

Editorial and Opinion

City should put Sandy market data to use

The city of Sandy and Port of Portland continue discussions this week on a technical assistance project to stimulate Sandy's industrial development. The scope of the port's involvement has narrowed somewhat from first proposal, but suggests a major undertaking in Sandy's name that deserves full support.

A market study team from the port's technical assistance program has offered 300 man-hours to develop a report that Sandy can use in attracting new industry. Originally, the city wanted a market plan for attracting industry and tourism — notably a motel or hotel. Now, however, the port finds the total task larger than what could be handled in the 300-hour block grant, so the city will have to choose the research theme and define the scope of services. Apparently new industry is a high priority, so the port likely will complete a study on what type of manufacturing industry would be

most compatible in the city when new industrial park land is annexed and needed services installed.

This study, however, could arm city boosters with a sales tool for approaching individual manufacturers from lists available through state and federal agencies. City leaders could better utilize the study when also armed with a city profile that could be prepared independently from information acquired from city staff by the port. Also, tourist information available from the port's airport records could be incorporated in a total sales package.

The best part of all may be the city's invitation to request another 300-hour port study in a year or two when the industrial park is properly expanded. The first study, however, should be put to work immediately before the market data becomes dated and loses value in attracting new compatible industry. (VB)

U.S. restraint needed now in sensitive Iran

Early government reaction to Iran's shaky state of military control suggests possible U.S. involvement at the military advisory level. This sounds frightfully familiar and represents a possibility that Americans should acknowledge by calling their congressmen.

It wasn't long ago that the U.S. sent military advisors and peacekeeping forces to stabilize governments in Korea and Vietnam. Today Korea still boils with border incidents, and Vietnam's 1000-year war rages on with new roles for old enemies in a never-ending drama. Sure, the U.S. pulled out, but the Soviet Union and Red China now underwrite battle between Vietnam and neighboring Cambodia.

Professional politicians maintain that there are sound and unsound reasons for going to war. Surely Iran's oil — dear to America — would be an economic incentive. But skirting the dangers of another full war is unnecessary, when the U.S. could protect its oil supply by declaring a state of emergency under the provisions of the 19-nation International Energy Agency.

We urge readers to ask their congressmen and other federal officials to deal with Middle East problems diplomatically through agencies of international justice and world market. America's new thirst for oil and determination to protect its interests abroad once again could prove fatal. (VB)

Salem scene

Key political races ahead

By JACK ZIMMERMAN

Emotion-laden ballot measures get credit for the record numbers of Oregonians who registered to vote in this week's general election.

Nonetheless, only a relative handful were motivated by the opportunity to influence the partisan structure that will guide the course of the 60th regular biennial session of the Legislature that convenes in the Capital City on Monday, Jan. 8.

Regardless, subsequent elections conducted in the next few days among 90 privileged individuals will have much to do with the vast body of new law destined to be enacted in Salem during the first six months of next year.

By rule, tradition and law, this power revolves around two individuals elected to preside over the Senate and House of Representatives. Presiding officers have the authority to shape legislation by appointing committees and assigning bills to those committees. Senate

President and House Speaker are generally elected during a caucus of their partisan peers — whenever clear cut partisan majorities evolve from the general election.

A partisan majority in the 30-member Senate consists of 16. In the 60-member House, the magic number is 31.

Democrats have sustained a partisan majority in the Senate since 1965. And since only half the Senate is elected to four-year terms every two years, it was numerically impossible for Republicans to significantly alter last session's 24-6 Democrat majority this year.

The House of Representatives is something else. Twice as many members — each elected for only two-year terms — means the odds for change are greater each election.

Democrats have sustained House majorities since 1972. And though pre-election forecasts suspected the previous 37-23 Democrat superiority might be eroded, even the most ardent

Republican doubted his party would regain a solid majority.

The battles over the leadership roles in both houses will come up shortly. The 1977 session was delayed 15 days before Senators elected Boyd Overhulse President. And the 1971 session failed to achieve organization for 12 days until coalition installed John Burns.

Twice the Oregon Legislature failed to organize and went home without conducting its normal functions. Senators were unable to elect a leader in 1960 and House members couldn't agree on a Speaker in 1897.

Few observers believe either chamber will be leaderless during the session to come, however. The Senate is expected to name its President this week and House Democrats will try to elect a Speaker shortly after.

(Jack Zimmerman is a writer for Oregon Associated Industries).

The following appeared as a letter to the editor in The Virginian Pilot of Norfolk, Va., on Oct. 28. The writer is Robert S. Need, editor emeritus of the North Coast Times Eagle in Virginia and a former Oregonian. It is a response to an editorial in The Pilot which argued against the initiative process for Virginia.

The reference to Senator Canada is a state senator Joseph Canada who proposed that the initiative process become part of the Virginia state constitution.

The editorial, "No, Thanks to the Initiative" in last Sunday's Virginian-Pilot establishes the lowest benchmark to date for the myopic political concepts of your editorial writers.

