

Editorial & Opinion

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1982

Crowd frenzy, tricks raw politics

Sure, it's hard to arouse voters into groundswell supporters these days. Inciting them with reactionary issues like property assessment adjustments and tax revolt, however, is like throwing raw meat to hounds.

We're seeing a lot of savage politics practiced here this spring, as faceless names throw themselves at crowds for recognition in new legislative districts. Opportunism is the name of the game—leading the leaderless mobs.

Certainly, government isn't popular anymore. But anti-government politics practiced by those who seek election to government posts sounds deceitful.

The region moans with economic wounds. The land cries out for builders with plans, not battlers with plots for dismantling. City, county, state and federal governments limp with budget woes that cripple social programs and ability to respond to economic hurts felt in home and capitol alike.

So it smarts on the cheek to see a smart guy like John Thompson

incite the mob just to capture the moment.

Tricks the voters don't need. Tricks they've seen before. That's why they distrust government.

Phoney letters to the editor at district newspapers is one trick that isn't working this year. A crop of look-alike, sound-alike letters of endorsement for a community college board candidate this spring were challenged by this newspaper as suspiciously of the same origin. Even the signatures looked alike. We printed this candidate's endorsement letters that could be validated, however.

Now a letter to the editor on behalf of Senate District 14 candidate Thompson appears to be of questionable origin. The short letter attacks size of signs for primary opponent Joe Davis as illegal by county ordinance.

Strangely a third person (not the signator or admitted originator) recently inquired whether HIS short letter that challenged certain political signs as illegal would be published.

How the plot thickens. How the blood boils.



Oregonian smiles fight dry spell

Apparently Governor Vic Atiyeh proposes to lead economically dry Oregon through new, uncharted desert land. Things will get better, we're told, if we all pull together and put on a happy smile. That, at least, was the gist of his Sandy talk.

The state budget, \$350 million leaner with revenue shortfall cuts, can't afford to prime the pump for housing or start a state bank. The state can't afford to assist SE Asian immigrants whose welfare assistance here has been cut by the federal government.

So the kind-hearted sponsors who brought them here are asked to resume responsibility for the 5,000 northwest immigrants, many still jobless.

And unions are asked to form a

state central depository to prime the pump for their own jobs.

And jobless Oregon emigrants to Wyoming and other energy-rich states are given high marks by Atiyeh for their get-up-and-go attitude.

State government's role in economic recovery here seems almost limited to an assistance role, with a revitalized tourist program and state economic development commission to work hand-in-hand with local recovery efforts.

The state's looking for new industry and tourists, so the governor wants to change Oregon's public image of remote aloofness.

Time to put on a happy face and smile at the world with disarming confidence.

Salem scene:

Highway measure lauded

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries



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

Seldom in recent history has economic development enjoyed more popularity in recession-ridden Oregon.

Commissions, councils, task forces, committees and study groups are tackling the issue from every angle at city, county, state and regional levels.

And now, authorities tell us, every registered voter will have a chance to participate in restoring the state's economic vitality May 18.

That's the date of this year's primary election, and the opportunity to stimulate the economy involves passage of Ballot Measure 4. It calls for an increase in gasoline taxes and weight-mile taxes levied on trucks.

Why is an increase in gasoline taxes important to the economy? Very simple. Our highways, roads and streets are the backbone of commerce in this state.

Long-sought industrial diversification and the location of new industries in the less-densely populated and economically depressed areas of the state are heavily dependent on up-to-date, well-maintained roads and highways.

And what about tourism, that so-called clean industry nearly every community clamors for? Let our highways deteriorate any further than they have, and the tourist-dependent Oregon Coast would be an even more stark wasteland that it now resembles, due to the depressed market for wood products. Who doubts that our roadside parks are an important ingredient in the mix that maintains our economy?

During the Fifties and Sixties Oregon's highways were the envy of most other states. Oregon led in developing and completing its part of the federal interstate system. At the same time, our gasoline taxes were among the lowest.

But conditions have changed. Gasoline prices have soared. Inflation has outstripped revenue and energy conservation has exacerbated the situation. Deterioration began in the Seventies and achieved crisis proportions this decade.

The Legislature repeatedly has placed gas and weight-mile tax increases on the ballot, and they've been soundly trounced.

