

# Vic Atiyeh objects to 'loose-jointed' state government during recent Heppner campaign stop

"The important issue in this campaign is who can run state government," said Vic Atiyeh, Republican gubernatorial candidate, during a stop in Heppner April 7. "The difference between me and any other candidate is that I can do it better than any other candidate. That is the reason I'm running for governor."

Atiyeh pointed to what he called the "loose-jointedness" of present state administration and said much-needed direction to its policies is lacking.

"I have a very strong feeling about the way state government should be run... The longer we wait to pull it together the harder it will be to recover," he said.

Atiyeh said that his part in building important bills in his 19 years in the state legislature gives him experience and an advantage that none of the other candidates have: credibility with state employees and credibility with the state legislature.

"They know that I don't play games and I don't play politics," Atiyeh said.

Addressing an audience of approximately 15 county residents at his campaign dinner-stop at the West of Willow Friday, Atiyeh said that while candidates, including himself, ask questions about issues and problems in communities like Heppner while campaigning, once elected they never ask them again. Atiyeh proposed instigating government "listening posts", regular round-table discussions in each community, to establish con-

stant communication between the area and Salem.

"I don't agree with the theory that 'government knows best,'" Atiyeh said. He added he was concerned with "limiting legislation", which limits individuals' options in certain areas to gain some benefit elsewhere.

"Most often there is a better way and most often a price you pay for a benefit you think you are getting," he said.

In a question and answer period following his short speech, Atiyeh said he considered the issue of California trying to get surplus water from the Columbia River a "non-issue" because he didn't think a surplus existed. Atiyeh remarked that he supported Bob Straub's "over my dead body" stance: "I would be less dramatic but just as firm."

Atiyeh said Rep. Al Ullman, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, should be able to take care of getting the Bombing Range—"a small piece of ground the Navy doesn't need"—back to the county by himself.

If elected, Atiyeh plans to meet routinely with the state's national Congressional leaders to discuss issues affecting Oregon: "We're all in the boat together, we should work as a team...I haven't seen that approach used before."

Atiyeh said the present 160-acre limitation on irrigation should be determined on an equivalency basis depending on the productivity of the land, not a set acreage. He commented that a sealed bid for BLM grazing land was

"devastating to talk about", pointing out that with a sealed bid persons who wanted a tax write-off could out-bid ran-

chers who depend on the land for their livelihood.

On the front running Republican candidate in the gubernatorial race Atiyeh said "The real life Tom McCall is not as big as the remembered Tom McCall...if we go back to Tom McCall we go back to the same old thing. He's not yet said what he'd do as governor, not once."

Atiyeh said he was saving his arguments on issues with Gov. Straub until after his nomination, but named Straub's inability to select good people to run agencies and act as advisors as examples of leadership weaknesses.

Atiyeh, continuing a demanding campaign schedule, spoke in lone and Boardman on Saturday before returning home to Beaverton.



Vic Atiyeh makes a gesture to emphasize a point during a campaign stop in Heppner April 7 in his quest for the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

## HHS band plans Sunday bottle drive

Members of the Heppner High School Band will conduct a door-to-door bottle drive Sunday, April 23, to raise money for their upcoming trip to the Oregon coast.

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| <p><b>Thursday April 20</b></p> <p>Soroptimist Senior Girls Luncheon, noon, Episcopal Parish Hall</p> <p><b>Friday April 21</b></p> <p>No host luncheon, noon, W. of W., televised gubernatorial debate, sponsored by M.C. Republican Central Committee</p> <p><b>Saturday April 15</b></p> <p>Roger Martin, wine tasting party, 5 p.m.; no host dinner, 7 p.m. W. of W.</p> | <p><b>Sunday April 23</b></p> <p>Wranglers playday, noon, W. grounds, Heppner</p> <p><b>Monday April 24</b></p> <p>County budget committee, 9 a.m., courthouse<br/>C. of C., noon, W. of W.</p> <p><b>Tuesday April 25</b></p> <p>Swim team rummage sale starts, April 25-27, 5-9 p.m., American Legion Hall<br/>Orientation meeting, eighth graders &amp; parents, 7:30 p.m., HHS cafeteria.</p> |
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