

# Editorial & Opinion

6—SANDY (Ore.) POST Thurs., Jan. 25, 1979 (Sec. 1)

## Money burdle a challenge all must accept

The city's budget deficit presents a challenge to the residents of Sandy to pull together through a minor crisis in the life of the community. There will be inconvenience associated with the \$221,000 city general funds shortage.

Residents may have to wait a few hours or even days for street crews to patch a pothole on their block. Water and sewer rates undoubtedly will be increased, although those increases still won't pay what the services actually cost.

There will be budget cuts in all city departments, some staff reductions and a cutback in staff training and travel. All city officials from the city manager on down will pick up their own garbage, because the city can no longer afford janitors.

Actual cuts in services will be limited, according to City Manager Roger Jordan. He figures that the

city will struggle through in four or five months of austerity. Jordan stresses that the city is not going bankrupt, and faces no real problems in paying all its bills. It's just that things will be tough for a few months.

The budget deficit, in part, resulted when city voters last year rejected a city budget, and the council responded with a trimmed levy. The operating funds in this levy, Jordan finds, just weren't adequate for the services rendered.

There are other contributing revenue shortages that were unforeseen when the budget was redrafted, like lost federal revenue, a slowdown in building permits and tax revenue entering city coffers at a rate slower than anticipated.

Voters generally get what they ask for. If the Sandy budget redraft no longer looks like a cure-all but a bitter pill, let's all have the courage to swallow it together. (VB)

## Early deadline will facilitate early presstime

Next week, the Sandy Post will come out a couple of hours earlier, and new deadline for news and advertising will be inaugurated.

Classified advertising's new deadline will be 4 p.m., Monday (three days before publication), while new deadline for display advertising will be 3 p.m., Friday.

General news items must be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday for inclusion in the Thursday paper, while social news, church news and notices of upcoming meetings should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday, the week proceeding publication.

The Post will continue to cover late-breaking news stories up to presstime Wednesday morning, but ask for cooperation of readers who submit items for publication to observe these new deadlines.

The Post anticipates an earlier presstime — three hours earlier — made possible by observance of the earlier deadlines. This earlier presstime will enable us to put fresh copies of the Sandy Post on newsstands by Wednesday evening and into the local post office by Thursday morning for home delivery Thursday afternoon. (VB)

## State surplus may dwindle before refunds

Depending upon which figures you believe, the state of Oregon has a general fund surplus of somewhere between \$170 million and \$273 million. As a measure of tax relief, it is proposed to distribute this surplus back to those from whom it originally was extracted via the income tax.

We wonder, however, just how much of that surplus will remain after other escalating demands are met? College students, for instance, already have asked that there be no tuition increases this biennium and that the general fund make up the \$15 million in revenue which otherwise would be lost.

Similarly, Oregon's highway system is deteriorating rapidly. And why not, we heard a legislator ask, use some of the general fund surplus for improvements? We'd save gas, we'd save lives, we'd save repair costs on our cars, etc.

These are just two examples of pressure facing the Legislature. And social programs and education, the biggest spenders, have not yet been heard. The general fund surplus rapidly could dwindle away to very little.

It is going to take some unusually resolute actions by legislators to keep that surplus reasonably intact for tax relief.

## Social Security bite just like \$47 cut in pay

If your boss were to walk in tomorrow and say he's going to cut your salary \$47 per month over the next two years, you just wouldn't stand for it.

Yet that's precisely what Congress did a couple of years ago when it voted to increase Social Security taxes as of Jan. 1, 1979. According to figures from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the average American family will lose \$1,124 in purchasing power during the next two years (roughly \$47 per month) as a result.

The new Social Security bite hits

you two ways — a bigger rate and higher maximums. The rate goes from 6.05 percent to 6.13 percent and the maximum wage on which taxes can be levied from \$17,700 to \$22,900. But just wait until 1981 when the rate goes to 6.65 percent on the first \$29,700 of income.

Employers, of course, have to match the employee contributions and thus prices on everything will increase.

Next time you see your congressman, ask him how he voted on this one.

