

Tobacco subsidy cut short-sighted

It's hard to legislate morality effectively, but some solons continue to try—whatever the cost.

Oregon's Republican Senator Mark Hatfield, a religious man who tilts tirelessly at increased defense spending, now has added the tobacco industry to his list of immoral opponents.

He proposes cuts in heavy federal subsidies to domestic tobacco growers, with the justification that the nation is plowing millions of dollars back into a drug crop that the nation also is trying to convince the public to avoid.

Indeed, new public warnings on cigarette packages are expected to carry even harsher warnings about health hazards of smoking, based on continuing evidence from the U.S. Surgeon General. The federal warnings—mandated by the federal government—will discourage smoking, due to cancer, heart, birth defect and respiratory problems.

But like the old "cold turkey" way to stop drinking, the subsidy cut-off to tobacco growers may be drastic and ineffective. The patient may live, but the doctor may die.

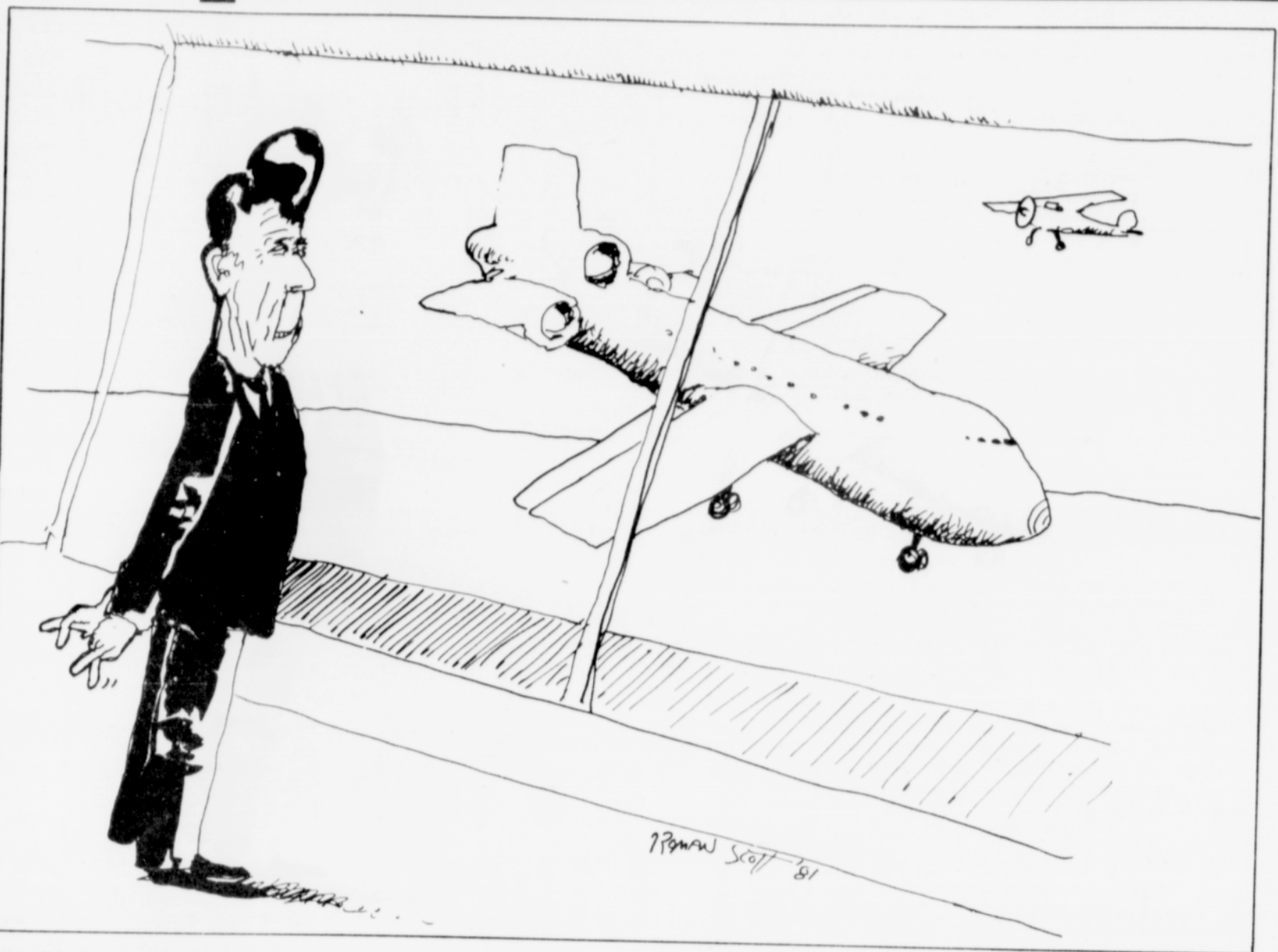
The American tobacco industry is too large a part of the national economy, and stifling the smoke too suddenly may choke us all economically.

