

The Sandy Post

Editorial & Opinion

Scott Newton, editor

The sales tax is a fair tax

There are many good reasons for supporting Ballot Measure 1 and a few good reasons for voting against it.

Of all the reasons for voting for it, we consider one issue to be paramount. The sales tax is a fair tax. If one can afford to go shopping, buy a new car or eat at a restaurant, one can afford the tax.

When times are tough, people are more conservative and put off big-ticket purchases, thereby reducing the tax bite.

In addition to being fair, the 5 percent sales tax would be locked into the constitution and could only be changed by a vote of the people. That makes our proposed sales tax different from those of some other states, where residents have seen the tax climb.

Another reason we favor the sales tax is because we believe it will indeed "balance" the tax structure. The relief to property owners is long overdue, and Oregon's income tax is too high. We need to face facts. Major corporations are not moving to Oregon because of the high property taxes the businesses would pay, and the high income taxes the executives would pay.

Furthermore, it doesn't make sense to pay for schools through property taxes, which are more appropriately spent on police and fire protection, and city services.

At present a major portion of the money raised by property taxes goes to the schools. The sales tax legislation is more restrictive, limiting the annual growth of school tax bases from 6 percent to 3 percent.

We also think the measure would help stabilize public education. The current system of letting property owners decide between their tax bill or the schools is not working. Local levy elections are not adding 2 cents worth of intelligent dialogue between school boards and the public. Concerned, involved people — the same ones serving on our boards now — will continue to make decisions based on need versus available resources.

Is the measure progressive? We think it is fair to lower-income people because it exempts life's necessities — groceries, utilities, prescription medicines and mortgage payments.

What are the reasons for voting against a sales tax?

It will create another layer of government, and collecting the tax will be an additional burden on businesses.

We believe the cost of collecting the tax will be easily offset by tourist dollars, and businesses will be compensated for collecting the tax.

The best reason for not voting for the sales tax is that it will indeed be a hassle. If Ballot Measure 1 passes we are sure to hear people say, "I remember when you could look at the price tag and that's what you paid."

In reality, anyone who understands the basics of math will soon be able to add the additional 5 cents per dollar to the cost of purchase.

There is currently a problem with Oregon's tax structure. The sales tax may not be the best cure, but it is likely to be the best we will see in some time.

The sales tax is fair. One pays it when one can afford it.

Personally speaking

Underwear makes mother unhappy

by JOY WOOD

One of my daughters and I were folding clothes one day, talking like women do, and all of a sudden she said, "This makes me so mad!"

And so I asked, "What? What makes you so mad?"

And she answered, "This underwear! That's what makes me mad."

And so I asked her, "Why does your husband's underwear make you mad?" And she held up a pair of her husband's shorts and said, "We'll look at them. Just look at them. He's worn them every since he got out of the Navy nine years ago — and they are still in good shape!"

I said "Oh," and she continued, "I suppose they are Hanes, or Fruit of the Loom, or whatever the Navy buys. Like that commercial where that old lady, Inspector 12, stretches and pulls them. I'll bet that's what these are."

And then she held up a pair of her undies and said, "Just look at these undies of mine. Barely a year old and already they are in shreds. There should be an Inspector 12 for women's undies."

I agreed. And so we got to talking about underwear. And I got to telling her about when I was a girl. The underwear lasted then. We wore long johns. White cotton ones, under our bloomers, which were long legged (to the knee) britches, with elastic at the waist and the knees. And the worst girl in town came to school one day and swung high up in the swing so that everyone knew she didn't have her bloomers on, just her long johns. What a scandal!

You could always tell when spring had arrived as the girls came to school with their stockings rolled up to their knees. My, but that was bold! No long johns on!

The main problem with long johns was that there was a square trap

door in the back and one of the buttons was always missing, so the flap was halfway folded down if you didn't watch it and keep it held up with the elastic of your bloomers.

Then, too, there were the folds, overlapping at the ankles and wrists. Because you wore them all week long and only changed them when you took a bath on Saturdays, the wrists and ankles of the long johns stretched out more day by day, and you had to carefully wrap and fold them under your long stockings and sleeves.

And the garter belts we had to wear to hold up the stockings! They were something else.