## From other editors:

## FBI mail inspection ruled illegal

All 15-year-old Lori Paton wanted was a little information about the Socialist Labor Party for her social studies course, but she ended up the subject of an FBI investigation and file. Lori had the bad fortune to misdirect her letter to the Socialist Workers Party when it was under "mail cover" surveillance because of its unorthodox views. Without opening the envelope, FBI agents recorded her name and address and started an investigation that ran to checks with the local police, a credit bureau and her school. It was that easy back in 1973, even for a high

school student, to fall under Big Brother's scrutiny. We are told — and want to believe — that such a thing can't happen in 1978, at least not at the hands of the FBI. We expect mail to go through and do not expect it to be gone through. Guidelines issued by former Attorney General Edward Levi have confined internal security investigations to probes of suspected terrorists. And such surveillance requires the attorney general's personal approval.

Now, a federal district court in Newark has rendered a wholesale judgment in the case: A Postal Service

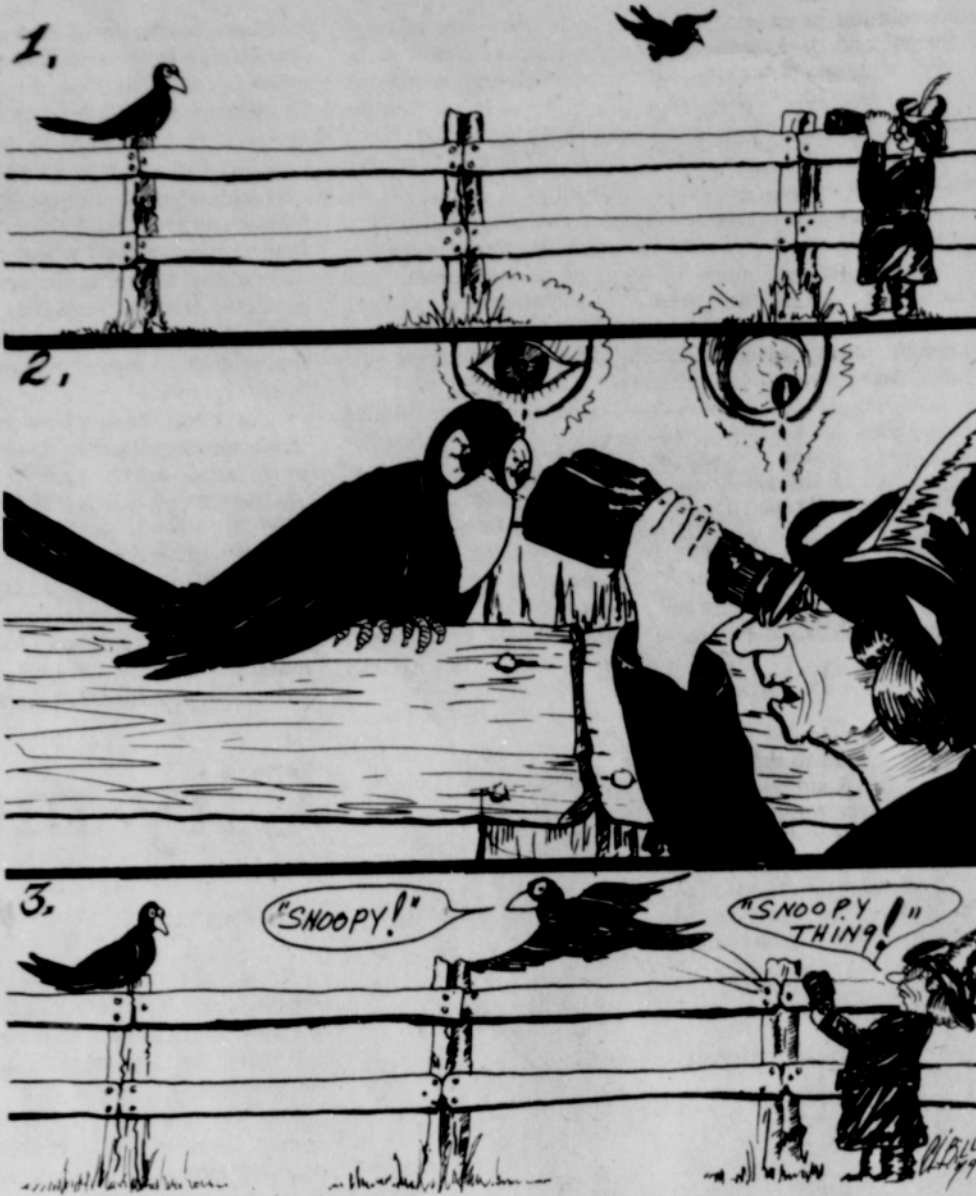
regulation authorizing mail covers in "national security" investigations is unconstitutional — an invasion of a First Amendment right to communicate about politics without government interference. The ruling does not bar the practice in criminal matters but finds "national security" too broad a rationalization.

