

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager Scott Newton, editor

Legislators' forum a chance to learn

A good opportunity for people to learn about the issues to be debated by the next Oregon Legislature will occur Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandy High School cafeteria. At that time state Senator Steve Starkovich and state Representative Bob Shiprack will meet with the public in a forum titled, "Oregon Decisions: '85." One of the goals of the forum, sponsored by the Clackamas County Democratic Central Committee, will be to gather suggestions from Sandy, Estacada and Hoodland residents.

That is a laudable goal, and we hope that the Democratic lawmakers do gather ideas to take with them to Salem for the next session, which begins Jan. 14.

One of the most important benefits of the forum, however, will be the opportunity for citizens to learn. This area is lucky to have two legislators who have enjoyed a considerable amount of success.

Starkovich stepped into a leadership position when Sen. John Kitzhaver, D-Roseburg, replaced Eugene Democrat Ed Fadeley as Senate president. As majority leader, Starkovich will play a key roll in what is expected to be the main issue of 1985 - referral of a sales tax to voters.

With high income and property taxes, many people are arguing that a third source is needed to relieve some inequities. That leaves some tough choices in a state that has long bragged about not having a sales tax.

As newly-appointed chairman of the Labor Committee, Shiprack will deal with matters such as unemployment and workers' compensation, collective bargaining and other topics.

During his campaign, Shiprack expressed shock that Oregon employers pay high rates for workers' compensation, yet the benefits for workers are some of the lowest in the nation. He promised to delve into the complicated workings and save Oregonians some money.

Starkovich is reportedly an informed source on another issue of importance to local people - water rights. That includes topics such as minimum stream flows, which are important for maintaining fish runs, and the development of mini-hydroelectric dams.

Locally we often hear how cutbacks need to be made on the state level. These are the people to ask about the feasibility of such cuts.

"Oregon Decisions: '85" is an opportunity to get one's point across to people who can make a difference. It should also be a good learning experience.



Letters to the editor

SUHS spending habits can be changed

If you are a property owner in the SUHS district, you may have already received notice of the \$300-\$400 Christmas present from Sandy High, via the tax levy. Remember? It's the one you were black-mailed into pass-

ing last Nov. 6th! That last statement is only an opinion, mind you, but an extremely valid one, if you consider that there will be many people starting a very meager New Year so that their hard-

earned tax dollars can continue to fund the SUHS administration's "no end to the rainbow" spending.

How can we, as "run of the mill" citizens, help put an end to the yearly escalation of our taxes? In a word - REVOLT! Not with violence, or even harsh words, but with challenges, questions, and more questions, when it comes to unnecessary spending in our school budgets!

If only 10 percent of the 3,000 taxpayers who voted NO to the last school levy would attend monthly board and budget meetings, we could very well change our destiny. In other words, only 10 evenings out of 365, in the coming year, could make a difference in our high school budget. This could, in turn, make our property taxes seem almost bearable.

The major changes made in their

spending habits will depend on your support! If you attend these monthly meetings, just your presence could be more effective than a thousand votes! We encourage all taxpayers to put forth this effort! We have to start somewhere, and this, you can rest assured, is the best place.

Make it your New Year's Resolution to attend as many school board and budget meetings as possible in 1985. The first one is Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m., rooms 50-51 in the Paul Tucker Building, Sandy High.

If nothing else, you will learn about some important things, to you, and your pocketbook.

May your New Year be a happy and prosperous one!

John King
Sandy

Fair Tax Committee

LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

(EXPLANATION: State Sen. Steve Starkovich and State Rep. Bob Shiprack ask that you take just a minute or two to answer the following questions. Your answers will help guide them in the 1985 Legislative Assembly beginning Jan. 14.)

- Where do you think the state budget could be cut? _____
 A. Where should it be increased? _____
- In what areas should Oregon concentrate its economic development?
 A. _____
 B. _____
 C. _____
- Do you think the state should take an active role in assigning water rights and maintaining minimum stream flows? Yes: ___ No: ___
 A. Do you approve of small hydroelectric projects in the Sandy River basin? Yes: ___ No: ___
- Do you approve of strict land-use planning? Yes: ___ No: ___
 A. Do you see any specific problems? Yes: ___ No: ___ (If so, list:)
 (1) _____
 (2) _____
 (3) _____
- Would you be for, or against, increased funding for fisheries enhancement in the Sandy River? For it: ___ Against it: ___
- The governor has proposed a large increase in higher education funding. Is this money well spent, or would you prefer to see that budget reduced? Well spent: ___ Reduce budget: ___
- What would most help business in Oregon?
 A. _____
 B. _____
 C. _____
- Do you support a sales tax to reduce property taxes? Yes: ___ No: ___
 A. Do you prefer the current system? Yes: ___ No: ___
 B. Would you prefer an income tax increase to fund property tax relief? Yes: ___ No: ___ (If so, explain:)

(MAILING INFO: Please mail this form to POB 44, Oregon City, OR 97045)

Break-in prompts offer of \$500 reward

On Christmas evening, Janie and I drove by Heidi's in Gresham where the marquee read, "Happy Birthday Jesus." Later on Christmas night, thieves again entered Carlson Chevrolet and cowardly stole nearly all of our mechanics' tools. The thieves must realize that our mechanics are dependent upon these tools for their livelihood.

The replacement cost of these tools is immense compared to the little amount of money the thieves will realize from the sale of these stolen tools. In the last month, thieves have broken into Suburban Ford once and Carlson Chevrolet twice. In all three cases tools were stolen, and then on Christmas night the thieves stole a pickup truck from Carlson Chevrolet so they could haul away our mechanics' tools.

No one should tolerate a thief. There must be more community involvement and more community cooperation to prevent or at least to

sharply reduce these incidents.

I'm sure that someone who reads this letter knows who committed one or more of these break-ins, and I remind you that you should not protect a thief. In an effort to prevent future thefts, Suburban Ford and Carlson Chevrolet offer a \$500 reward to the one who will provide information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the thief or thieves in any of the three break-ins. Your information will be confidential, and you will be doing a community service.

In the past 16 years, I have phoned the police on several occasions to report wrong doings and I will continue to be attentive especially in driving through Sandy late in the evening. If we all were to become more active and practice better citizenship, we would be helping to improve our city.

Pete Carlson
Sandy

