

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Chris Hale, general manager
Scott Newton, editor

Diversify base for a stable economy

Members of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce recently heard Margaret Weil, mayor of Gresham, explain the steps they took in attracting Fujitsu Microelectronics to East County.

People locally had been wondering if the high technology boom would ever move to the east side. Weil said the light rail in Gresham was used as a selling point in wooing Fujitsu.

If the light rail enjoys the kind of success Tri-Met is predicting — and we think it will — and Fujitsu does indeed build its plant and hires 1,000 workers, then Sandy is in for some changes.

People in the area, then, need to determine if they want high technology or other industrial employers nearby and, if they do, what steps to take.

First, let's consider what Gresham did right in wooing Fujitsu, which will build a \$130 million plant. Former City Manager Jim Keller had the basic services in good shape. A 24-inch sewer line was in place, and clean Bull Run water was available to the tune of about 2½ million gallons a day.

Before working as city manager, Keller was city engineer, and then public works director. It is safe to assume that Gresham did its homework years ago concerning basic services.

Land on the east side of Portland reportedly is not as expensive as on the west side, and Fujitsu was able to buy a 200-acre tract, leaving plenty of room for expansion.

How does Sandy compare? Large industrial tracts are currently not available, though there is land readily available for smaller industries. Servicing private industrial tracts would be expensive, though the city — to its credit — has applied for Community Development Block Grants.

What benefits can Gresham now expect? By joining the tax roles Fujitsu will provide property tax relief, which will result in a projected 13 percent decrease in taxes for residents.

There will be 1,000 jobs — 10 percent for engineers and other technicians — injecting a healthy payroll into the local economy.

Gresham allocated about \$25,000 to its economic development program, and the payoff was handsome. But one cannot always expect such success. There is about \$3,000 in the city of Sandy's budget that could be spent for economic development this fiscal year.

Gresham translated a notebook full of information on the property into Japanese. It was a simple, nonetheless ingenious, move.

Gresham helped pay Weil's way to Japan, but that would not be necessary for Sandy. If local organizations put together pamphlets, there are people from the state Department of Economic Development, Gresham and Portland, who would be glad to pass the word. In addition, the Mt. Hood Recreation Association is extremely interested in the Japanese market. Certainly little Sandy could cultivate some friends in high places.

If all this seems rather ominous, people should consider that Sandy can go one of two ways — forward or backward.

Drawbacks accompany every kind of economic development.

Industrial development brings pollution, though it does not need to bring a great deal. With the wood products industry comes clear-cuts. With tourism, a seasonal — sometimes on, sometimes off — economy.

Weil wonders if they have planned well enough for the growth. Will they be able to stay ahead of the needed public improvements? Will they need to build roads?

Sandy is graced with beautiful surroundings and access to a major metropolitan area, an international airport and a major highway. Without giving away the shop, Sandy could develop a stable economic base and provide what most of us are after: The opportunity for a good job, a livable community and fresh air and water to enjoy in our leisure.

But Sandy needs to get its act together. Without ignoring its present businesses and industries — an important point — Sandy needs to look at what commercial and industrial needs would balance the town's economy, and then work to develop them.

The Small Cities Industrial Attraction program, kicked off in 1981, was a step in the right direction, but the flame needs to be rekindled.

With a community-wide strategy and good leadership from the business sector, Sandy could develop a varied economic base. The alternative is an economy that continues to suffer boom and bust cycles.

Letter to the editor

Tax committee upset with school officials

By inference and spoken word the school administration has indicated that any dissatisfaction on the part of dissenters against the increased tax levy is due to our lack of participation in their so-called open board and open budget planning meetings.

In accepting the board's invitation to participate and reduce waste we have hit a stone wall and I feel the waste will continue and we get nothing but a verbal barrage of senseless chatter.

For example, did you know that the administration, with the board's approval, can order up to \$10,000 worth of outside contract work done with no written bids? As most business firms take at least three written bids on all contracts that will cost between more than \$500 to \$1,000 to complete. But not so with Sandy High School. We informed the board et al. that the purpose of three written bids is to get the lowest cost, and also to ensure that

there is no criticism of their choice of contractors (beware of the kickbacks under the table). In our opinion the response to constructive suggestions is no less than blaze!