But these advances could be transitory. Decisions like that in the case of Lori Paton are welcome, but the only lasting security lies in new laws to govern the activities of law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

—The New York Times

## Vinegar Hill:

## Bird-watching not unlike 'governor-watching'



by BILL SANDERSON

The Author of a bestseller of a few years ago, "Silent Spring," knew exactly what she was talking about as she noted the decline in our bird population. From my vantage point here on Vinegar Hill, I estimate there are less than half the number of birds at our feeders and in the trees and shrubs than there were 20 years ago.

Naturally, we do not all agree on the reason for the loss of over half of our bird population. Accordingly I have called upon our old friends Chirp and Twerp, to give me a sort of a birds-eye view of the subject. As usual, Twerp has a ready (and probably inaccurate) answer, while Chirp just sits and looks on.

Twerp told me, confidentially, that there had been little change in the overall number of birds in rural Clackamas County but that the influx of people into the area had had so disturbed the former ratio of people to birds that it just looked like there were fewer birds.

For example, he argued (rather persuasively, I thought) that a flock of 50 birds looks like a lot to one or two persons but that little flock of birds makes no impression at all on a flock of a thousand people.

It is also the number of

"bird-watchers" that disturbs the status quo. Nowadays, he said, there are more bird-watchers than there are birds and each bird is forced to "sit" for more than one watcher, whereas 30 or 40 years ago a bird could get as much as a month or perhaps a whole nesting season off. He seemed quite bitter about the whole business.

Next week, barring some startling news development, I will give you some of my findings on another kind of "bird-watching" which we will call "governor-watching."



It takes a while to sort through the comments and opinions of politicians, bureaucrats and political editors, many of whom may have a personal or financial stake in airing their views. I have no such stake and my views will be dictated by over 50 years observation of the political scene. See you all next week.

## Letters to the Editor

### Rock crusher

To the Editor:

Regarding your article last week on Mr. Doug Sandy's mining operation, I feel your reporter did a poor job. He did not give the total scope of Mr. Sandy's operation.

He is asking for a conditional land use permit for 10 years to crush rock and remove it before he puts in a fish pond. Many people in the area have nothing against Mr. Sandy putting in a fish pond; it is the 10 long years of listening to a rock crushing operation that we are against.

Sheri Houston  
13231 SE Marsh Rd.  
Sandy

### The weather

The following poem was written Frank Linhart's cousin, Rose Pershall, in Iowa in 1933 or '34. I think it goes pretty well with our Oregon weather this year.

### Ice Bound

Out of coffee, out of rice,  
Can't go to town because of the ice.  
The sugar is low,  
And so's the matches  
And needles and thread to sew on the patches.  
Ice to the east of us, ice to the west of us,  
Ice all around sparkles and glistens.  
No mail comes, the schools don't keep,  
A few cars venture only to a creep.

We can't go places to ride — we're scared,  
We'd walk to the neighbors if only we dared.  
Ice to the east of us, ice to the west of us,  
Ice all around sparkles and glistens.

Submitted by Mrs. Frank Linhart of Sandy.

### Likes play

To the Editor:

I had the fantastic opportunity last Saturday night

to see Sandy's community theater production of "The Impossible Years." The quality and energy level of the show was really a delightful surprise.

This live performance by such talented local actors was much more fun than a movie. The plot revolved around a conflict between a psychiatrist (specializing in adolescent behavior) and his rebelliously independent teen-age daughter.

Anyone with teen-age children, or anyone else for that matter, I'm sure would really enjoy this delightful local comedy. And it's right downtown at The Theater.

Candy Card  
P.O. Box 02022  
Portland

### Rocks, not fish

To the Editor:

I am directing this to your biased journalism con-

cerning the article in last week's Post about the "controversial mining" operation proposed by Douglas Sandy.

The key word should have been rock crushing rather than excavation mining and hauling. The rock crushing operation is the main source of controversy. However, that term was never used in the article.

The entire article made us opposing the issue sound like a bunch of over-reacting, uninformed citizens. You bet we were uninformed, as were his neighbors and probably The Post. This thing almost slipped through without our knowledge.

As far as the fish farm proposal, that could be as long as 10 years or longer down the road. So we're talking about rock crushing, not fish farms, and that's a big difference.

