

SPOKESMAN Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Former mayor supports Fitch in November

BY ALAN UNGER

I support Ed Fitch for Mayor of Redmond and here is why.

I was the mayor of Redmond for eight years, right after Ed's tenure as mayor and before George Endicott's. The mayor is the voice of the city and works with others to keep Redmond a great place to live.

Shortly after he was elected in 1998, Ed asked us to meet with him for breakfast at the League of Oregon Cities conference. He told us that the league was not going to be able to solve our water supply problem.

Historically Redmond utilized ditch or river water, which we had plenty of. By the 1990s, however, Redmond was transitioning to well water — which we did not have sufficient rights to.

To address the problem, Ed started the Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) to help all of the cities in Central Oregon address our municipal water rights, as well as other issues. He then worked with our public works director Mary Malloy to secure ground water rights for Redmond. We now have a dedicated supply of ground water rights for Redmond well into the future.



Unger

Ed knows the right people and knows the right things to say. He has the proven ability to work with Republicans, Democrats and independents to achieve a community consensus, get things done and move Redmond forward in a positive direction.

The Central Oregon Cities Organization is now the voice of Central Oregon in Salem.

In 1999, a developer pushed hard to use almost all of the Dry Canyon south of Highland Avenue for a private golf course. Three members of the council were supportive. Ed convinced the majority of the council, however, to turn down the proposal and preserve the canyon for public use.

By 1999, Downtown Redmond was choked with highway traffic. Because of the amount of truck traffic it was even difficult to have a conversation on Sixth Street. It took longer to get through Redmond on 97 than to drive to Bend.

As mayor, Ed worked with ODOT, our state legislative delegation, the governor and our federal delegation to solve the problem. With the help of the council, he initiated the downtown urban renewal district to generate Redmond's share of the needed funds towards a reroute of Highway 97 out of downtown.

Both our federal and state governments agreed to that funding formula. State and federal funds were then allocated to Redmond to build the reroute.

Ed was also instrumental in getting the funding for the Glacier Highland couplet and in getting 23rd Street connected to 19th Street at Highland Avenue.

In early 2001, Ed came to the council and said that we needed to build the Maple Avenue bridge across the Dry Canyon to address our growth on the west side and to ease traffic congestion.

He noted we could pay for it with system development charges, which new construction would pay instead of using property taxes. It was novel at the time but now it would be hard to imagine Redmond without that bridge.

This is what Ed does and these are only a few examples. This is what our mayor needs to do.

Ed knows the right people and knows the right things to say. He has the proven ability to work with Republicans, Democrats and independents to achieve a community consensus, get things done and move Redmond forward in a positive direction.

We need Ed as Mayor today. Join me in voting for Ed.

■ Alan Unger is the former mayor of Redmond.

WRITE TO US

Letters policy: We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 300 words and include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of the Spokesman.

Guest columns: Your submissions should be between 600 and 800 words and must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere.

How to submit:

- Email is preferred: news@redmondspokesman.com
- Or mail to: 361 SW Sixth Street, Redmond OR 97756

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GUEST COLUMN

Tears for a queen, tears for the past and ourselves

BY LLEWELLYN KING

I have a feeling that with the burial of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle, a gallant and dutiful monarch has been laid to rest, but so has an empire. And millions have been given license to weep for her and for ourselves.

The British summoned up centuries of history in a show of pageantry that none of us will see again — and which, in truth, may never be seen again.

It was, if you will, the spectacular to end all spectacles.

The British buried their longest-serving monarch, and, I think, they also buried memories of an empire and of a time when ceremony was part of the art of governance.

I was born into that empire in a British colony and was brought up in its traditions and with the expectation that it would last forever. When the queen ascended to the throne in 1952, it was seen in the colonies as a new beginning; that somehow Britain would rise again; that there would be another grand Elizabethan period like the one that began in 1533.

When the queen was crowned, India had already gained independence in 1947. But we still clung to what Winston Churchill said in 1942, "I have not become the king's first minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British



King

Empire."

But that was coming. The forces of democracy and, more so, the forces of self-determination were at work in what Prime Minister Harold Macmillan was to describe, in his epic 1960 speech to the South African Parliament, as a "wind of change."

That wind blew steadily until the British Empire was indeed liquidated and had been replaced by the loose, fraternal Commonwealth. The empire had dribbled away. The Union flag came down, and new flags went up from Burma to Malawi.

In Britain, the shrinking of its global reach was hardly marked, as life changed and other struggles occupied the nation.

The queen's funeral was, with its extraordinary pageantry, a reminder of the past, and a reminder that it, indeed, is past.

Most of those among the extraordinary throng that sought to enter Westminster Abbey were, at best, only subliminally aware of the farewell to much of British history.

Throughout the queen's lying-in-state, there has been another force at work.

I believe when we have these occasions to weep, we weep for ourselves, for all of our hurts and failures, and for all the pain of the world. When FDR died,

when Churchill died, when John Lennon was shot, when Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed in a car crash, and when Nelson Mandela died, the world wept then as now.

Public ritual is public healing, and the queen's state funeral — the first one since the death of Churchill in 1965 — was a way for us to cry for the myriad hurts in our lives and across the human condition.

When you can hug a stranger and shed a tear, one is connected to all of humanity in a way that transcends class and race, religion,

and wealth and poverty. Briefly, we are one, seemingly in grief for a remarkable monarch, but also in grief for ourselves.

There is an expression that one used to hear in Britain and may still do, "It does one good to have a good cry."

The world has had a good cry, thanks to an august queen, who died at 96 after presiding over a dwindling empire and a surging affection, over a very human and often dysfunctional family, and who smiled through, carrying her nation and the world with her.

Her final act was to let the world cry for itself, as much as for her. Well played, ma'am. Now rest in peace.

■ Llewellyn King is executive producer and host of "White House Chronicle" on PBS. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

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YOUR VIEWS

Support your local paper

I have recently met with the editor of the "new" Redmond Spokesman newspaper, Tim Trainor. I was very impressed with his professionalism and experience.

Kudos galore to Tim and his staff. They are all working very hard to make the Redmond Spokesman a paper locals, like myself, will be proud of. They are specifically supporting and inviting local Redmond entrepreneurs to participate in the success of the newspaper. As an example, they have invited a neighbor of mine and myself to write a monthly column, mine being the "ABC's of Entrepreneurship."

I urge the Redmond community to support this vital local enterprise.

Gary A. Einhorn
Redmond

Ed Fitch for mayor

Let's elect Ed Fitch a very experienced candidate for Redmond mayor. Electing Ed to this position means we will have a mayor with deep experience for hearing and working with a growing and changing Redmond population. Being devoted to community service he has served as chair of the Redmond Development Commission, the city attorney, and president of the Redmond Ex-

ecutive Association. He has also been a participant in the South Highway 97 Committee seeking ways to more efficiently move Highway 97 traffic through the city. He currently serves on the Redmond City Council. This experience and understanding of a wide range of community issues means he is well-suited to move Redmond forward from day one. Mr. Fitch has outlined a comprehensive list of his priorities on his web page, and I suggest you study his views for leadership on a number of important priorities for our growing community.

Elect Ed Fitch mayor of Redmond.

Gloria Olson
Redmond

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Oregon Legislature: Legislative documents and information are available online at www.leg.state.or.us.

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