

Liberal opposition short on political courage

by John Blank

Timidity seems to be the main feature of the political landscape this year. This lack of courage can be seen in the major "opposition" campaigns in the state: in Ted Kulongoski's race to unseat Governor Vic Atiyeh, and in the opposition to Ballot Measure 3.

Kulongoski the meek

While Ted Kulongoski puts on a show of ferocity in attacking Atiyeh's administration, when it comes to Oregon's economy—the main issue in this election—Kulongoski's roars turn into a meek purr directed at the local and national big business community.

The main thrust of Kulongoski's economic program is that Oregon has to be nice to big business, in order to "attract" investment capital and jobs to the state. In essence this line is no different than Atiyeh's, though there are differences in detail.

Of course, both politicians are correct in attributing Oregon's recession to the unwillingness of big business to part with investment capital. Big business—for example, Georgia-Pacific, and the owners of the Hines mill (near Burns)—has been closing its operations here because they have not been "profitable enough"—note, not because they are losing money, but because their rates of profit are not as high as they might be in other parts of the U.S. or in the Third World.

In short, we in Oregon are being faced with a "capital strike"—the owners of capital are withholding their capital, just as, in a strike, workers withhold their labor.

And how do our politicians propose to deal with this capital strike? Do they advocate strong governmental measures, on the grounds that withholding capital is a danger to the public interest? No—they leave the strong measures to the Reaganites, who certainly have dealt harshly with strikes on the part of the air controllers and the railway workers.

Instead, our politicians—Democrats as well as Republicans—fill the air with sweet talk about "attracting business" with all sorts of "incentives," at the same time as they soften to meaningless any measures, such as the plant closures bill, designed to hold business accountable for the effects on the community of

closing plants.

Our politicians seem to be ignorant of the truth that when you are being attacked, you need to fight back.

It's not as if there aren't ways to fight back against the capital strike:

- Strong plant closure legislation—involving long advance-notice requirements (before a plant closes), making funds available for buy-outs of closed plants by their workers and communities, and opening of corporate books to prove the unprofitability big business often claims as reasons for shutting down—has been proposed. But our politicians—notably Kulongoski—have backed away from such measures as too tough on business.

- Millions of dollars leave the state every year in the form of dividends to the east coast finance houses who own the "public" utilities: not one peep out of the politicians do we hear in protest; not one suggestion that the people of the state, who after all pay the rates, have a right to have that capital reinvested in the state.

- A state bank, using capital diverted from out-of-state finance houses as suggested above, state retirement funds, and our tax payments (which are deposited in some bank while waiting to be spent), could invest millions in the state and undercut the capital strike. But our politicians—again notably Kulongoski—have backed away from such plans, no doubt out of fear of alienating banking interests who contribute to their campaigns.

The irony in this policy of coaxing capital out of big business through "incentives" is that it has little chance of success. Nine states out of ten, from Georgia to Texas, ninety countries out of 100, from South Korea to South Africa, are competing for that same investment capital. Very few will win it. Those are awfully long odds to base an economic recovery on.



TED KULONGOSKI



VICTOR ATIYEH

Measure 3 opposition offers no alternative

Nowhere is our politicians' timidity more evident than in the way they oppose Ballot Measure 3 (the 1 1/2 percent property tax limitation). Almost every politician, from school superintendents to both candidates for governor, has pointed, correctly, to the devastating effect of Measure 3 on social services. All well and good. Yet no politician has come forth with a program that would provide greatly needed tax relief to residential property owners and money for needed social services.

It is obvious where needed monies should come from—from those who have the most of it. Tax the rich. If you're worried that the rich—who run businesses—would simply raise prices, then tax profits, tax dividends. (Tax them even more if they go out-of-state.)

It doesn't take a genius to understand these basic principles. And surely there is enough legal savvy amongst the politicians to work out the details. What it does take is courage—the political courage to re-

ly on the people and to fight back against big business.

Perhaps such courage is too much to expect from our current crop of politicians, even our "liberal" and "progressive" Democrats. After all, as Russell Sadler points out (*Oregonian* Forum, Oct. 25), "During the 1970s, the supposedly... anti-business Democrats controlling the Legislature gave a measure of tax relief to nearly every class of business and commercial property owner" through various loopholes, with the result that, during the '70s, "the share of property taxes paid by business and commercial property owners declined from 67 percent of the levies to 58 percent. Residential property taxes jumped from 33 percent of the levies to 42 percent."

