

City's help for business timely

It's timely the way 30 business leaders approached Sandy City Council last week for help in addressing business deficiencies here.

Business now is slow, of course. The eve of a critical municipal operating levy also provides a dramatic stage. City officials need business support to pass this no-frills maintenance budget squeezed into a basic A levy. The business community needs support of city hall, too, to showcase their shops boldly enough to stay competitive on a fast one-way road out of town.

The city warrants support to get its dollars to operate Tuesday. Officials ask only what it costs to keep city government and its services alive. The business district warrants support from city hall for cash flow, too. They ask only minimal cooperation to help keep shops and their services alive.

As Councilman Deane Wesselink said, city government "may have to do some flexing to help some of these businesses."

Relaxing the city's stringent sign ordinance when reviewed soon would be a cooperative step in the right direction.

County levy profits city taxpayer

Sandy taxpayers would profit twice by passage of a county levy to fund operation of city-run senior citizen centers.

First, they'd spread financial support of the local senior center on shoulders of all potential users in the county, realistic to the broad service boundaries of such community centers as that in Sandy or Hoodland.

Also, Sandy taxpayers would profit by a happy \$54,000 surplus in the city's tight budget before voters Tuesday, i. the county levy replaces city funding.

Most happy, however, would be area senior citizens who utilize such local centers. Funding under the county levy would be more generous and constant than under present municipal financing. (The cities would continue to manage their local centers.)

In this age of declining federal

support and sparse local funds, survival may be more on minds of local senior center supporters than program growth. And when you consider 60 percent of county seniors older than 70 subsist below poverty level, survival may be the best word to describe center support services.

Local services include keeping seniors active, fed, housed and functioning with legal and financial help, health care and rides. The new funding level would allow one or two new staff members, since more hands are needed to help with rides and organization of activities.

The three-year serial levy asks 22 cents per thousand (\$11 on a \$50,000 home). That would give Sandy's center \$67,585 to \$82,603 annually over three years to operate its center.

A "Yes" vote is urged at the polls Tuesday.

Salem scene:

Party power swing likely

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries



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

Although its membership won't be determined for another eight months, many observers believe the next Oregon Legislature will differ significantly from the body currently struggling with affairs of this state.

Numbers of would-be candidates seeking nomination in May have added fuel to the speculation fire. After final withdrawals and disqualifications, a total of 228 candidates emerged from both parties. An even hundred Democrats and 89 Republicans wish to become candidates for the 60 seats in the House of Representatives. On the Senate side, 22 Democrats and 18 Republicans will vie for 15 positions.

Although far from a record number of primary candidates, the total is significantly greater than the 211 filing two years ago.

Another factor boding change is the fact 62 incumbents sought re-election in 1980 and only 56 wish to succeed themselves this year. Further, 46 candidates had no primary election competition two years ago. This year only eight primary races are uncontested.

Another ingredient for speculation about change was the uncommon criticism heaped on the 61st Assembly from without and within. Seldom has a Legislature suffered as many barbs from press, public and its own members.

House Speaker Hardy Myers declared early last year he would not seek a third term in the lower chamber. Given the fact at least seven new members will be sitting in the next Senate, a long-rumored challenge to Senate Pres. Fred Heard's leadership could succeed.

Resignations by chairmen of both Senate and House Revenue Committees will have an impact on the next Assembly—particularly with forecasts the economy won't recover sufficiently to provide adequate state and local government financing without overhauling the tax structure.

Then there's the question of party supremacy. Senate Democrats have enjoyed numerical superiority since 1958 and House Democrats since 1972, both representing record-long tenures. The only previous period in Oregon history when Democrats outnumbered Republicans was during 1935-37.

Republicans are making no bones about a possibility of overhauling the House majority this year and making serious inroads in Senate numbers. They pin their hopes on numbers of GOP candidates this year. There are 97, compared to only 82 in 1980.

They also point to the narrowing margin between partisan voter registrations. Of the current (January) total 1,440,388 registered voters, 718,141 are Democrats,

532,000 are Republicans and 200,207 are independent and others. A year ago the Democrat total was 766,115. Total GOP registration was 551,763 and all others was 211,019.

The disparity, following the September purge and subsequent registrations, dipped from 214,352 a year ago to 186,141. GOP leaders natural predict greater success for their candidates, as the Democrat edge declines.