Jan Nerison  
Marsh Road  
Sandy

### Welcome, Bill

To the Editor:

Despite the chilly east winds and icy wrath that's sent shivers through all of us lately, I was warmed immediately upon learning Ol' Bill Sanderson has returned to The Post's editorial page.

His fiery pen and artistic wit has been affectionately missed during his recent tenure in the hospital.

Beware to all beaucratic malingerers and misdoers of the public interest...

Ol' Bill is back!

Paul Keller  
P.O. Box 311  
Rhododendron

Note: Paul Keller is a former editor of The Post. He is currently researching and working on what he calls "the world's greatest movie." We're anxious to hear more, Paul.

## Washington report:

## Packwood sponsors reforestation bill

WASHINGTON — With much fanfare, Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., has set himself up to be judged on the progress of a bill he launched during the opening week of the 96th Congress.

This "centerpiece" of Packwood's legislative year aims to close the gap between the yearly appropriation to the U.S. Forest Service for reforestation and the money needed to complete the backlog of America's reforestation needs.

Packwood's bill would address the reforestation backlog in two ways. It creates a trust fund of a maximum \$30 million per year, with the funds to be taken from tariffs already levied on lumber imported into the United States. The gap between the Forest Service request for reforestation and what Congress gave it for fiscal 1979 was about \$30 million.

The bill also would allow small woodlot owners tax deductions of up to \$10,000 annually for reforestation carried out on their lands.

The trust fund process that would be created by Packwood's bill is the game of taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another.

Tariffs levied on imported lumber now go into the general fund of the United States, to be fought over by all of the competing interests including the U.S. Forest Service that plead before the Office of Management and Budget and Congress every year.

The Packwood trust fund would reduce the general fund by \$30 million, and the reforestation effort still could come up \$30 million short this year.

The policymakers at the Office of Management and Budget or the lawmakers on the congressional appropriations committees might see the Packwood trust fund and say, "Fine, \$30 million is already there for reforestation. We'll keep the total reforestation program going at the same speed by dropping our appropriation by \$30

million."

Of that possibility, Packwood says, "There is a risk, and I knew it when I started off. But we'd be no worse off than we were before we started it."

A veteran forestry expert on Capitol Hill says of Packwood's bill, "Whenever anyone says it isn't going to cost you any more, you've got to know it isn't going to do anything. The bill pretends you can take money out of the pot you're already dipping into and, by blessing it, you can solve the reforestation problem."

by STEVE FORRESTER



In a speech to the Oregon Association of Loggers, during which he announced this bill, Packwood said: "This is not a bill which attempts to change any of the rules which determine where trees should be planted... It is not a bill designed to tilt in favor of any group at all. This is a bill upon which everyone can agree."

Great legislation does change rules and does tilt in favor of one group or another, even if it is an historic compromise, such as Sen. Henry Jackson's Northwest energy bill intends to be.

Great legislators push people around and build coalitions and get more money appropriated for their programs. Packwood says his bill won't make anyone anxious.

Even though Packwood says his bill is no threat, it is no sure bet to pass. With creation of the congressional budget committees, the trend in the

last six years has been away from trust funds, because an earmarked fund means less can be done in shuffling spending priorities.

At best, Packwood's legislation might set the stage for doing more in reforestation. It might be tough for the Office of Management and Budget or Congress to go with less than 100 percent funding of reforestation during the fund's first year of existence.

But the only way to guarantee 100 percent reforestation funding via a trust fund would be to create a trust fund that would fulfill the total annual need.

Packwood's proposal of a \$10,000 tax deduction for small woodlot owners who reforest their lands will have some natural opponents in lawmakers who perceive that timber growers already benefit from the capital gains law. Why, they will ask, should we give this group one more tax break?

Packwood has asked Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., to be House sponsor of the measure, and Ullman has declined.

Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., likely chairman of the Subcommittee on Forestry of the Interior Committee, has not been approached by Packwood. Weaver says he would like to work with Packwood on reforestation.

Packwood seems to have set an interesting trap for himself. In a press release on opening day of the Congress, Packwood said his election as chairman of the Republican Conference, a party policymaking group, meant the "Oregon's voice" will be heard in every committee of the Senate.

Now he's offered a centerpiece bill. However meaningless or meaningful the bill might be, the self-proclaimed influential senator ought to be able to move it.

Steve Forrester is a Washington, D.C.-based political columnist who writes a weekly report for The Sandy Post.