They again might go down to defeat. But if Measure 4 fails May 18, voter rejection will fly in the face of economic necessity. It will be just that much harder and more expensive in the future to improve conditions that will restore employment to those who want to work.

Ballot Measure 4 seeks equal increases in gasoline taxes and weight-mile taxes each July 1 this year, and the next two years. The gas tax boosts are in one-cent increments. Weight-mile taxes paid by truckers will rise an average of 12.5 percent, 11.1 percent and 10 percent on corresponding rates—the same percentages levied on gasoline.

Oregon's gasoline tax now is so low compared with other states that only six are lower. Weight-mile taxes, on the other hand, are third highest.

How much does our present 8-cent-a-gallon gas tax cost? About \$53 a year, if you travel 12,000 miles and your car gets 18 miles-per-gallon. Chances are the car you're driving costs much better than that and the cost is proportionately less.

If you do only average 18 mpg, however, with Measure 4, you'll wind up paying about \$20 more a year—after July 1, 1984.

And if you don't think that's a bargain, consider some other expenses you pay for that car. It's likely you're paying somewhere near eight times what you pay to maintain highways just for the insurance you buy.

Voters between now and May 18 will be bombarded with so-called facts and voluminous statistics from those on both sides of the issue.

But it seems times and conditions dictate that those who vote on this issue must consider their vote for or against a positive step in the direction that will begin improvement of Oregon's economy.

Readers eye school, taxes, elections

VICA winner

Terry Lenchitsky for Sandy Union High School Board race!

I would like the voters to support Terry Lenchitsky for the Sandy Union High School Board. He is very supportive of vocational education. He knows the importance of teaching students technical skills. Terry recently spent two days of his time, giving support to the Sandy VICA Club at their state contest.

Terry is concerned about saving tax dollars. He discovered the metal shop needed sheet metal, so he worked to have the necessary metal donated. This saved the district \$200.

Terry will work to upgrade the vocational department and at the same time put his industrial business skills into use.

He is willing to donate his time and energy to help Sandy students achieve success.

Please support Terry for the Sandy Union High School Board. He is much too valuable of a person not to elect.

Lynn Sondenaar
Sandy

Candidate quits

I am sorry to have to announce that I have decided to withdraw my candidacy for state representative in District 23. I have decided to withdraw for health reasons. I am glad to have had the experience of being a candidate, and I am glad to have met so many new friends.

I am supporting Mark Pihl who is the other Republican candidate for District 23. He is conservative, and Mark Pihl

believes in our free enterprise system.

Mark Pihl is a corporate officer in a family travel business. His background includes being a director of finance for A.C.U. Education and Research Institute and an instructor for language at P.S.U. As a representative for Small Business Advocates Inc., he learned the needs of small business and industry.

Of particular concern to Mark Pihl are unemployment, logical land use, adequate school support and economic development through diversification. Mark Pihl is against increased taxation.

Sincerely,
Dianne Oliver
Sandy

Fight power cost

PGE and PP&L want to build two new nuclear power plants in Washington State. Evidently they haven't noticed the plight of WPPSS or new forecasts that show much lower energy needs in the Northwest.

PGE and PP&L already have spent more than \$300 million on power plant projects unlikely to be completed. The projected cost of two new nuclear plants is \$8.2 billion (before cost overruns).

PGE and PP&L's fantasy is to use the \$300 million debt as a down payment on the new nuclear plants, since they are prohibited by a state law passed by voters in 1978 (Measure 9) from charging their customers for unfinished power plants.

Dave McTeague, candidate for Congress in the new Fifth Congressional District, was a major proponent of Measure 9.

McTeague, through Measure 9, has saved Oregonians millions of dollars in lower electric rates.

We must continue to fight these skyrocketing electric rates of PGE and PP&L. If we send Dave McTeague to Congress, I'm sure he will show us that Measure 9 was just the starting point.

Help came fast

We wish to express our appreciation for the efforts

wards, while trying to determine the cause, show they are more than people merely doing their jobs. The action of one fireman who donned an oxygen mask just to save our family photo album underscores this point.

My belief that the Sandy area has a unique sense of "community" was reinforced immensely by the assistance, food and clothing given to us immediately following the

state's regulatory functions.

