

REBUTTAL

It's time to set the record straight

Senator Hanlon's rebuttal to our editorial of August 13 ("Hanlon faces hard re-election fight") arrived a day late for insertion in last week's issue of the *Freedom*. As it turns out, this was an advantage for us. It means we had time to double check our sources and, more importantly, the time to get in touch with some of the other people concerned with these issues to see if they remember Hanlon's involvement the way he does.

We found a number of people willing to talk to us 'off the record'. Unfortunately, the power that political office bestows upon those we elect is so strong that we had trouble finding anyone willing to challenge that power by speaking publicly. As a result we have had to depend on Representative Ted Bugas alone for public comment. Except where noted the opinions expressed in this article are ours and are occasionally based to one degree or another upon information from sources we cannot identify.

HB 2620

As this bill came to the Senate in amended form it would have allowed the county to take up to 10 percent off the top of the royalties for administering the overall disbursal system. Additionally, the amended bill would have allowed up to a maximum of 10 percent more to be funneled back to any impacted area upon proper verification of need or expense. HB 2620, prior to Senator Hanlon's proposed amendments, would not have allowed the county itself any more money than it already receives under the current distribution formula.

Furthermore, the amended HB 2620 as it came out of the House, did not even address the question of interest on the royalty money. Instead, it ignored interest all together under the assumption that it would continue to be paid to the county as it is under the existing formula. Currently Rainier School District is challenging that assumption in court. They are asking that the interest produced by banking the royalty fees be disbursed to the various taxing districts within the county just as the principal royalty payments are currently distributed.

BOARD OF FORESTRY

Far from sitting "ineffectively by for some seventy years"

Oregon's forestry board is responsible for what is considered by many to be a model program. As a matter of fact, Oregon is world renowned for the quality management its forests display. To quote Rep. Bugas, "The Board of Forestry has done a magnificent job with the small amount of Oregon Forest that they manage."

Most people don't realize that the members that make up the Board of Forestry reflect their own values when deciding upon forestry practices. Exchanging timbermen for realtors and developers would eventually result in a drastic change in land use practices for Oregon's forests. Furthermore, according to Bugas, "The changes Hanlon wants could jeopardize our local governments and schools by reducing their share of timber revenues."

PORT OF ASTORIA

The truth here is harder to determine, based as it is on semantics. While it is true that Senator Hanlon did receive a hand written note from Representative Bugas thanking him for his help, Bugas says it was merely a matter of form and only after Hanlon had been responsible for the original bill's defeat. It appears that Hanlon's opposition to the original Port of Astoria legislation sponsored by Bugas rested primarily on the bills' language in calling for cooperative development of a deep water dock facility between the Port of Astoria and, specifically, the Port of Portland. Bugas says he re-wrote the language, omitting any direct reference to the Port of Portland yet still calling for mandatory cooperative development of the facility, and included this rewritten section in SB 777, a related bill. SB 777, complete with the language stipulating cooperative development, then passed the House and re-passed the Senate. Only then did Hanlon receive the note from Bugas. This hardly qualifies Hanlon's remark that "I amended the bill to correct that."

In the final analysis it comes down to taking the word of one politician over another's. We think the records of each speak quite clearly for themselves.

In closing we would like to paraphrase Senator Hanlon; In our view Senator Hanlon's capacity for misinforming or misleading poses a distinct hazard to his constituents. Our advice: Be factual or be silent.

Hanlon responds to "Mist fight" editorial

To the Editor:

In your editorial of August 13, I believe you have your "revenge" on the wrong foot.

Perhaps the Columbia County commissioners would like a little revenge because I spiked their attempt to grab a full 20 percent off the top of the gas royalties, keep all the interest on the entire fund and remain legally unable to aid the Mist Fire Department. That is exactly what HB 2620 would have done as it came to the Senate.

Perhaps the Board of Forestry, dominated as it is by Big Timber, would like a little revenge because I have thrown a spotlight on the fact that the board has sat ineffectively by for some twenty years while private timberlands in this state have been overcut.

You were right about one thing: Big Timber will throw a lot of money against me. They don't like politicians who expose their failures.

You were wrong about another: My opposition to port legislation resulted in a vital improvement in the matter. As it came to the Senate, the port bill would have gravely restricted the opportunity for the Port of Astoria to obtain Tongue Point. I amended the bill to correct that. I happen to have a note of thanks from Ted Bugas for my help.

Finally, in my view, your capacity for being misinformed or misled poses a distinct hazard to your community. My advice: Be factual or be silent.