I told my daughter that in those days, underwear lasted. And lasted. I could always count on a new, used hand-me-down pair every fall. I had dozens of cousins as well as an older brother.

When I was about 10 years old, I complained to my grandmother about my sad situation, and she consoled me by saying that at least I had bloomers to wear. She said when she was about my age she had made herself a pair of bloomers, and that when she proudly showed them to her father, he forbade her to wear them. He really hit the roof, she said.

And so, I asked her what kind of undies she did have, and she said she had worn pantaleats. Just single leggings attached to a waistband. With no seat in them at all. And I asked her, "Then how could you swing, and play?" And she said, "Well, little ladies of 10 or so didn't play."

Talking to my daughter that day got me to thinking about this whole underwear business, and I got to wondering what could be done about it. And, I thought, maybe we should go into the ladies undies business. I could be an "Inspector 12."

Well, you never know where or when you will come across an idea that will make you your million dollars.

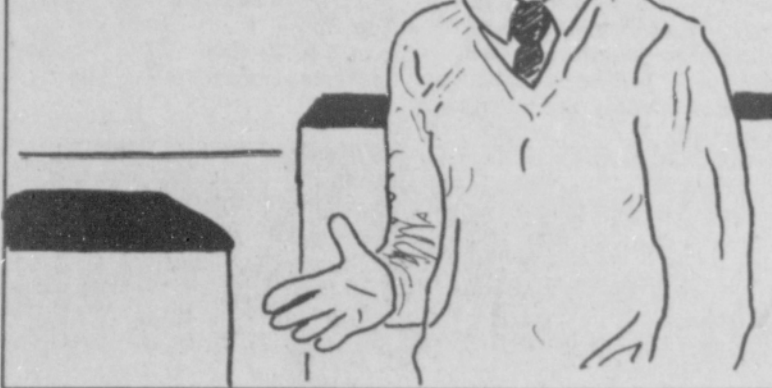
I KNOW ... THE SALES TAX ... IS FAIR.



THE SALES TAX WILL PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF!



WE NEED TO STABILIZE PUBLIC EDUCATION!



I'M STILL VOTING NO.



Legislative report

Lottery dollars build a foundation

The Oregon Legislature was faced with a number of major challenges and major opportunities as the 1985 Legislative session convened. The prospect of disbursing an estimated \$80 million in lottery revenue, earmarked by the people of Oregon for economic development, gave us a major opportunity to lay the foundations for a new economic future for Oregon.

Recently, Oregonians from across the state have criticized past economic development efforts by the executive branch for lacking coherence and accountability. That criticism combined with the lingering effects of the most serious recession since World War II and the slow, but significant economic structural evolution of Oregon's economy, were difficult and complex problems for the '85 Legislature to inherit.

At the outset of the planning process the Joint House-Senate Trade and Economic Development Committee drew up a set of guidelines to serve as a basis for allocating the lottery funds.

This was done after the committee heard months of testimony from Oregonians across the state on what should be done with the Oregon lottery proceeds. The committee decided that the single most important element in allocating the lottery money was the creation of family-wage jobs. That was followed by the following priorities: recovery of small towns, development of rural areas, utilization of higher education's resources, support of small business, utilization of Oregon's comparative advantages, support of industries that compete in national or international markets.

With these guidelines, the Trade and Economic Development Committee sought to build programs that would endure even after the initial surge of lottery revenues declines. The committee recognized that the projected proceeds constitute only a drop in the \$1.3 billion dollar bucket of capital already available in the private banking system, and in the \$700 million bucket of underfunded infrastructure needs caused by recent funding reductions in the higher education system.

Consequently, the committee focused on the "cutting edge" of development and on programs that could "leverage" other funds.

To be cost effective, the program that the committee came up with uses existing agencies with proven track records whenever possible. Briefly, I want to take this opportunity to give you a short list of exactly where your lottery dollars went.

Oregon Resource and Technology Development Corporation
Rapidly changing technology is creating new industries and new dynamics within traditional industries. The Oregon Resource and Technology Development Corporation will foster innovation in existing industries within the state. This will be done with Seed Capital Financing, Applied Research Grants and a



by Rep. Bob Shiprack

Technical Information Clearinghouse. A total of \$10 million dollars was allocated for this program.