Perhaps it is too much to expect political courage from politicians and parties who have built careers by catering to business—particularly big business—interests. Maybe what is needed is a new political vision: of a politics free from corporate domination, and willing to rely on the people in a struggle against big business.

Prison overcrowding explosive

by Asmar Seifullah

Prison overcrowding in Oregon has reached massive proportions. The effective administering of criminal justice and rehabilitative programs has been impeded by the rising number of felons awaiting trial and those housed in state institutions. While concern has been voiced for the need to maintain public safety through incarceration and maintenance of adequate jail space, the simple fact of the matter is that there isn't any room available for new commitments. County jails are filled across the state, court dockets are backlogged and many counties are not prosecuting certain crimes.

Nationally, prison populations increased by a record 12.1 percent in 1981. Recent reports conclude that over 385,000 individuals are presently confined in state and federal institutions, a figure in addition to the estimated 158,000 persons who are held in custody in America's 3,500 local jails on any given day. The record number 385,000 represents an astonishing 70 percent increase in just twelve years. Currently there are 154 individuals serving time in prison for every 100,000 U.S. citizens, a figure which represents the highest imprisonment rate in the 56 years data has been compiled in this area. During the first quarter of 1982 the annual growth rate in state prisons increased 18 percent; nationally a 13.7 percent increase is expected which represents a 13.2 percent increase in 1981's rec-

ord growth rate.

The surrounding causes for this country's prison population increase are the trend toward mandatory sentencing laws. During the past 5 years, 37 states have adopted mandatory sentencing laws and 11 have enacted determinate sentencing statutes. Others have adopted a no-prisoner-parole policy. More people are being arrested and convicted, longer prison time served, judges are assessing stiffer penalties as an interpretation of public opinion. A poll conducted in 1980 showed that

1980 prison riot in New Mexico is indicative of what could happen in Oregon and elsewhere—if answers aren't found soon.

In 1980 Federal Judge James Burns ruled that Oregon's prison system was unconstitutionally overcrowded. His ruling was subsequently appealed by the state and the case was returned to Judge Burns for reconsideration. The second trial—Gapps vs. Atiyeh/West vs. Atiyeh—is nearing completion. November 4, 1982 will be the last hearing in a litigation that spans two years. State Corrections officials and prisoners await Judge Burns' decision. The need for a population-reduction order is apparent to all concerned. If Judge Burns rules that everything is all right within the Oregon prison system then there will certainly be chaos and violence in the future. Public concern for the premature release of dangerous criminals is justified, but that concern must not lead us down the road of dehumanization through incarceration. We don't need crime factories or warehouses for blacks and poor people. While public concern and safety are priorities for any civilized nation—the ideals and standards that this country has set as its mandate must not be denied to segments of society. To work toward anything less is beneath the dignity of America. Solutions must be found, but initially we must all concede that what we have isn't working.

Analysis

83 percent of the people questioned felt that the courts were too soft with criminals, which represents a 30 percent increase of those answering in the affirmative in 1972.

The Oregon prison scene is reflective of the national picture. State institutions are at maximum capacity; prisoners are being housed in every possible space. Normal designed capacity (476) at the Oregon State Correctional Institution has been exceeded by twice the number (1032) of prisoners. Oregon State Penitentiary has a designed capacity of 1107 and its count floats at 1500 plus.

The effects of prison overcrowding are accelerated rates of prisoner suicide, inmate violence in the form of murder or homosexual rape, and a general breakdown in service, treatment and discipline. The tragic

Legal Services Corporation chooses food chain attorney

The Board of the Legal Services Corporation, the agency that provides legal services to the poor, has named Donald P. Bagard, the lawyer of a food processing corporation, its president. After a long and heated meeting, in which the board was accused of not meeting its duty to serve the poor, the board chose Bagard, 41, director of litigation of Stokely-Van Camp, Inc.

Nearly 150 legal aid supporters at the meeting voiced outrage at the selection. "He may be an expert in pork and beans law, but what the hell does he know about poverty law?" shouted Denison Ray, director of Legal Services of North Carolina.

Bagard was one of five finalists from 150 applicants. He had been eliminated from consideration in June but his application was revived when rumors that Robert J. D'Agostino or Alfred Regnery would be selected. D'Agostino, a University of Delaware law professor, caused an uproar when, while working in the Justice Department, he wrote a memorandum called racially insensitive. Regnery, a Justice Department lawyer, wrote a report in 1980 that the corporation should be abolished.

