

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Jim Hill - House District 31

James Hill is a candidate for House District 31 in Salem. A Democrat, Hill has received major endorsements and is considered to have a strong chance of election.

Hill is a graduate of the Indiana University Law School and currently is employed as an Appeals Division Hearings Officer on Income and Property Tax in the Oregon Department of Revenue.

We encourage our Salem readers to vote for Jim Hill.



Judge Ed Peterson - State Supreme Court

Judge Ed Peterson was appointed to the Oregon State Supreme Court in 1979 and prior to that was in private practice for 22 years. His work included trial and appellate cases for individuals and businesses. He has taught, lectured and written for legal journals.

During his short stay on the Supreme Court he has earned the respect and endorsement of most of Oregon's judges and lawyers.

His opponent, Shirley Field, was removed from the District Court, the State's lowest court, in 1978 because she was determined to lack "knowledge and judgement". Now she is seeking a position on the State's highest court.

Judge Peterson is clearly the only choice. He should be retained on the State Supreme Court.

No - No new jails

Measure 8 authorize the sale of \$85 million worth of bonds to provide a prison building fund. The measure does not say what type of facilities will be built or where they will be located, does not provide for staff or rehabilitative programs. It does not address prevention.

Although called a \$85. million expenditure, the measure allows future legislatures to continue to borrow at an inflated rate until it reaches a \$288.5 million expenditure in 1990.

The most commonly mentioned use of this money is to build another large maximum security prison to relieve overcrowding at Oregon State Penitentiary.

The population at OSP should be reduced through the establishment of half-way houses, work-release programs, intensive drug and alcohol programs to assist addicts and alcoholics, realistic job training and job placement programs, psychiatric treatment, etc. Those locked up for preventive detention and minor non-violent crimes should be placed on probation rather than jailed. Prevention programs should be designed and financed to deal with problems of very young children and their families.

The most important step to solving the overcrowding problem at OSP is eliminate the poverty and racism that cause crime - not to build more prisons.

The *Observer* recommends a "NO" vote on Measure 8.

No - No tax limitation

The most dangerous measure on the ballot this year is Measure 6, the property tax limitation which limits taxes on real property to one per cent of the true cash value as of July 1, 1977. Reasons for voting NO include:

- This restriction on the amount of taxes raised would severely damage, if not eliminate, all state and local services.

- It would make the sale of bonds for veterans' home loans, housing for the elderly, capital construction, highways, energy projects, etc. nearly impossible because it would restrict the ability of the State to repay loans.

- It would be permanent. Two-thirds of the eligible voters would have to agree to levy any additional taxes.

- It applies to all real property and does not differentiate between owner-occupied homes, rentals, large property holdings. The owners of large apartment complexes and large land owners (including large corporations) would benefit most.

- It would eliminate the Homeowner and Rental Property Tax Relief (HARP) now available to middle and low income home owners and renters.

Why a "tax revolt"? How much taxes do we really pay? In Portland, home owners are billed approximately \$20 per \$1,000 assessed value, or about \$600 on a \$30,000 home. Of this, one third or \$200 is paid by the State leaving a bill of \$400. Low income persons receive all or most of it back through HARP. In fact, any family with \$17,000 income or less will receive at least \$100 rebate, leaving only \$300 or less to be paid.

Senior citizens can defer payment until their estate is sold, and even though they are not paying taxes they can file for HARP and receive their annual refund just as if they were paying.

Are the people of Oregon really unwilling to pay taxes to support education, police and fire, water, public, public health, and other essential services? Oregon's existing tax laws allow those who are unable to pay to avoid paying. Those who are able should be glad to pay for the services they receive.

Vote NO on Measure 6.

Yes - Let them vote

Measure two extends the right to vote to mentally handicapped persons who have not been adjudicated incompetent to vote. The State Constitution says "No idiot or mentally diseased person shall be entitled to the privileges of an elector."

This measure provides that persons who might be considered mentally retarded according to testing, academic achievement, or otherwise, still have the full right to participation in the elective process. It is long overdue.

Vote "Yes" on Measure 2.

Yes - Zoo/Metro

Measure 26-12 establishes a tax base to finance the zoo and to subsidize the Metropolitan Service District. The zoo is now financed by serial levies, which are not eligible for property tax relief. This measure would replace those bonds with a new tax base, making it eligible for property tax relief.

Yes - Support PCC

This measure, 26-13, is similar to the Zoo/Metro measure, creating a new tax base for the Portland Community College.

No - Don't eliminate vote

This measure would change the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction from an elected official to one appointed by the Governor from a list of candidates proposed by the State Board of Education.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction administers the education department; currently he is elected. The State Board of Education make policy; they are appointed by the Governor. Proponents of this measure say it would take the Superintendent out of the political arena since he would not run for election, and would assist coordination and cooperation between the Superintendent and the Board.

In theory, the election process could make a "political football" out of the Superintendent's office, and a strong citizen group could undermine sound educational decisions by threatening to oppose the Superintendent's reelection. Organized groups could run candidates who would not be sound administrators, who would not foster good educational programs. This type of thing could happen in any political position. Should the danger of the election of a poor candidate be an excuse to remove the election process?

On the whole, the elected Superintendents have been of a good quality as the other elected officials - and as the appointed officials. Passage of this measure would allow the Governor to appoint the Superintendent and the Board, with no input from the public.

The *Observer* recommends a NO vote on Measure 1.

Yes - Raise gas tax

Measure 4 will increase the state gas tax from 7¢ to 9¢ per gallon and slightly increase the "weight and mile" tax paid by truckers.

