

A Perilous Choice

by Herb L. Cawthorne

You are driving on a crowded freeway. The car in front of you brakes suddenly. You have to react to save your life. But what reaction? If you turn right, you'll smash into the restraining wall. If you turn left, you'll be clobbered by the oncoming cars in the next lane. If you keep going forward, you ram into the guy in front.

This is the situation as we approach the decision on the Governor's race this November. We know we are in trouble. We have to react. But what reaction? Straight ahead means a sure collision. A turn to the left means being taken for granted. A turn to the right means abdication—not going to the polls, closing our eyes and wishing for the best. In this situation, dangerous as it is, we have to do something.

The mind moves fast under pressure. A thousand thoughts can fly by in less than a second. So while we do not have much time to react, and the choices are perilous, let's quickly analyze the options.

The incumbent, Victory Atiyeh, a Republican, has been in office four years now. During this time, poor people have suffered immeasurably. The unemployment rate is high, state programs have been cut, and there is low morale throughout the system. Is Vic Atiyeh a bad man? No! Is the situation all his fault? No! Could he have managed it better? Yes!

In two and one half years, the State of Oregon has come up about \$650 million short in revenue. One would have to be a fuzzy-headed Monday morning quarterback to criticize relentlessly Atiyeh's management of the problem. True, his forecasting was bad and politically motivated. True, he lacked vision and courage to take on the problem with innovation and reorganization. True, he chipped here, chipped there, chipped a little bit from everywhere to balance the budget. The "chip away" philosophy is managerially unsound in my opinion. So, true, Atiyeh is not at all perfect.

To his credit, however, Atiyeh did attempt to protect state government. He did the best that could be

expected of a Republican who, in the process of keeping state agencies together, had to keep a conservative constituency intact as well. Given his constituency and his original love affair with Reaganomics, he could have done much more damage, lasting damage.

Atiyeh did not destroy schools, although Basic School Support could have been greatly hampered. He made sure at least minimal funding remained for essential programs for the elderly, the disabled, and dependent children. His affirmative action program was developed by a strong and able black man, with impeccable credentials. And Atiyeh supported the program, expressed his commitment for it, although bad times have not allowed improved percentages. The Racial Harassment Bill, though imperfect, made an important statement to a number of people in the community.

Atiyeh's management of state government has been during hard times. We have felt the sting of budget cuts and reduced support under his administration. Would he have done better had times been better? Perhaps. His one redeeming quality is *sincerity*.

The challenger, Ted Kulongoski, a Democrat, has served in the Senate of the Oregon Legislature for many years. He's a typical Democrat—strong for labor, liberal at times, all for equality, providing, of course, that such equality does not upset the Democratic power base. He is a hungry politician, which is not all bad.

Kulongoski has a sound record as a legislator. Most of the labor bills in the last several years have been composed by Kulongoski, particularly as related to migrant labor. He tried to get Atiyeh to agree to affirmative action as a criteria for appointments to Boards and Commissions, and he wanted managers of state agencies to be evaluated, as one factor, on their achievement of affirmative action for minorities and women. On the latter Atiyeh agreed. Kulongoski also supported the divestment of American corporations in the South African genocide



machine. In this campaign, Kulonoski is right when he argues that the expansion of the Oregon economy is best achieved through small business opportunities for everyone.

Kulongoski is a traditional Democrat. And that's not necessarily good for people of color. Our politicians are Democratic. Our papers endorse Democratic. We vote Democratic. It's guaranteed. So why bother cultivating political relationships, alliances, and mutual visions for better government? "We have them in our hip pockets," the Democrats say privately, "and they don't even holler when we sit down on the job!"

During these times when state government was facing its most serious challenge since the depression, with a governor who didn't seem to know what to do, did you hear from Kulongoski? Where was he? Did he organize his Democratic colleagues, challenge Atiyeh on behalf of the poor and depressed, and lead the charge? He did not.

Kulongoski has thought about the sorrowful plight of the unemployed and unassisted in Oregon. But does he have the knowledge, the programs, the managerial ability, and the vision to instill confidence and support? He has *compassion*. Does he have the skill?

The freeway to the voting booth is crowded with claims and counter-claims. There's trouble straight ahead. There's trouble to the right and to the left. Past experience helps a little, so long as the circumstances are not too different. Courage and a vision for change helps too, so long as they are not blind.

Good luck!

Herb Cawthorne, a member of the Portland Board of Education, is director of the Office of Special Services at Portland State University.