The eleven-member board was appointed by Ronald Reagan, who has unsuccessfully urged Congress

to abolish the corporation. All were appointed while Congress is in recess so they would not have to be confirmed by the Senate. Nine of the members are white; two are black. The vote for Bagard was 10-2 (one absent). One member who voted "no" was black; it is not known who cast the second no vote.

Put Our List On Your List

Our list is the free Consumer Information Catalog. It lists more than 200 helpful government booklets. For your free copy, write: CONSUMER INFORMATION CENTER DEPT. PA, PUEBLO, COLORADO 81009

PUT ATLANTA ON THE LINE FOR PEANUTS. \$3.12

Between 5pm and 8am, long distance rates take a big dive. Which means you can save yourself a good sized chunk of money.

So reach out to Atlanta tonight.

And have a deep talk with the deep south.

COST OF A 10 MINUTE CALL*					
	Seattle	Spokane	Portland	Washington D.C.	Atlanta
New York	3.12	2.79	3.12	3.12	2.79
Los Angeles	3.12	2.79	3.12	3.12	2.79
Chicago	3.12	2.79	3.12	3.12	2.79
Salem	3.12	2.79	3.12	3.12	2.79

Pacific Northwest Bell

*Rates apply to interstate, direct-dial, weekday calls and may vary to Alaska and Hawaii. © 1982 Pacific Northwest Bell

INTERESTING FACTS

brought to you every week by

AMERICAN STATE BANK

- The Liberty Bell was cast in England in 1752 for the Pennsylvania Statehouse.
- Maracas were invented by the Taino Indians, Puerto Rico's first inhabitants.
- About 57 percent of Americans say they believe in UFOs.
- A cold spot—Mount Washington in New Hampshire—clocked winds at 231 miles per hour one April day in 1934.

We do not do business with South Africa.

American State Bank

AN INDEPENDENT BANK

Head Office
2737 N. E. Union
Portland, Oregon 97212

GRAND OPENING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

The Best Savings Ever On Diamonds, Set in 14K Gold

Diamond Earrings
(4 pts.) Reg. \$75.00 - **NOW \$29.95**
(10 pts.) Reg. \$180.00 - **NOW \$65.00**
(25 pts.) Reg. \$350.00 - **NOW \$145.00**
(50 pts.) Reg. \$895.00 - **NOW \$425.00**

Diamond Pendants
(3 pts.) Reg. \$50.00 - **NOW \$19.00**
(10 pts.) Reg. \$130.00 - **NOW \$65.00**

Now til Christmas!

FREE 14K Floating Heart
with every purchase

FREE 14K Heart with Diamond
with \$100.00 or more purchase

THE KING'S RANSOM

24K Gold, Jade, Rubys
520 SW 5th Ave., Portland 228-6448

MAINSAIL IMPORTS & JEWELRY
521 N.W. Alder Downtown 503-224-8151

Wedding RING SALE

The classic solitaire diamond ring 1.2 ct. \$499 sale

One of the area's largest selections of engagement rings, wedding rings and wedding bands now at incredible savings!

2 diamonds in a dating band design
Reg. \$475 sale **\$295**

Beautiful design with 1.0 ct. diamond
Reg. \$399 sale **\$275**

The elegant 1.0 ct. diamond ring with matching earrings
Reg. \$299 sale **\$229**

Beautiful wedding set with 1.0 ct. diamond
Reg. \$399 sale **\$295**

The classic wedding set
Reg. \$749 sale **\$499**

A beautiful 1.0 ct. diamond ring
Reg. \$199 sale **\$129**

The classic diamond ring
Reg. \$199 sale **\$129**

The classic diamond ring
Reg. \$199 sale **\$129**

Beautiful wedding set
Reg. \$899 sale **\$545**

Classic diamond ring
Reg. \$499 sale **\$325**

Two diamonds in a dating band design
Reg. \$299 sale **\$229**

Beautiful wedding set with 1.0 ct. diamond
Reg. \$399 sale **\$295**

1.0 ct. diamond ring
Reg. \$299 sale **\$229**

Large 1.0 ct. diamond ring
Reg. \$499 sale **\$325**

1.0 ct. diamond ring
Reg. \$299 sale **\$229**

1.0 ct. diamond ring
Reg. \$299 sale **\$229**

Diamonds of the most popular shapes available right now at the above prices. Many more and more than 200 items available.

\$29. to \$900.

Mainsail makes the best in diamonds affordable!

Compare our quality and full color trade-in policy.