

# Dist. 55 Rep race offers choice

Three candidates—Democratic incumbent Jack Sumner, his party opposition Chuck Bennett and Republican Bill

Belamy—have filed candidacy for the District 55 State Representative seat, with Sumner and Bennett squaring

off in the May 23 primary. On the Democratic primary ballot, Bennett, a journalist presently employed as a

warehouseman near his home in Gates, will oppose Sumner who is seeking his fourth term in the Legislature.

## Sumner seeks fourth term in House based on record, proposals

Sumner was first elected to the state legislature in 1972, representing District 55 which encompasses 11,500 square miles, including four counties and parts of four others.

Sumner graduated from Heppner High School in 1953 as valedictorian of his class and raises cattle and grain on ranches in Morrow, Gilliam and Grant counties.

In the 1977 session of the state legislature, Sumner pushed the passage of a House Resolution he introduced urging the Navy be removed from the Bombing Range in north Morrow County. Sumner said this was the first time the state has taken a formal stand to free the land for more productive purposes and the resolution was sent to Congress.

Sumner said he was also working with the Port of Morrow to release 40 acres adjacent to the port as a possible plant site. The Department of Transportation



Jack Sumner

has a prior claim on the land and the representative said, though it wasn't being used at present, there were some legal problems to untangle before it could be released.

Commenting about his loss to Bill Belamy in Morrow County in the 1976 general

election, Sumner said, "This is my home territory and naturally I was disappointed, but it didn't affect my ability or my efforts to help Morrow County. I'm hopeful I can regain some votes in the county."

### Heppner is home

Sumner denied a charge by his Democratic opponent that he doesn't live in the district: "That's a lie. My home is here. As a legislator my attendance is naturally required in Salem and I have interests in other places. I go wherever I'm required to be."

Sumner doesn't believe property taxes should be completely eliminated in favor of income tax as Bennett favors: "It's fiscally impossible... there has to be a balance in the taxing system... Property taxes provide a form of local control."

Sumner cites the Homeowner and Renters Refund returned directly to property tax-payers and renters as one example of property tax relief he worked for as a member of the Property Tax Relief and School Finance committee.

He also said he worked for, and strongly supported, the Basic School Support which passed the last session of legislature providing a 40 per cent average to counties for school operation.

Sumner proposes to introduce two new bills in the next session of legislature which he said would ease the burden on Oregon taxpayers.

The first is a "get tough on welfare" bill, which would require every able bodied person presently on welfare to work, on community service projects if jobs in the private sector can't be found. Sumner estimates that Oregon can save at least \$4 million per year if this approach is used.

Sumner also plans to introduce the "3-10" Tax Relief Plan which would provide a 10 per cent refund on 1978 personal and corporate income taxes, a 10 per cent refund on 1978-79 property taxes and a permanent 10 per cent reduction in income taxes starting in 1981. Sumner said this plan would return to the taxpayers surplus taxes collected on a regular basis. (\$175 million in 1975-77) and feels this policy would help control the growth of state government.

The representative has also recently spearheaded a referendum drive to put the issue of reinstating capital punishment on the ballot.

## Bennett says Dist. 55 lacks in leadership; differs with Sumner

Bennett said his seven years experience as a newspaperman in Woodburn and Salem, specializing in state and city government, gives him a unique insight into the problems of government and especially the effect its actions have.

The 29-year-old candidate said he decided to run for state representative after examining Sumner's record carefully: "I didn't like what I saw."

He cited many examples of legislation which he supports and which the incumbent voted against, including the Farm Use Tax deferral, funds for a state Veterinary Medical School at OSU, city revenue sharing, additional state funding for counties, increasing the number of Circuit Court judges, stronger laws against age discrimination in employment and housing, energy conservation measures, and bills aiding handicapped children in education.

## Last basic skill competency approved by School Board

The last of six basic skills competencies required for Morrow County high school graduates in the class of 1978 has been approved by the Morrow County School Board.

The Analyze competency test, designed to check students' ability to examine an issue and reach a conclusion, was approved by the Board at their regular April meeting.

High school citizenship education teachers are now in the process of testing senior



Chuck Bennett

Bennett also said Sumner was absent without cause when the vote came on several important issues, including Basic School Support and simplifying language on tax forms.

"Sumner doesn't even live

in the district no matter what address he gives," Bennett claimed. "He lives in Salem." The candidate said he didn't feel the incumbent represented most of the district, adding that most of Sumner's support comes from the west side of the mountain, centering in Clackamas County.

"That should tell you something," he commented.

Bennett said he favors revenue sharing as an indirect offset to property taxes and any legislation which eases the tax burden on property owners. He supports completely eliminating the property tax in favor of an income tax based on ability to pay.

"I know that's not going to happen, but it shows my approach towards taxes," the candidate remarked.

Supporting continued emphasis on developing the timber industry in the district, Bennett said he will also vote

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ GOP candidate Bellamy

### unopposed in primary

Bill Bellamy, a vocational agriculture instructor at Culver High School, runs unopposed for the District 55 representative position on the Republican ticket in the May 23 primary. Opposing incumbent Sumner in the November

1976 general election, Bellamy won in Morrow County by a 1,542-816 margin.

"I have no interest in becoming a professional politician," Bellamy has said. "The citizens' legislature must be maintained. We need a strong, local voice for commonsense government."

In the Oregon Voters Pamphlet, Bellamy explained his basic views: "Government must return to being the people's servant, not their master. Good jobs must be created. Housing cost increases must be reduced. Wages and profits kept, not confiscated by those who earn them. For this to happen, government must return to being helpful, not harrasing, in its dealings with people."

### Birth

Morrow County increased its population count by one last week when the stork delivered a baby package to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Earnest Gene was the name chosen by proud parents Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Cleo Lawrence for their sixth child born Wednesday, April 26, at 8:15 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces at birth and joins two brothers and three sisters in the Lawrence family.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Bailey, Chesapeake, Virginia; and Gene Lovan, Houston, Mo.



Great-grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Griffith, Palmdale Cal.; and Mr. and Mrs. Claude Atkins, Chesapeake, Va.

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## County elections

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lity of running for commissioner on the Democratic ballot as a write-in candidate.

"I've been approached by persons from both ends of the county about running, but I just haven't decided yet," Creamer said. "If there was

enough support for a write-in, I would consider it an obligation to serve," he added.

Creamer, a project manager for Inland Pacific Navigation Co. before his retirement, ran against Judge Paul Jones on the Republican ticket in 1976.

**We'll Show & Tell**

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Meet The New Man For Governor

Roger Martin believes like most of us do—that while government is Necessary, it should have a limited role...

To Roger this means slowing down state spending. It means giving new direction to state agencies so those agencies will respect and respond to the taxpayers who foot the bill...

Roger has packed the experience of working 12 years inside government and of a lifetime of insight as a taxpayer and small businessman into his bid to become governor.

# Roger Martin

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