The Democrat numbers in the 60-member House were 33, when that party assumed control in 1972. The number rose to a high of 38 in 1974. The GOP since has steadily whittled at the Democrat majority, until the numbers dipped once more in 1980 to the 33-27 imbalance posted 10 years ago.

The current Democrat majority is considered extremely tenuous, as demonstrated consistently during both regular and special sessions of the 61st Assembly. Then, conservative members of the ruling party teamed with Republicans on many significant issues. The GOP even hints about possible coalition control in 1983, if their numbers expand by even one or two members.

Coalition also is hinted as a possibility in the 30-member Senate after November balloting. While the present Democrat majority is considerable—22 to 8—seven seats will change hands with redistricting and failure of incumbents to seek re-election. Six Democrat Senators did not file to succeed themselves, while only one Republican chose not to run again. Six former House members—split evenly by party affiliation—are seeking Senate status. Four are women, with party affiliations split evenly. Five of the six departing Democrat Senators are part of that chamber's urban bloc, so election results could produce unparalleled changes.

Balloting also could elevate GOP numbers to 12, equal to the split that produced a coalition leader in 1973. Even with 13 more, the GOP would move seriously close to the 16-14 split that produced coalition leadership in 1969-71.

While little is certain at this point in campaigns barely off the ground, the greatest certainty appears that voters are in for an uncommon amount of persuasive activity between now and te time their last ballots are counted next November.



Letters to the editor:

School, candidates and tax draw focus

Flex attendance

I am a student at Sandy Union High, and I am concerned about the attendance policy. Parents want the school to crack down on attendance. I don't think it's fair on the teachers, because they have to spend too much time writing notices to parents.

That's not their job. Their job is to teach the students, who go to class to learn. If you force students to go to class, all they will do is make it hard for other students to learn, because the teacher will have to stop class to discipline them. That's not why the teacher is there.

I think it's the parents who should do something, if their kids are skipping classes—not the school. Parents should call, if they're concerned. This could save the school some money and the teachers extra work they're not paid to do.

Tony Cleland
Brightwood

Support Mills

Dorothy Mills is an outstanding candidate for Position 5 of the Sandy Elementary School Board. For the past four years she

had served conscientiously on the budget board, this year as its chairperson.

In this capacity she demonstrated a unique ability to openly consider a variety of options and make difficult decisions.

I have served with Dorothy Mills in a variety of civic responsibilities and have been especially impressed with her skilled ability to question and thereby gather information. She also offers positive leadership, peppered with a sense of humor, that truly helps unite a group and effort.

Dorothy Mills is an active grade school parent, responsible civic worker and former educator. With her candidacy we have the opportunity to place on the board a person, who understands the full scope of the district's program and business.

Joanne Seeger
Boring

For Otto

It is imperative that we elect Glenn Otto to the Mt. Hood Community College board Tuesday.

Because of the slump in the economy, all public agencies will be asked to make cuts in programs in-

cluding Mt. Hood. We need someone like Glenn Otto to see that there are not undue cuts in the vocational or technical areas.

Vocational or technical programs tend to be more expensive than other programs. They also are more rewarding in providing immediate employment to graduates.

In voting for the Mt. Hood board, please consider the valuable insights Glenn Otto can provide during difficult times.

D.G. Page
Gresham

Also for Otto

Mt. Hood Community College faces a legislative and financial crisis, as the state of Oregon strives to balance its budget.

When the legislature made it possible in the 1960s for local areas to establish community colleges, it promised to provide significant operational support. State support of operations for community colleges has dwindled in recent years.

Legislatures need to be reminded of this historical commitment and receive a first-hand understanding of problems that face community colleges.

That's why I urge voters of the Mt. Hood Community College District to elect Glenn Otto to the board. Glenn Otto is a respected veteran of the Oregon House.

As a representative of the MHCC board, he can speak even more authority for the community colleges. As both a respected veteran and board representative, he can play a key role in setting legislative and financial priorities.

Elmer Summerfield
Gresham

Nix sales tax

The Republican Party again has proved their admiration for sales tax by recent endorsement of this unfair tax at Dorchester Conference.

This regressive form of taxation repeatedly has been rejected by Oregon Democrats. Unlike most political issues in this state, the party lines are drawn clearly on this subject.