We were informed the board would do a three-month study on the bid for contract issue, but why the hesitation on such an important matter, we fail to see. In our opinion, this "study" is just an elaborate stall so that the school administrators can come up with a report that will seemingly justify their reckless spending habits. It is also our opinion that this policy is not only a poor business practice, it is an indication of their attitude toward Sandy taxpayers.

Sandy high school district desperately needs citizen input during the budget process, to curb excess sports and other waste that is now within the curriculum.

C.B. Koenig
Fair Tax Committee

Salem scene

Revenue reform express chugs along

by JACK ZIMMERMAN
Associated Oregon Industries

Partisan abrasives managed to gum up what was to have been a well-oiled beginning of the 63rd Legislature's regular session in Salem.

Nevertheless, the Assmbley's motor appeared to be running smoother as lawmakers entered their second week of deliberations on schedule as far as tackling the session's major agenda item was concerned.

That item, of course, is revenue reform. And the House Revenue Committee is well into the public hearings process this week — armed with Gov. Atiyeh's sales tax/school finance package and taking testimony day and night.

Chairman Tom Throop (D-Bend) has indicated his committee wants to start work sessions on the bills next week and possibly have the package ready for floor vote in the lower chamber by the middle of February.

Budget plans

Governor says budget is both fair, balanced

by GOV. VIC ATIYEH

As we begin the new year, many Oregonians have resolved to exercise more, to smoke less and to make 1985 a year memorable for its achievements.

I made a resolution of my own six years ago when I became governor. I promised to strike a responsive balance between preserving our state's unsurpassed natural resources — our land, water and air — and developing the potential of our talented human resource.

I am keeping that resolution in my budget recommendation for the two-year period, or biennium, that begins July 1.

This \$3.2-billion budget represents not only the smallest dollar increase since the 1960s, but taking inflation into account, it represents the smallest general-fund budget since the 1975-77 biennium.

Nevertheless, it reduces state income taxes and will enhance the lives of Oregonians in numerous other ways.

Lottery Revenues

An estimated \$80-million per biennium is expected from the state lottery beginning in 1985.

Economic Development

In addition, my Special Program on Economic Development — partly financed by lottery revenues — will finance domestic and international tourism promotions, increase the effectiveness of our new trade office in Tokyo, assist local economic development programs across Oregon, and pay expenses for quarterly trade missions to sell pro-

ducts grown and manufactured in Oregon to the U.S. and overseas.

Human Resources

The budget earmarked for "human services" is slightly larger than in the past biennium.

Another pre-session indication the

Major sticking points that might flaw that timetable still appear to be exemptions to the sales tax, government spending limitations, property tax lids, collection compensation, in lieu tax reductions, manufacturing consumables and taxes on some services.

Any one of which might even derail the revenue reform express.

Meanwhile, indications the session's beginning might be rougher than anticipated surfaced shortly after the general election in November and continued to pester the process through the first week.

Biggest controversy surrounded seating of Republican freshman Pat Gillis of Portland, who defeated incumbent Democrat Annette Farmer.

Former House Speaker Grattan Kerans appointed a lameduck panel to examine allegations Gillis used an improper endorsement in campaign material and challenged a statement he used in the Voter's Pamphlet.

Pre-session caucuses by House Democrats took up the questionable

endorsement cudgel and former Sec. of State Norma Paulus referred the Voter's Pamphlet allegation to Atty. Gen. Dave Frohnmayer for investigation.

Republican Paulus took her action to avoid partisan bias and Frohnmayer, also a GOP member, removed himself from the investigation for the same reason.

Consequently, on opening day — which was further dramatized by Gov. Vic Atiyeh's hospitalization the night before with an inner ear infection — House Democrats, with the exception of Ron McCarty (D-Portland), voted to delay seating Gillis until another committee further investigated the endorsement question.

The issue became a major media event as Gillis protested his innocence, brought a prominent Portland attorney to Salem in his behalf and threatened to obtain a restraining order against the House.