Do permits for everything help the economy? Do extensive impact statements create jobs, other than for the researchers? Are laws needed to regulate everyone's personal life?

Jean Roberts
Senate Dist. 14 candidate
Mehama

Avoid home rule

The public should not condone the current tactics of the Clackamas County Commissioners in what appears to be another stride toward home rule. Ours is a statute county government—not home rule, so the commissioners should not attempt to control either the number or quality of candidates seeking elective offices.

Obviously, the proposal to cut back salaries of the clerk and surveyor has come at a time after candidate registration but before primary elections. This certainly must discourage at least the most qualified candidates who are likely to be currently employed at larger salaries than the Commission proposes to offer. If any of the affected candidates chooses to withdraw his registration, the voters' rights will have been pre-empted.

It is ridiculous too, that we have at least one commissioner, Robert Schumacher, would have the appointed personnel of officer evaluate and make recommendations regarding elected officers. Candidates for the surveyor's office are required to be pre-qualified by law.

J. M. Kerr
West Linn

Letters to the editor

made by the fire department and Alpine Ambulance to save the life of our son and brother. They certainly are to be commended for the efficient manner in which they respond and carry out their efforts to help those in distress.

For all the expressions of sympathy and acts of compassion by the V.F.W. and Sandy Ward Relief Society, we especially are grateful. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Minyard and daughters

Just saying "Thank you" doesn't begin to express the gratitude we feel to these people.

A fire destroys many memories, but memories of friends and neighbors reaching out to help makes a great step in filling that void.

The Emerich family
Sandy

Jobs, not taxes

Oregonians do not need more taxes, they only need more employment. We should insist that Oregon residents be hired for Oregon jobs. Instead of passing laws to restrict business, we need to encourage business.

A legislator does not need to suggest jobs. Thousands of people are bursting with good ideas and business acumen. They only need the political climate of no harassment to pursue their dreams.

I am in favor of tax incentives to businesses that hire additional employees, a state bank with interest people can afford, and repeal of a number of the

Thank you

Most people tend to rate a fire department by how fast it can man the trucks and get out the fire hoses. The Sandy Fire department deserves commendation for their abilities in this area. The speed at which the mostly-volunteer department responds to a fire is nothing short of amazing.

Our recent fire pointed out another side of the department that is not often mentioned. Their compassion and sensitivity during the fire and after-

Ask the superintendent:

Sandy High's Peters starts column

(NOTE: Sandy Union High School Superintendent John D. Peters this week begins a weekly question-and-answer column in The Post. Readers who wish Dr. Peters to address matters of interest to them should direct their questions to Dr. John Peters, in care of the Sandy Post, P.O. Box 68, Sandy, OR 97055. Dr. Peters will answer all questions in his column in The Post.)

by JOHN D. PETERS

Q. What will happen to the art classes as a result of last Thursday's fire?

A. The quick response from the Boring, Estacada, Sandy and Welches firemen kept the damage to our art building low. The school board has called for bids to repair the area that is damaged. In the meantime, Mt.



Hood Community College has allowed us to use their kiln to finish the student's pottery projects for the remainder of the school year.

The art classrooms were not damaged, and therefore we will

continue to teach art in those areas.

Q. Why were 19 teacher contracts for the 1982-83 school year not renewed?

A. The contracts for these 19 teachers were not renewed by the SUHS Board of Directors under Oregon laws that state: "Each district school board shall give written notice of the renewal or nonrenewal of the contract for the following year by April 1," and "...For any cause it (the school board) may deem in good faith sufficient, the district Board may refuse to renew the contract of any probationary teacher. However, the teacher shall be entitled to notice of the intended action by April 1...."

The school board feels they must follow state laws. Therefore, they notified each of the 19 teachers. These 19 teachers

were those who had been hired during the past three years and were classed as probationary under the law. The only reason for these persons not having their contracts renewed is lack of monies from the state level for our high school.

We know that with the passing of our special levy for the 1982-83 school year these teachers will be asked to continue teaching next year.

Correction

A column April 15 by Scott Newton ("Local sports color wows home folks") states: "And, 31 high school teachers worked. They gave up a day of their time for the benefit of the kids."

The teachers did volunteer to work. They were, however, paid for their time.