

— Meets, greets friends here —

Straub, county receptive — Gov. against Pebble Springs



The feeling was generally mutual. Both Gov. Bob Straub and his Eastern Oregon county audience were generally receptive toward each other Tuesday in Heppner. Straub, on a tour of Eastern Oregon counties and towns, spent half a day in Heppner Tuesday, meeting with county officials, touring Kinzua's timber plant, and meeting at a

noon lunch with area citizens. The tour of Kinzua, called by Straub "tremendously impressive" and the "most modern and encouraging" timber plant he's ever seen, was used as a means to break up Straub's two discussion visits. The first meeting, at the County Court House, brought

together about 45 county officials from Morrow and neighboring counties. After his introduction at both meetings, Straub turned the floor over to a question and answer period.

Straub came out strongly in a few matters. Particularly of interest to local officials and neighboring bodies was Straub's

determined and admitted stand against nuclear power concerning the Pebble Springs plant.

Straub and his staff would analyze the plants needs. "I find it is essential," Straub told an Arlington questioner, "I'm not going to sign it." Straub vowed against delay and said he would act promptly if he receives the site certificate.

Local officials urged Straub to sign the certificate and some asked him to "come look at the Pebble Springs" plant. Barnett told Straub that the very opposers of the plant were people "that don't know what they are talking about in most cases."

Straub also said, neither as a proponent or an opponent, that Alumax would probably never see Umatilla County as a home.

Straub cited Bonneville Power Administration rulings that say the BPA will not continue service to aluminum plants after 1983. Straub said with the environmental impact statement and years of construction, it is "very doubtful" that the plant would be built.

Straub said there is a "cloud over the power picture" and his "honest appraisal" on Alumax coming was "at best, doubtful."

Straub met old friends, met new ones and visited with area residents at Kinzua and following the tour in a town hall meeting in the Heppner High School cafeteria.

More than 100 people packed into the room to discuss problems with Straub.

Straub's discussion topics varied. Some are listed, with the governor's answers:

Highways: "We were hoping you'd drive down," one man asked, adding that he "understood why you flew." Discussion grew on secondary highways in Morrow County and surrounding counties and the poor road care.

Straub called the problem "very real" and said that finances in the road department were "the worst in 20 years." Straub urged a yes vote on the one-cent gas tax in November.

Pebble Springs, (in relation to employment benefits): "Construction costs are way up," Straub said. He said "we should try to find other methods" and noted "breeder reactors, fusion and solar power." As for employment benefits, Straub said "whether the construction produces more jobs is not concernable," that nuclear power was "disappointing."

"I can't be wildly positive when I don't feel that way," he said. "Nuclear power is disappointing. I just can't justify it."

Water Standards: Water standards, set up by the state, are too strict Straub said. "We need to reach a happy medium" on health standards.

Department of Commerce Problems: Cliff Williams, a Lexington councilman told Straub he had to purchase a license from the commerce department to put a new roof on his house or put in a window.

Straub was appalled and said he "built a hay barn without a state permit" on his ranch in Spray. "I object to this," he said, and noted that it was "a good idea, taken too far."

Straub vowed to find answers to questions concerning DEQ and Commerce fees, septic tank licenses, the Tri-County Health Department funds, and revenue monies.

Straub also viewed corporate farms and said he was against any "conglomerate" farms taking over.

Straub said he would "oppose the initiate measure on corporate farms" but would "support restrictions on corporate farms and prevention of conglomerates."

On the Navy bombing range near Boardman, Straub said he would do "everything in my power to get the bombing range out of there." He said the area should be used for irrigated agricultural purposes.

Straub discussed water wells with people from Irrigon and Buttercreek, talked about governmental loopholes and increased income tax with lower property tax.

His answers were received well by most and criticized by a few.

G-T Photos & Story By Wil Phinney



Gov. and wife, Pat tour Kinzua with Orville Cutsforth, long time friend.



Gov. Bob Straub



Straub meets Kinzua workers during lunch break.



Gov. tours timber plant on guided tour.

Planning Commission to hear five zone changes

The Morrow County Planning Commission will hear requests for five zone changes and four conditional use permits, including one from Umatilla Ready Mix in Heppner.

Because the commission lacked a quorum, June 14, some of the commission's business will be held over to the June 28 meeting. The Monday meeting is slated for 8 p.m. at the Riverside High School in Boardman.

Loy Keene, Umatilla Ready Mix, Inc. has filed an application for a conditional use permit in an industrial zone. The land is owned by Kinzua Corp. and the cement company is requesting a change in usage from equipment storage to concrete batch plant.

The purpose of the request is to move the plant presently operating in the Heppner city limits, to a location outside the city.

The company, because of noise and dust, falls into the city's nuisance ordinance and is currently located next to residentially zoned parcels.

Other communications for the Monday meeting follow: application by Elmer Stubbfield, Boardman, for a zone change from farm to farm residential on 4.83 acres located about one mile southwest of Boardman on Kunze Road.

—application from Oscar Shumake, Boardman, for a

zone change and cond. use permit from farm to farm residential for a multi-family dwelling. The location for the change is on Wilson Road, about one-third mile from the Boardman city limits.

—application for a cond. use permit in an industrial zone for a concrete batch plant. Owner, John Prag and applicant Umatilla Ready Mix, Inc. Hermiston plan to locate on Port of Morrow land.

—application by Monte Crum for a zone change from qualified farm to farm on 662 acres at the corner of Baseline Road at state highway 207, approximately six miles north of Lexington.

—application by Monte Crum, Union Collier Co., Umatilla for a cond. use permit in a qualified farm zone. Change requested is to a commercial activity in conjunction with farm use. The location is the corner of Baseline Road and state highway 207.

—amendment to the Morrow County Zoning Ordinance concerning establishment of minimum required lot size and width in the recreation residential zone.

—application by Charles R. Penneck, Irrigon for a zone change from farm residential to light industrial on about two acres, located near the Irrigon city limits on the west side of Irrigon.

—application by Jon Thom-

as Starke, Boardman, for a zone change from qualified farm to farm on 24.7 acres, north of the West Extension Canal and on the west side of Paul Smith Road.

Power safety urged

With the irrigation season already here, Oregon Public Utility Commissioner Charles Davis today warned agricultural workers of the danger from contact with overhead high voltage electric wires.

"One of the greatest hazards to field workers moving irrigation pipe is accidental contact with high voltage overhead power lines," Davis said.

During the past eight years 14 fatal accidents attributable to electrocution from contacting overhead wires with irrigation pipes have been reported to the PUC.

Accidents are typically caused by workers raising the pipe to shake out debris or small animals that may be inside. While the worker is watching the low end of the pipe, the opposite end swings high enough to cross or touch a powerline.



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