The Legislature has attempted for many years to increase the gasoline tax, but each time an tax increase has been stopped by the

voters. In the meantime prices have risen and roads and highways have been severely damaged by ice storms, studded tires and heavier trucks. The Highway Department estimates that half of the state's highways are in need of repair.

The highway fund did receive a boost this spring when the people voted to remove the cost of parks and state police from the highway fund and pay for them out of the general fund. Also, when other state agency budgets were cut this summer due to shortage of funds, the highway budget was kept in tact.

This protection of the highway fund at the expense of this needed program does not negate the fact that Oregon's roads, highways and bridges - especially in many rural areas - need repair.

We recommend a YES vote on Measure 4.

Yes - Protect animals

Measure 5 forbids the use or sale of snare, leghold traps except for predator control and protection of human health.

The fur business is big business. Those who think the cruel use of leg traps to hold coyotes for the kill is entirely a method of saving the farmer's sheep should check out the latest coyote fur coats being sold by one of Portland's finest shops.

New methods are available to protect sheep from coyote - fencing and trained dogs to name two. Contrary to the opponents ad campaign, young trees can be saved without billing the already scarce beavers.

Leg traps are cruel, inflicting unnecessary pain and injury. The animals turn and twist off their legs trying to get loose, or they remain in the trap, suffering, until they die of hunger or thirst, are killed by other animals, or are mercifully killed by the trapper.

The measure does not prohibit mouse, rat or gopher traps or live box traps. It prevents unnecessary cruelty and torture of animals.

Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

It is dishonest for PUD proponents to lead people to believe that PUDs formed in the 1980s could furnish adequate power at rates comparable to those of the four operating PUDs in Oregon. Operating PUDs were formed years ago and have had power contracts for low-cost electricity throughout the years.

However, the days of adequate power and low rates for public power utilities are rapidly coming to an end.

This is because of a power shortage.

This means that if new PUDs are formed (and 14 of them are proposed throughout Oregon), there will not be adequate firm power available for them. (How could BPA supply them if it is unable to meet the needs of the four existing PUDs?) This means that (using the case of the proposed Multnomah County PUD) if voters, after having spent \$250,000 for an engineer's study, subsequently approve the \$1.3 billion dollars that ODOE estimates it could cost to buy PGE's and PP&L's distribution systems, they will not own one kilowatt of power nor one bolt on a generating facility.

Informed activists certainly can't have our welfare or our pocketbooks at heart.

H. Peter Metzger, in his booklet, *Government-funded Activism:*

Hiding Behind the Public Interest, shows that most activists have a different political and economic ideology - an ideology that the vast majority of Americans do not hold.

In his writings Mr. Metzger shows that several hundred leading activists, through hiring and appointment (and in turn hiring and appointing their ilk) to key regulatory and policy-making positions in the Federal government, use the power of these offices to channel tax dollars to create, train and fund organizations to bring about the change they desire. This is being done without the consent of Congress or the knowledge of the taxpayers.

The goal is the nationalization of energy, corporations and utilities. Nationalization means government ownership of industry.

To the editor:

Contrary to the scare tactics used by the anti-PUD advertisements, passage of Measure 11 will not establish PUDs (Peoples Utility Districts); it will merely set up a legal, elected board of directors that can commission a feasibility study to determine the source and cost of power and, if advisable, to submit a measure to the voters two years from now allowing them to establish a PUD. The feasibility study will cost no more than \$250,000, or 40¢ to 50¢ per property tax payer.

If a PUD is authorized at that

time, the PUD will sell bonds to purchase the existing distribution facilities of PGE and PP&L and establish a utility district owned by the citizens.

I am running for a position on the PUD board of directors because I believe the public - the utility customers - should have a voice in our energy future. Citizens don't have a voice in the decision making process. The private utilities are controlled by their board of directors, with about 75 per cent of the members living in the east.

The solution isn't more government it's recinding existing government guarantees and requiring investor-owned utilities to compete in the free market.

It is imperative that Americans wake up before it's too late and our freedom is lost.

Beverly Bottorf

provides a greater degree of control over local government budgets than the law of any other state in the Union.

It makes good sense to me to keep the control we have now, rather than lose it to a state constitutional amendment.

Vern A. Duncan

To the Editor:

As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, I understandably am concerned about the devastating effect the passage of Ballot Measure 6 will have on local school districts and community colleges.

Something else troubles me. Measure 6 will enact a constitutional amendment which will limit the right of citizens to make local decisions affecting their public schools and other local governments. Under present law, voters can say "Yes" or "No" to higher taxes. Under Measure 6, even if an overwhelming majority of the voters wanted to exceed the Levy Limitation in order to provide more services, they would be prohibited in practically all circumstances from doing so by the State Constitution. Why have more state regulation? Oregon's present local budget law

provides a greater degree of control over local government budgets than the law of any other state in the Union.

It makes good sense to me to keep the control we have now, rather than lose it to a state constitutional amendment.

The customers have to suffer for the mistakes of the board, because the private utility is guaranteed a 16 per cent return on its investments by Oregon law.

I would be proud to serve the community on the new PUD board and urge you to vote for Measure 11.

Robert Phillips

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Bruce Broussard
Editor/Publisher



Portland Observer

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The *Portland Observer* was founded in October of 1970 by Alfred Lee Henderson.

The *Portland Observer* is a champion of justice, equality and liberation; an alert guard against social evils; a thorough analyst and critic of discriminatory practices and policies; a sentinel to warn of impending and existing racist trends and practices; and a defender against persecution and oppression.

The real problems of the Black population will be viewed and presented from the perspective of their causality: unrestrained and chronically entrenched racism. National and international arrangements that prolong and increase the oppression of Third World peoples shall be considered in the context of their exploitation and manipulation by the colonial nations, including the United States, and their relationship to this nation's historical treatment of its Black population.

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