California has a sales tax, and their citizens carry a heavy tax burden. The state of Washington has a sales tax, and their form of taxation is among the most regressive in the nation. It has not kept that

state from going broke.

The main argument for a sales tax is an alleged stability it brings to revenue collection. Such stability, however, is illusory in a declining economy. In addition, the sales tax is the cruelest tax, since an unemployed mill worker or senior citizen on limited fixed income pays the same tax rate as a wealthy person.

We can accomplish the same thing in Oregon with a large "prudent person reserve fund" to cushion effects of periodic economic recession. We shouldn't be like the state of Washington, which must depend upon a good Christmas shopping season to balance the state budget.

Those who advocate a sales tax as a replacement for property taxes also should be reminded this scheme won't lower the total tax bill—only remove local control of local property tax-supported government. The sales tax dramatically would shift power to state government in Salem away from the people.

Dell Isham,
Senate majority leader
Grattan Kerans,
House majority leader

Personally speaking:

Substitute teachers have rough time

I recently overheard an SUHS student talking about a substitute teacher who's "in her 40s but acts like an old lady."

As a group, substitute teachers do have it rough. Everyone, it seems, has a story to tell about a substitute teacher that was tormented.

I remember Mrs. Jeppers. When I was a freshman tensions between Mrs. Jeppers and the students reached a crescendo.

The band director, we called him Wacky Wendell, was out of town. The caste system was still pretty much in effect in 1970, and the freshmen were told to remain seated while the juniors and seniors traded instruments.

By the time I was a senior the band had earned 21 consecutive 1 ratings at state music contests.

(I played the tuba, by the way. Wacky Wendell said I had the lips for it.)

So when Mrs. Jeppers began to direct that day she knew we weren't playing as well as we could.

And nothing, absolutely nothing, sounds worse than a large, out-of-tune band.

She put up with the ad libs and loud blasts for about 10 minutes, and then she exploded.

It didn't do any good. Maybe Straight-Arrow Mary in the drum section wore her scowl a little tighter, but most of us were hav-



by SCOTT NEWTON

ing a good time. Class with Wacky Wendell, you see, was a pretty disciplined affair, although it, too, had its moments.

Wacky Wendell had two favorite sayings when I was in school. When someone would do something stupid, which was fairly often, Wacky Wendell would say, "riidiculous."

That was a favorite saying round Chaparral High School in Anthony, Kan. "You enrolled in

whose class? Riidiculous."

The other thing he used to say was, "Oh Steve and Dennis, why don't you just grow your hair and join a rock band."

Interestingly enough, that's just what they did.

Anyway, after five more minutes Mrs. Jeppers got mad a second time.

After a short lecture, she told us that she was going to turn her back and allow us to go back to the sections that we belonged in. If the band didn't sound better after that, she threatened to take down the name of each student and where that student was sitting.

We all thought the party was over. But no. There was one brave person, a senior, who decided to stay in the drum section.

Brad was a good trumpet player, and an even better debater. He was smooth, and that "cool under pressure" has served him well more than once.

Brad was having a good time. The band was sounding better, which just accented his creative bass drumming that much more.

By this time Mrs. Jeppers, much to our delight, was really mad. It was important to her that she be in control.

Finally she stopped the band with a wild swirl of the baton. She

looked Brad right in the eye and said, "There are still some people who have not moved back to their respective sections. I think the bass drummer's music might be different from what I have. I'd like to hear just the percussion section play."

Everyone snickered. "Brad's really going to get in trouble now," someone whispered.

Straight-Arrow Mary really stretched her frown. Timid Tommy, the regular bass drummer, tried to fade into the woodwork.

The entire band focused in on Brad as Mrs. Jeppers raised her baton.

To everyone's amazement he not only played the part perfectly, he played it with authority, just as Wacky Wendell had been trying to get Timid Tommy to do for years.

After a few stanzas Mrs. Jeppers cut the percussion section off. The room was silent. "Now, the entire band," was all that was said as she raised the baton.

Brad handed the drumstick to Timid Tommy and slipped into his vacant chair in the trumpet section. The rest of the rehearsal was pretty well structured.

And it seems to me, although it may have been my imagination, that Timid Tommy played with just a little more authority after that.