Of course, there may be other supporters of a subsidy squeeze plot with less moralistic reasons. Tobacco as an industry long has been aligned with regional and party politics. Tobacco money is southern and historically Democrat.

Viewed as a squeeze play politically, tobacco resembles cotton at a time when the industrial north tried another squeeze on the agricultural south. Then the justification also was morality—concern for slaves.

Wouldn't it be nice, if public representatives could see the ripple effect—before they throw some of us in the tub for cleaning?

Let's hope saner heads prevail. Sect morality in a democracy shouldn't stifle a strong, free marketplace, a strong national defense, regard for borders or any other concern of the body as a whole. (VB)



Tell public all news that fits here

The Sandy High School Board Monday clarified its position on use of Portland newspaper advertisement of public notices.

Sometimes those legal notices about expenditures, meetings and elections will appear in the community newspaper and sometimes they won't—depending on deadlines and urgency.

The board amended their recent motion that named a Portland morning newspaper as official newspaper for school district legal advertisements. They said that

measure included an oversight of the local newspaper, which they planned to utilize whenever possible for publication of public notices.

We commend the local board for attempting to publish public notices locally whenever possible, and suggest the public is best served if they could work around meeting times and deadlines to publish locally all the time. That way, a greater number of district taxpayers can read how their school is being run. (VB)

Marathon session ends

Not with whimper, but bang

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

When the 61st Oregon Legislative Assembly convened in regular biennial session Jan. 12, new Senate Pres. Fred Heard made two predictions.

In view of then-questionable revenue projections, Heard invoked the adage about the best government being that which governs least and opined subsequent legislative activity would produce the best government Oregon ever had.

He predicted an orderly session that would adjourn in the full light of day.

Revenue projections steadily worsened, as the session in Salem continued and lawmakers ultimately approved a budget even leaner than that proposed by Gov. Vic Atiyeh. For the most part, there will be less government during the next biennium. But some—particularly the governor—are worried about its quality.

Although the Senate president's other prediction came true (adjournment did occur during daylight), it was the grey light of dawn at 6:30 a.m., Aug. 2, concluding a 21-hour continuous floor session that started the morning before.

Despite criticism for lack of productivity during the session's first five months, lawmakers ultimately passed more measures than ever before—a total of 998, compared with the previous high of 978 in 1977.

The total represents 39 percent of the 2,533 introduced and continues the trend of the last few sessions enacting larger percentages of measures under consideration.

But the factor that will haunt the 61st Assembly for years to come was its interminable length. It lasted 203 days—almost three weeks longer than the previous longest 180-day session in 1973.

That it would be a long session was fairly predictable almost from the onset.

A skidding economy that had provoked a budget-cutting special session last August failed to improve and estimates of revenue from existing taxes continued far short of spending. Gov. Atiyeh asked for nearly \$250 million in tax increases to balance his budget. Lawmakers postponed making final decisions until additional projections in June.

When those forecasts remained gloomy, it still took another six weeks of soul-searching before the final revenue package was forged in the session's dying hours.

Although it took further budget cuts to balance spending with reduced revenue, the session managed to accomplish much of what it faced in the way of decision making last January.