Charles Hanlon
State Senator, Dist. 1

Reader charges Freedom suffers from 'foot in mouth'

To the Editor:

First of all, a brief response to the rebuttal of the editor of the *Vernonia Freedom* concerning my letter last week. I quote from the *Freedom's* editorial dated 8-13-81 (Vol. 3 No. 40): "By voting 'no' to any school levy, and especially a levy proposed during a period of austere budget cuts imposed from above by both state and federal authorities, we've dramatically cut our children's chances to experience the widest possible variety of choices." The editor printed in last week's paper that he didn't say what I just quoted from his own editorial. I would suggest the editor read his own editorials before putting his foot in his mouth.

Secondly, it seems to me Mr. Arthur Parrow, superintendent of the 47J district, is not on the same wave length as the rest of us. The mood locally as well as nationally is one of fiscal restraint. Senior citizens on a fixed income such as social security are experiencing forced cutbacks. This is a logging town and most loggers are hurting financially, right now. Tektronix is preparing to lay-off. The economy is quickly sliding into a recession while at the same time we are all fighting the effect inflation is having on our every purchase. The Reagan income tax reduction is not 30 percent, as I keep seeing in print,

but one of 25 percent across the board. Phased in over a three year period of which you will only see five percent reduction the first year.

There are no assurances of the Property Tax Relief program coming to our rescue as the state legislature almost gave the program the ax during the last session. Most people can barely get food on their table and pay their ever increasing bills. Electricity and water both just recently experienced a sharp increase that will be well felt by consumers now and especially this winter.

I think that we must look to the future realizing, until the economy comes out of the slump it's in now, no new funds should be appropriated to the schools. In the past we prospered and the town overwhelmingly approved its school levies. But now the school board is faced with only supplying the basics; reading, writing and arithmetic, and forgetting the frills.

Afterall, the older generation got by with the basics and prospered why not also the younger?

Phillip Williams
Vernonia

EDITOR'S NOTE: For the last time: a perceptive reader would have understood the sentence Mr. Williams refers to within the context of the entire paragraph it was a part of. If Mr. Williams goes back to the editorial he quotes, and reads the entire piece again without letting his obvious prejudices color what he reads, he might understand the point of the sentence. Instead of endorsing blanket approval of any and all school levies the sentence, and the

paragraph that surrounds it, state simple facts. We repeat; There was an original levy asked for, it was denied, a new one is coming up and we are urging only that 47J voters look at it with the thought in mind that further cuts represent a serious threat to the quality and variety of education Vernonia's children will receive. As for Mr. Williams' belief that we're talking through our toes, it was (and is) this paper's understanding that one of the functions any newspaper

fulfills is to act as a conduit of information and ideas between members of the community it serves. It is not a soap box from which anyone may indulge in pointless mud slinging or childish name calling. By the very evidence of his own letter to the editor Mr. Williams provides a shining example of an individual who cannot muster logic or fact to his argument and must resort to a purely emotional level as his only defense. Enough said.

Cloudy title charged in land sale

To the Editor:

The 1980 sale of 40 acres of Columbia County timber land by Commissioners Hunt and Ahlborn for \$57,250 was ruled invalid at a recent class action suit when the value was established at \$105,000 - by Judge Pihl in Circuit Court, St. Helens.

The property's cloudy title and lack of access was discussed at the time of sale, however testimony during the trial disclosed that on the date of the sale, a title policy was issued to the purchaser. This policy had removed the clouds and showed that the property did have access to the county road. Additional testimony revealed that the purchase offer was submitted to the commissioners during their weekly meeting and the sale was approved at this same meeting, standard procedure, which calls for the assessors appraisal prior to the decision to sell the land, was bypassed.

Law requires advertising notice of

county land sales and if not sold, later sales are at the discretion of the commissioners. In this case the legal advertisement of the sale appeared 35 years prior to the 1980 sale.

This shameful abuse of the intent of the law requiring advertising county land sales coupled with a 1978 county land sale of a Rainier property that was advertised 42 years prior to its sale was brought to the attention of Senator Charles Hanlon.

Senator Hanlon sponsored SB 283 which requires county property not sold in the calendar year be re-advertised. The bill requires the ad to contain a layperson's description (size and location) be included with the legal description to assist people in knowing what county lands are being sold.

This is another example of Senator Hanlon's dedication in working for the best interests of his constituents.

Stan Egaas
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Vernonia Freedom

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