Meanwhile, Frohnmayer, who had endorsed Gillis' candidacy, appeared before the House committee as the Legislature's attorney and told lawmakers they couldn't refrain from seating the newly-elected representative unless they could prove the endorsement in question affected the election's outcome.

Frohnmayer's appearance naturally angered Democrats. Minority Republicans were countering by questioning Voter's Pamphlet statements by a Democrat House freshman and media pundits clamored for hasty resolution of the mess by seating Gillis, who by week's end appeared to have garnered martyr status.

Another pre-session indication the

road to adjournment might be rougher and longer than earlier anticipated was a brief Senate flap over confirming Gov. Atiyeh's appointments to the new State Lottery Commission.

Some lawmakers were questioning rumors of inflated salary for Lottery Director Bob Smith and decrying apparent lack of legislative control of the lottery itself.

That exercise provoked an outburst by Gov. Atiyeh, was ultimately resolved and subsequent Lottery Commission approval of Smith's lower-than-remored salary appeared to quell that storm for the time being.

However, the question of legislative control over the lottery remains and likely will resurface as the session progresses.

In the meantime, Gov. Atiyeh recovered from his brief illness, delivered his state address during customary opening ceremonies and speculation continues regarding budget-balancing and timing of a revenue reform referral election.

One faction would like to see the sales tax referred to voters in May — another believes next September is a better date that would provide more time to sell the proposition to voters.

Budget-balancing Ways & Means Committee has targeted May 24 as its deadline for completion of that biennial task — raising odds in favor of the fall election.

It also raises the likelihood the 63rd Assembly — after balancing the state's budget without receiving voter sanction of revenue reform — has at least a 50-50 chance of reconvening in special session before this year is out.

Personally Speaking

Growing things take over

by JOY WOOD

I simply love the forest — outside my house. But I do sort of have a problem with the one INSIDE my house.

I guess you really can't call it a forest, but I do. What it really is is plant-sitting. It is like baby-sitting, except the owners of these "babies" that I take care of don't come at night and take them home. They don't even come weekly. Or monthly!

So here I sit, with green growing things, green and growing, on the tables, on the walls and on the bookcase. I even have a potted tree that is four-foot tall.

My daughters. That's who is responsible for this situation. They buy at yard sales, and other sales, and they trade, and they get cuttings, and so forth. Then they come to me and say, "Can I leave this here till so and so?" Or, "I bought these for so and so, and will you just keep them till she comes?" That sort of thing. Temporary sounding, you know.

Well, in the last year I have potted

up 12 piggy-back plants left for me to "watch." And in the process of moving, one daughter left me with 14 green growing lovelies, all sizes and varieties. Then there is the Hoya that must NOT be given away, but kept indefinitely, I'm beginning to think, because it came from Grandmother's (my mother).

And the philodendron that's wondering around here and there, up and over the hoya, and the bookcase and wall. I don't know if the two of them are fighting to get closer to each other or farther away.

I try to thin them out. I gave some to the Women's Club at Hoodland for a rummage sale. I took all 12 of my piggy-backs to the Sandy Senior Center. And I gave the parent piggy-back to the Hoodland Senior Center. My answer to birth control here at my house.

I give these things away on the theory that nobody will even notice they are gone from my inside forest. And no one seems to.

I'm getting it pretty well thinned

out now. Soon I'll be able to see the light again in here. I may just get really tough and brave and offer these two beauties, the hoya and the philodendron, to anyone strong enough to carry them out. But what to do with the trees?

One is a bonsai. It was left here last spring. It's a Chinese elm, the plant doctor at 7 Dees told me when it lost all its leaves. It has all come back beautifully, with medication and proper food and water. But the problem is, it isn't going to be a bonsai too much longer.

It's really green and growing! Twice the size it was when it was left. And soon it will be joining the four-foot palm tree in size, I suppose.

The only answer I can see to the problem that won't hurt anyone's feelings is for me to move out into the outside forest. But then, who would take care of all these "babies" I plant-sit for?

And you thought baby-sitting babies was a problem!