I urge you to vote
YES on Measure 51.

Commissioner Charles Jordan

Paid for by Portland Police Citizens Committee, Phil Bogue, Treas., Box 766, Portland, Oregon.

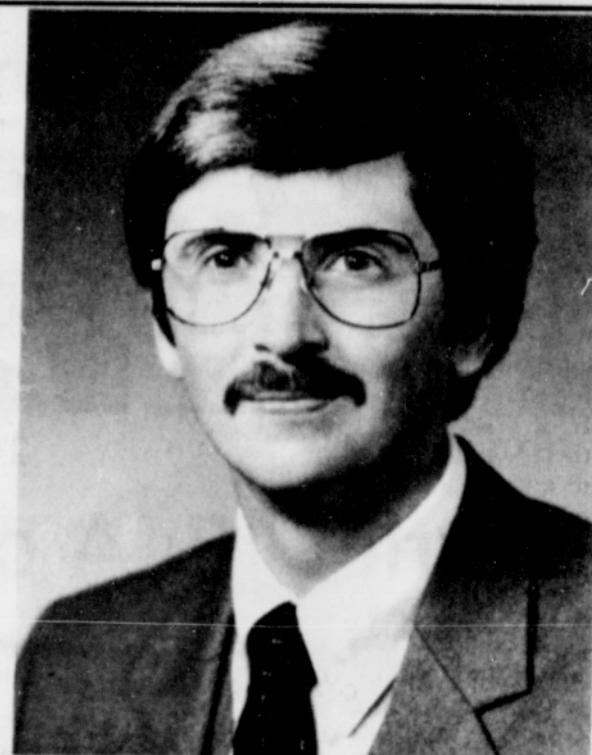
GARY ROBERTS

District Court
Judge, Dept. 14

- Endorsed by *Portland Observer*, Oct. 20, 1982.
- Endorsed by City Commissioner Charles Jordan

- Member of Storrs Committee, which wrote the ordinance providing for citizen review of police abuse complaints

Gary Roberts for District Court Judge Committee



Elect

Anne Kelly Feeney
Multnomah County Auditor



A lifelong resident of N.E. Portland, Anne is the daughter of local businessman Neil Kelly, well known for his commitment to our community. Fifteen years of administrative experience in government, education and business qualifies her to evaluate county budgeting, planning and programming.

Anne Kelly Feeney says: "County government must squeeze more services out of your tax dollars. I'll make sure it does."

- Fifteen years of administrative experience in government, education and business.
- Graduate training in data analysis, computers, budgeting, management and Public Administration.
- Member of Multnomah County Planning Commission.
- Past Member of Multnomah County Budget Advisory Committee.
- Achieved needed reforms in Oregon Legislature in estate taxation and local government financing and bonding authority.

"Her keen insight into the workings of government leave little doubt about her ability. . . the Journal recommends Anne Kelly Feeney for Auditor." *The Oregon Journal*, April 27, 1982

Feeney for Auditor Committee, Dick Rocci, Treasurer, 2806 NE Alameda, Portland, OR 97212, 287-2842.

CHAD DEBNAM FOR House District 18



Chad Debnam and Rev. John Garlington discuss need for jobs and development.

Working together for the community . . .

- Increase home ownership in District 18
- Jobs for the unemployed
- Business incentives to create jobs
- Community reinvestment program
- Development of Union Avenue Corridor
- Responsible senior citizen program
- High tech education at PCC/Cascade and Jefferson High School
- Responsible tax reform

If elected I will hold Town Hall meetings twice a month during the session and once a month during interim to share ideas and information. I will make every attempt to include the people of District 18 in the legislative process.

Committee to Elect Chad Debnam, Herman L. Brane, Treas. 5845 NE 23rd Ave., Portland, Oregon 97211

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR
DENNIS BUCHANAN
FOR
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Endorsed by:

- Amalgamated Transit Union #757
- Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee
- Multnomah County Labor Council
- Oregon Education Association
- Oregon Journal
- Oregon Womens Political Caucus
- Oregonian
- Portland Association of Teachers
- Willamette Democratic Society
- Willamette Week
- Portland Observer
- Also endorsed by:

Rev. John Jackson
Bishop U. V. Peterson
Rev. Matthew Watley

CHOOSE
DENNIS BUCHANAN.
WE DID.

Paid for by the Dennis Buchanan Campaign
P.O. Box 411, Portland, OR 97207
Phone: 226-3067