Aside from the slurs against Senator Canada I am appalled at the crass stupidity of the contents of this editorial and its lack of professional research. Comments regarding the "hamstringing" of legislatures, "voters who don't read the fine print first," and "the initiative (as) a poor substitute for prayerful consideration" by the legislature could only have been written by the most politically naive of journalists.

Although I am from this area, I have lived in Oregon and served as editor of one of the state's largest weekly

newspapers. Oregon has always stood in the forefront of constructive political innovation. It was the first state, in the revision of the Constitution in 1902, to introduce and aggressively apply the provisions of initiative, referendum and recall (at all levels of political jurisdiction). Since 1902 the citizens of the proudest and last bastion of representative democracy in this nation have written and promulgated 223 separate measures.

Your editorial writer reveals abject ignorance of the process of initiative action with his inferences of frivolous conduct by the electorate. The opposite is true, those epithets applying more correctly and with far greater frequency to the august members of legislatures. Your writer incorrectly states that initiative "bypasses the bill-drafting and research, public hearings, amendment" necessary to constructive preparation and presentation of proposed legislation.

A brief review of the Oregon Revised Statutes would reveal that some of the soundest bulwarks of public law are those provided by the initiative action of Oregon citizens. Clarification of jury conduct, control of school funds, sensible taxing methods, clearly defined political-ethics standards, and many other necessary

guidelines affecting the society have been written into law by Oregon's people, often when the parochial legislator has been too timid to act.

Oregon is without a doubt the most conservative state in the West. Even so, it continues to lead the nation in keeping its law commensurate with ever-changing times. Though settled hundreds of years after Virginia it has reached a political maturity that the Commonwealth would do well to imitate. The initiative provisions of the Oregon Constitution provide an aggressive spur to the legislators who sit in Salem,

reminding them constantly that they are there to do the people's work, and that if they don't the people will do it for them.

The additional provisions for referendum have allowed Oregonians to become the first Americans to establish comprehensive land-use management beneficial to all sectors of society while maintaining environmental quality (which is the state religion in Oregon), to preserve a balanced budget in all political jurisdictions without deficit, and to unclog the courts by upholding sensible legislation regarding drug usage and the use of criminals in public-works

projects.

If your editorial were to appear in Portland it would evoke the justified rage of the citizens of the best-controlled state in the Union. Far better it would be if your writer would take the time to explore Senator Canada's proposal and present the facts to Virginia who so desperately need a long-overdue revision and modernization of their Constitution. The very flippancy of your editorial provides a glaring example of the misinformation and neglect of responsibilities for the public welfare that so many Virginia newspapers so often demonstrate.

From other editors

Oregon democracy said exemplary

The following appeared as a letter to the editor in The Virginian Pilot of Norfolk, Va., on Oct. 28. The writer is Robert S. Need, editor emeritus of the North Coast Times Eagle in Virginia and a former Oregonian. It is a response to an editorial in The Pilot which argued against the initiative process for Virginia.

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Letters to the editor

Goblin insurance

To the Editor:

This letter is in regards to the Halloween Goblins Insurance sold by VICA, a vocational club at Sandy Union High School. The Halloween insurance was for clean-up by the kids in VICA of any Halloween refuse such as eggs, pumpkins or toilet paper. The insurance was offered to most of the Sandy-area merchants for \$5 a policy.

Our business gladly bought the insurance, mainly to help the club earn money.

Apparently there were a few merchants in town who felt this was a type of extortion (buy the insurance or you will get it). May I remind whoever it may concern that the definition of extortion is "to obtain from a person by force."

Our business certainly did not feel forced into buying the insurance. I was shocked when my money was refunded by VICA and even more shocked when I found out why.

I think it was neat for a club to come up with such an original idea for making

money instead of the standard car wash or bake sale. We want our kids to be original and use their own imaginations, then when they do we slap them in the face for it.

No wonder there is such a lack of participation in this and practically every other community.

We learn young, why bother!

Sharon Sizemore
Sandy

We all win

To the editor:

I would like to thank all of the people who supported me in the mayor's race. In addition, I'd like to congratulate Ruth Loundree, mayor-elect of Sandy, and commit my 100 percent support to her in her new responsibilities.

The mayor's and the City Council election had one of the heaviest voter turn-outs ever. I believe this activity will accomplish what we all want and that is to improve our town and give the best possible representation in government that we can.

Bruce E. Cook
P.O. Box 576
Sandy

CB's thank all

The San-Cada CB's would like to thank all our friends and the merchants of Sandy, Estacada, Boring and Damascus for their support in our fund raising efforts. We certainly appreciate all your help.

It is with the support of our friends that we are able to continue to help our neighbors in need.

Fran Harrington
Sandy

Food for needy

To the Editor:

Members of the Sandy Ridge Riders 4-H horse group went trick-or-canning on Halloween.

We would like to thank the many households and grocery stores in Sandy for the canned goods they donated. The goods will be given to four needy Sandy-area families at Thanksgiving.

Pat Brown
Sandy Ridge Riders



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