Noteworthy was the fact boundaries were redrawn for both legislative and congressional districts. Although legislative reapportionment faces a court test in



Legislative Report from the State Capital EXCLUSIVE to Oregon's Weekly Newspapers from Associated Oregon Industries.

Multnomah County, it marked the first time in recent history that lawmakers had agreed to agree on this touchy political task.

The Legislature also produced laws governing land use decisions during the post acknowledgement period, after cities and counties achieve approval of comprehensive plans from the Land Conservation and Development Commission.

Although greatly amended, Gov. Atiyeh's Workers' Compensation Taks Force bill achieved passage. Unemployment Compensation law was changed to the satisfaction of both business and labor.

Atiyeh also saw passage of his energy conservation and clean drinking water proposals. Lawmakers agreed to refer a \$60 million package of corrections legislation to voters next May.

The governor expressed displeasure with budget reductions for Human Resources and Higher Education, but witnessed approval of his proposals to nearly match last biennium's basic school support and fully fund property tax relief.

The revenue package finally adopted consists of three major components. They involve delaying for two years an increase in the state's personal income tax exemption, a seven-cent increase in cigarette taxes and quarterly payments of corporate and personal income taxes not subject to withholding.

In addition to the overriding revenue problem, the session also was dogged by investigations probing lawmakers' ethics and spent much time hearing special interest proposals that ultimately were abandoned.

Unlike four previous sessions when Democrats held significant majorities in both chambers and a moderate Senate generally charted the course, the 61st Assembly saw emergence of a strong House Republican minority. Together with a half-dozen moderate House Democrats, that coalition often was the final arbiter.

Also unlike recent previous sessions, it's a foregone conclusion record-long deliberations of the 61st Assembly ended before finishing the most important task. Further cuts in federal spending and continuing recession almost guarantee a special session early next year to once more adjust expenditures and taxes.

Wall Street report:

Nation gets semi-annual report card

NEW YORK — If the first half of 1981 left you neither dismayed or ecstatic, join the crowd.

For the financial landscape of the last six months provided scant comfort for extreme optimists or extreme pessimists. It was a vaguely puzzling terrain containing a rock, a plateau and a mirage.

The rock was the stock market. Some told us around New Year's that it was about to be flung high into heavens never previously explored by human beings or even stockbrokers. Others were equally certain that it was about to plunge



by Louis Rukeyser

deep into the well of financial despair. They were all wrong: the rock just sat there, extraordinarily still.

Indeed, the most remarkable thing about the stock market's per-

formance in the first half of 1981 was how remarkably little it performed. The Dow Jones Industrial Average moved no more than 93 points from closing high to closing low; it ended a yawn-inducing 13 points from where it began. Even in the era of pet rocks, this one might have had trouble finding someone to adore it.

The plateau in 1981's financial landscape was in interest rates, and a dauntingly high plateau it was, too. After reaching a record 21 1/2 percent in late 1980, the prime rate charged by major banks sank only slightly before rising back to the 20

1/2 percent altitude. The interest-rate plateau, like the stock-market rock, left virtually everybody dissatisfied.

The mirage, meanwhile, was the much-predicted big, long recession—now at least two years late, according to who's counting.

Whether the market is yet ready to burgeon from a rock to a mountain is arguable, many technicians believe that a further washout is necessary before that.

In any event, some change of scene is surely overdue; look for a more variegated financial landscape ahead.

Letters to the editor:

Reader blasts mountain development

Fight developers

What is even more upsetting than the proposed developments planned for the Brightwood area (i.e., Sweitzer's hydroelectric project, the Alderwood "trailer court subdivision," Tillicum Woods, Brightwood Glen and etc.) is the apathy expressed by many residents who feel they can do nothing to stop this urbanization of the Mt. Hood area.

So what can they do? The exact same things we are doing. Fight!

We residents, sportspeople, and concerned recreational users of the area have banded together personally and financially to combat the destruction of one of the most beautiful areas in the Northwest.

We call ourselves the "Mountain Area Corridor Citizens" (MACC), whose purpose is to inform the people of unsuitable developments which will seriously impact the wildlife, the fisheries, the aesthetics, the serenity and quality of life we now enjoy on the mountain. And what about the impact on our pocketbooks?

