

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI NEVER AGAIN

Fifty-nine years ago, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that killed over 200,000 people.

There are now over 16,000 strategic nuclear weapons in the world, each of which is many times more powerful than those dropped on Japan.

The Bush administration is creating profit for its corporate supporters by developing plans for a new generation of nuclear weapons "small enough" to actually use in preemptive strikes, even against non-nuclear powers that have no plan to attack us.

At the same time, it is wasting billions of dollars on a missile defense system, "Star Wars," that is technologically unfeasible and politically destabilizing. This policy is stimulating the proliferation of nuclear weapons and increasing the threat of nuclear war, while lining the pockets of Bush's corporate cronies.

We call on Congress and the Bush Administration to stop the development of new nuclear weapons and to eliminate further funding for "Star Wars."

We call on the United States and all nations to abolish nuclear weapons.

Contact Congress: No New Nukes! Cut Star Wars Funding!

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Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration

Saturday, August 7th, Alton Baker Park - Shelter # 2

6:00 pm: Community Potluck

7:15 pm: Music, speakers, poetry and storytelling

Kid's program: Story telling & making of peace cranes

Dusk: Floating of commemorative luminaria peace candles on the pond, accompanied by traditional Japanese Koto music

Hosted by Justice Not War Coalition and WAND

Event Sponsors: Eugene PeaceWorks, Oregon PeaceWorks, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Beyond War, CALC, U of O Buddhists for Peace, Neighborhoods for Peace, Faith in Action

For more information: 606-2877, jnotwar@efn.org

Manager Lashes Out

Dennis Taylor fights against external auditor.

City Manager Dennis Taylor publicly lashed out at city councilors July 28 for even suggesting that the city might need an independent external auditor in the wake of police sex scandals.

Suggesting the need for an independent auditor "undermines the very credibility people have in their government," said a red-faced Taylor in successfully siding with council conservatives against an external auditor.

"Frequently people say we



"The person would want to keep the job," Councilor Taylor said. "The person would want to please and say, 'Yes, everything is fine.'"

Bettman said an external auditor wouldn't change the city manager structure of government power, as Dennis Taylor and council conservatives argued. The auditor will just provide the council with factual information and have no actual power, she said. By giving the manager independent confirmation, outside audits

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— City Manager Dennis Taylor

don't trust the city manager," Taylor said. Councilors saying they need audits outside the city manager's control adds to public distrust, "creates undue tension," and "undermines the whole profession that I'm a part of," Taylor said.

"It's juvenile to frame the issue in that way," responded Councilor Bonny Bettman. An independent auditor would increase public trust in city government, not decrease it, she argued.

Councilor David Kelly said elected officials weren't attacking staff's trustworthiness by calling for an independent auditor. "I really resent that accusation," he said.

Kelly pointed out that many other cities with the city manager form of government like Eugene operate well with an external auditor. "Somehow Western civilization survives."

With two Eugene police officers recently imprisoned for using their city jobs to coerce sex from more than a dozen women over nearly a decade without the police department stopping them, Bettman argued an independent auditor would help restore trust in the city government.

The city has more than just a public relations problem and must make concrete reforms, according to Bettman. "It is unwise for us to assume that that [police scandal] is not indicative of chronic systemic problems in the organization."

A citizens Charter Review Committee recommended unanimously that the council hire an independent city auditor two years ago but then Acting City Manager Jim Carlson successfully fought off referring a needed charter change to the ballot. The committee recommended that the council hire the auditor to provide independent oversight of city operations.

But Taylor said he can audit himself. If the council wants an auditor, "You have one with the city manager," he said. Taylor said he often hires and supervises audits of city operations.

Councilor Betty Taylor said such auditors hired by the manager have little real inde-

pendence. "The person would want to keep the job," Councilor Taylor said. "The person would want to please and say, 'Yes, everything is fine.'"

But Dennis Taylor continued to argue against independent oversight. He claimed he didn't know how the city could afford the \$85,000 to \$100,000 annual cost of an auditor given "all the other unmet needs" the city has.

"I'm really surprised" at the claim that the city can't find money for an auditor, Kelly said. "That feels disingenuous and almost obstructionist."

Kelly noted that the manager recently found \$29 million in internal money for a new police station. Too often, Kelly said, "if staff wants something the money is found, if staff doesn't want something we are in terrible fiscal shape."

Bettman said auditors save money by reducing government waste. She said studies have found that independent auditors can save 200 to 400 percent more than they cost. Bettman said there's also a big value in establishing public trust. "How much are you going to value accountability and credibility of the organization?"

Dennis Taylor's strident opposition to this kind of public accountability provided echoes of an earlier time in city government. Former City Manager Mike Gleason held tight rein over city government in Eugene for 15 years until he resigned a decade ago amid accusations that he ignored the City Council and made the city bureaucracy more about protecting and serving itself than the people.

Reforming city government will be difficult without an external auditor, according to Bettman. The councilor said the city has "very long-standing employees that have built alliances" and can be an "obstacle" to change.

But Dennis Taylor led a majority of councilors against submitting a charter reform measure to voters. Bettman withdrew her motion for an independent auditor when it was clear a council vote would fail.

In January a newly elected progressive majority may try again for an independent auditor that reformers see as common-sense, good government. Bettman asks, "What's wrong with more accountability?" **EW**