bulk of the students taking the course so far this year have been store managers and managers of meat departments.

Operating as a permanent and continuing program, the ultimate goal is to reach every level of food market personnel. The reason it must be offered on a continuing basis is that most food markets experience close to a 100 percent employee turnover each year

and new employees create a need for almost constant training, according to an industry spokesman.

Current courses are limited to an enrollment of 30 students and have been conducted or scheduled in Pendleton, Portland, Eugene and Corvallis.

"Ultimate success of the program depends almost wholly on the willingness of food market owners and managers to make certain their employees participate when classes are conducted in their area," declared Otto J. Wilson, director of the retail division of Associated Oregon Industries.

Wilson said response from major food chains has been particularly gratifying so far, and he expects participation to increase as additional classes are scheduled. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Department of Food Science & Technology, OSU, Corvallis, or by writing the Oregon Retail Council, P.O. Box 12519, Salem 97309.

Impetus for the course was generated initially by industry, consumer and government members of the agriculture department's Bacterial Standards Review Committee — a panel that spent more than a year studying sanitation in food markets.

Wilson said the Oregon course admirably fits the bill for employee training but is only the first of an ultimate two-part program that will be expanded to include consumer education.

Oregon's food markets, government officials and scientists recognize the greatest waste and potential for food health hazards exist in the home. So, in addition to making certain proper health standards are maintained in the marketplace, they are cooperating to promote better conditions at the point of ultimate use.

"Actual details for the consumer education part of the program have not been firmly established yet," he said. "But progress will be achieved on a person-to-person basis as food store employees become trained and pass their knowledge along to customers and as retailers begin emphasizing proper food care between purchase and consumption."

Product integrity means providing the food-buying public with merchandise that has been cared for in a manner that enables the customer to take it home while at a peak of potential palatability and nourishment, Wilson explained. What happens between the time it is purchased and placed on the dinner table is something else.

Letters to the editor

The Post welcomes letters of local interest from readers. Letters should be typed and double spaced and must be signed by the writer.

Erosion a problem

To the Editor:
I wonder why the people along the Sandy River feel the taxpayers should build retaining walls and preserve their land for them. They knew it was river frontage when they purchased the property and should be willing to do a little on their own to save their land.

It is most certainly assessed as valuable property, so it would seem to me that they would want to preserve it for their own protection. This erosion they are talking about is not just a flash flood, it has been going on for years.

The proposal, as I understand it, would only benefit a few so is it fair to hand pick the ones we spend our tax dollars on? All they would need to do is clean out the main channel and push the big rocks out to the banks of the river and it would benefit everyone along the river.

I also wonder why some of these home owners were able to get permits to build so close to the river when their homes are only about a year or so old and they are on a septic tank sewer system?

Bonny Marsh
44007 SE Phelps Road
Sandy, Oregon 97055

Bus suggestion

The following letter was sent to Tri-Met director Peter Cass by a group of Sandy-area residents who take the bus into Portland.

Dear Mr. Cass:

May we suggest sending the Sandy, Oregon buses to continue on into downtown Portland as No. 91 MKC Flyers. The route that the buses could take is as follows: Leave Sandy via Orient Drive picking up passengers along the way (this is the same as before).

Each bus would stop at the Pizza Hut (corner of Powell and Kelly) as usual to let off any passengers needing to transfer to other buses and in addition pick up those who wish to take the MKC Flyer. The bus would then circle the block and then go to Cleveland Street. It would travel down Cleveland to the Mt. View Christian Church and continue on its regular route as an MKC Flyer.

Our reasoning is based on the following example of what happens daily: We left Sandy at 7:14 a.m. and arrived in Gresham with 17 passengers at about 7:32 a.m. All but four passengers got on the No. 44 bus at 7:36 to continue on down to the Portland Mall. Thus when the No. 44 bus left Gresham, there were only about 12-15 empty seats. (This count was taken when we reached the Gresham Mall) Thus we had people standing by the time we reached 129th. The majority of the 6:07

a.m. Sandy passengers also transfer to the No. 44 bus as it is the fastest of the buses going to downtown Portland (and has the least amount of stopping to pick up passengers.)

Naturally, the afternoon buses returning to Sandy would leave downtown Portland as MKC Flyers.

We feel that the above suggestions would greatly increase the Sandy ridership. One of the main reasons why people in the Sandy area do not ride the Sandy bus is because of the great length of time it takes to get to their destination and the continuous stopping to pick up or let off passengers. We sincerely hope that you will look into this matter as soon as possible.

Sandy passengers
G.W. Timblin
Douglas D. Castle
M.F. Rawcliffe
Roy O. Porter
Rebecca L. Wilkens
LeRoy Russell
Shelly Sather
Kristi Sather

Note to Nell

To the Editor:
A note to Nell. I'm gonna sorta miss your column cause I kinda like to read about your family and friends. But course I guess we're kinda in the big time now.

Course I may not read the Post as much as I sorta don't know anyone they write about lately.

Marian James
Sandy, Oregon

Lobbyist says

Citizens should curb interest groups' power

by DAVID COHEN

Politicians fiddle, problems go unsolved, and tax-payers' tempers flare. More and more, our government is viewed by its citizens as being unable or unwilling to deal with crucial issues.

Today, special interests dominate our political system and these interests — usually focused on a single issue — pursue their own narrow agendas. Through the use of political money and hidden lobbying, they wield considerable clout with the administration and Congress. In effect, they paralyze government and stop it from performing on behalf of its citizens. No single special interest alone is responsible or wants to create this paralysis, but when they have all acted,

that's the result.

Nowhere is this effect clearer than in our inability to stop inflation. Each special interest — the dairy industry, airlines, highway builders, truckers, doctors, building trade union members, lawyers, and a cast of thousands — has a particular inflationary favor it wants from government. With their immense power, special interests get the rewards they seek, from invisible tax subsidies to government regulations which protect an economic interest.

To combat the heavy special interest influence, citizens must take an active role in framing the debate on the critical issues facing the nation. We have a responsibility to shape the alternatives and advocate the choices that will work. We

cannot abandon the field to the special interests. Our challenge is to build support for systematic changes that will stop wasteful spending, unnecessary regulations and unfair taxes.

If government is to perform on behalf of the people and work to solve problems rather than duck them, Congress has to act responsibly by taking the necessary steps to make government competent. Congress should:

—pass Sunset legislation to require Congress to discard outdated, inflexible and wasteful government activities and permit room for new initiatives. Citizens are frustrated by the inability and unwillingness of Congress to end unfair taxes and government programs and regulations which do not work and are no longer needed.

—reform the civil service to hold our civil servants to high standards of performance and protect those who blow the whistle on wrong-doers. The American public is entitled to a federal civil service that is both efficient and accountable, responsive and responsible.

—curb the two worst special interest abuses — political money and hidden lobbying. Enact congressional campaign finance reform by enabling small contributions to be matched by the voluntary dollar tax check-off already used in the presidential election. Enact lobby disclosure legislation to require the powerful lobbies to disclose how, what and on whom they're spending their money to influence the system.

A healthy political system requires citizens who know what's going on. Nobody can

do it for us. After all, you don't have to be an expert to know you want competence from your government.

David Cohen is president of Common Cause a non-partisan citizens' lobby.

Zen Kamikazism

An irreverent thought to savor while waiting for basketball season:

Wouldn't it be grand if the Greater Forces That Control Destiny someday brought Bill Walton to play on a team coached by Dick Harter? Inscrutable force meets irascible object.

Might not produce good basketball, but it would be tremendous theater.

— Eugene Register-Guard



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