Higher Education and Community Colleges

Education, training and research through the higher education and community college system are essential to economic development.

The legislature appropriated \$33.4 million in lottery funds over a three-year period to construct classroom, office and laboratory facilities at four of the state's major campuses.

These buildings will house programs with significant impacts on the state's economic development prospects. They include an Electrical and Computer Engineering Building at Oregon State University, Biological and Advanced Science Building at the University of Oregon, Laboratory Building at Oregon Institute of Technology and a Professional Schools Building at Portland State University.

Streamlining and Improving Small Business Loan Programs

Oregon has operated several small lending programs designed to help the state's businesses obtain capital needed for investment and expansion. These programs have helped about 120 of Oregon's 60,000 businesses obtain new buildings and equipment needed to hire additional workers.

A bill passed by the Trade and Economic Development Committee, Senate Bill 722, streamlines the administrative processes for these loan programs and better targets their assistance to businesses providing the greatest economic payback for the state.

The Oregon Promotion and Marketing Fund

Oregon has unique scenic and cultural attractions, industrial location sites with special advantages and competent producers in the forest, farm and fishery industries. Promoting and marketing these places and products can increase sales income to Oregon businesses and attract tourists and relocating firms.

There has been \$3.4 million allocated for the Promotion and Marketing Fund, \$2 million has been allocated for an Oregon pavilion at the Expo '86 in Vancouver, British

Columbia.

There has been \$125,000 allocated for an exhibition of the Magna Carta in Oregon during 1986. And \$500,000 was allocated for a "Buy Oregon" program that would match Oregon businesses now buying goods and services outside the state with local Oregon suppliers.

"Buy Oregon" is based on a successful pilot program now operating in Lane County.

provides \$2 million funding for feasibility studies, and joint financing opportunity to successfully revive a mill.

The Special Public Works Fund

Public works, such as roads, sewer lines and water supply facilities play a critical role in supporting the growth and expansion of business in Oregon. Yet Oregon's infrastructure is deteriorating to the point where it may limit future growth.

It will give us a good foundation to begin the battle of rebuilding the economy.

The Economic Stabilization and Conversion Fund

Many Oregon communities have suffered economic devastation resulting from permanent closure of one or more key employers.

Many of the mill closings are due to permanent and irreversible changes in the technology and economics of industries such as timber, agriculture and basic metals. The Economic Stabilization and Conversion Fund will provide Oregon communities affected by plant closures with the resources to deal with these difficult situations. Senate Bill 664

The Special Public Works Fund creates a program specifically targeted to areas in which economic development is prevented or substantially restricted by a lack of adequate public works.

Some \$23.2 million has been appropriated for infrastructure projects.

Certainly the \$80 million expected in lottery revenues will not cure Oregon's economic woes. But it will give us a good foundation to begin the battle of rebuilding the economy. That was our goal — not just short-term cures but a long-term foundation for Oregon's future.

Letters to the editor

Brewster Trust Fund used for exchanges

The family of Alex Brewster would like to thank all the people of this community who have offered their sympathy and prayers to us this past week.

To those who have contributed to the Alex Memorial Trust I would like to tell you how the funds will be used. It seems very important now to establish something that will allow Alex's memory to live on and that would also reflect his attitudes and ideals.

The Trust will establish a scholarship for travel and exchange student activities. To make it more perpetual and hopefully a very significant and growing fund, recipients would be asked to contribute back to the fund one-half of what they received at

some time in the future when they are financially able. The Trust could be added to in the future.

Alex had strong feelings about scholarships and how they should be administered so the example he set would be the guide for choice and administration of the funds.

Alex seems to have touched many of your lives and we cherish each story and memory that has been shared with us. I hope and pray his short 20 years will continue to have an impact on those he knew. We loved him very much.

Ginny, Ave, Kurt, Carrie, Christy and Amy Brewster, and Vera Ayres Sandy

Family says thank you

We wish to express our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Clackamas County Law Enforcement, Alpine Ambulance, friends, relatives and neighbors for their

show of consideration, love and caring in our recent difficulties.

The Griffeths
Milo, Toni and Mary