I don't care where you live, these developments affect you. I don't care if you hunt, fish or just sit in your cabin. These developments are going to hit you right where it hurts. Financially!

These "unacceptable" developments will increase everyone's taxes in the form of new sewage and water systems that will be needed, upgrading of our fire and police protection, impact to

our schools, increased traffic on our highways and roads that will make them even more expensive to maintain, not to mention the increased traffic hazards we will have to contend with.

How much will it really cost us? The developers claim their projects will help the area's economy. But who will it really help? Only the select few who will profit from the rape and violation of our mountain and its natural resources. The rest of us will be burdened with the increased service costs and taxes.

Now is the time for working people, people on fixed incomes, property owners and countless others who use and love this area to join MACC in our struggle to save the mountain. If we work together, we will and can win.

Stop the ravaging of our mountain and save it, so that future generations can enjoy it, as we have in the past.

Gordon Cabral
Brightwood

Tourney success

Thanks to all participants, coaches and Sandy merchants who contributed to our first Sandy women's softball tournament.

Despite 105 degree weather, we feel it was a big success.

Special thanks to our recreation director, Bill Knight-Weiler (all-round handyman) for scoring, timing and umpire. Special thanks also to official scorekeeper Diane Gedde and umpires Digby Morrow and Kevin Olsen.

The league also ap-

preciates and thanks Jerry Swails for preparing the fields, Marie Ruisill for providing the concession stand and Mayor Ruth Loundree for presenting the trophies.

Barb Johnson
League representative

LETTERS POLICY:
The Post asks that all letters to the editor be typed, double-spaced and signed. Deadline is noon, Tuesday. Letters should be accurate, free of libelous remarks and in good taste. This newspaper attempts to publish all letters it receives and may edit material lightly to conform to guidelines. Maximum length is 200 words.

The Innocent Bystander:

Enjoy golden years with your SSAN

I was shoveling out the junk mail when an attractive booklet caught my eye. It was titled, "Your Golden Years." You. Excerpts follow:

So you're thinking of retiring? Good for you! You've worked long and hard all your life and you certainly deserve to idle away your golden years in leisurely pursuits far from the madding throng.

Now you may be saying to yourself, "But what will I do with myself all day after I retire?" Don't give it a second thought. Keep in mind that many, many people are happy in retirement. The secret, of course, is to keep busy as a bee.

For example, Leonard R. of Astoria, Ore., devotes every waking hour to watching "the crazy goings-on" in the ant farm he has placed on the end table next to his chair in the family rumpus room.

If you're more goal-oriented, you might take a leaf out of George K.'s book. After only 18 months of retire-



by ART HOPPE

always wanted to read. Grover S. of Denver immediately began Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" when he retired three years ago and is already up to Page 38. "I can't wait until Proust gets out of bed," he says eagerly.

Like Mr. S., you, too, should have something to look forward to. Of course, you can no longer look forward to your coffee break, lunch break, five o'clock whistle, Friday, vacation or retirement. But Kenneth W. of Fresno has solved this problem. On arising, he sits on the living room couch and looks forward all day to 6 p.m. when his wife pours him the first of his two martinis.

Needless to say, there are dangers you should watch out for. One is togetherness, which marital experts have found to be the leading cause of divorce.

"For 30 years, I put up with him absentmindedly humming. There'll

Be Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover" after dinner," Gertrude G. told the court. "But 16 hours a day?"

Her husband, Alfred, countered that he'd tried to get out of the house but was sick and tired of coming in the door each evening to hear her inquire, "What's new in the back yard?"

Physicians also warn that the lack of stress can cause an adrenal deficiency which may lead to bucolic senility, verbal atrophy, and, heaven forbid, tertiary coreopsis. So whatever you do in retirement, try to stay tense at all times.

"Otherwise, we're sure you'll enjoy your golden years. And if you have any further questions about that retirement you have been planning to take soon, such as how to prepare kibble, please write the publishers of this free brochure — The United States Social Security Administration.