

Jernstedt nominated for Senate Leader; appointed to four influential committees

State Sen. Ken Jernstedt of Hood River, a 12-year veteran of the House and Senate, was nominated for the Senate Presidency by another Eastern Oregon legislative leader, Bob Smith of Burns.

Jernstedt received the unanimous support of his Republican colleagues, but was defeated by Democrat Jason Boe.

After winning the post, Boe named Jernstedt to four influential committees.

He was given the Vice Chairmanship of the Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Development, a panel which will be an important part of the state's efforts to develop trade and new markets in the Far East in conjunction with President Carter's recognition of China. Jernstedt was one of the original sponsors of creation of the State Department of Economic Development, and he has played a leadership role in expanding the state's economy to keep a high level of employment in the face of continued population growth.

Jernstedt is expected to play a particularly significant role because of his strong ties and many friendships in the Far East dating back to his service as a fighter pilot ace in the Flying Tigers during the days before the U.S. entered World War II.

He also was appointed by Boe to the committees on State and Federal Affairs, Elections, and Energy and Environment.

Jernstedt is among legislators who have joined in expressing strong support for

Gov. Vic Atiyeh's agenda to provide income tax cuts and property tax limitations and relief by placing curbs on increases in state government spending.

The Atiyeh budget calls for nearly 25 per cent of state revenue in the coming two years to be distributed as direct tax relief.

"The governor's program strikes a responsive chord in the hearts of all of us who would like to see less reliance on the bureaucracy and more reliance on the collective genius and common sense of the people," Jernstedt said.

He said it is likely the Legislature will make changes in the Atiyeh

proposals, but he feels the general direction and philosophy will remain the same.

"It is appropriate that the best ideas of legislators be incorporated into Atiyeh's program, and hopefully it is possible for the Legislature to do this and still meet the timetable for an early vote of the people."

Bellamy assigned to environment & energy, education committees

District 55 Representative Bill Bellamy has been assigned to posts on the Oregon House of Representatives' education and environment and energy committees.

Bellamy's teaching background as a vocational agriculture instructor at Culver High School should prove helpful in his education committee work. The energy and environment committee assignment is expected to fold hearings on discharge regulations on new power supply sources, such as the Pebble Springs nuclear

plant, and the Carty coal fired plant near Boardman.

Anyone interested in contacting the freshman legislator on bills of particular interest may do so by calling 378-8853, or by writing: Rep. Billy Bellamy, H371 State Capitol Building, Salem, 97310. Bellamy's home address is Rt. 1 Box 85C, Culver, 97734.

Callers may also use the state's toll-free WATS line, 1-800-452-7813, and ask to be transferred to Bellamy's office.

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Packwood voted GOP Conference Leader in Senate

In their first official act of the 96th Congress, Senate Republicans elected Senator Bob Packwood (R-Ore) Chairman of the Republican Conference, the counter-part to the Democratic Caucus. Bob Packwood's name was placed in nomination by the senior Senator from Oregon, the Honorable Mark O. Hatfield. Upon election, Senator Packwood chaired the meeting in which other party leaders were chosen.

As Chairman of the Republican Conference, the Oregon Senator will make immediate appointments to the Republican Policy and Senatorial Campaign Committees. He will also appoint the Committee on Committees, which, under his guidance, decides all Senate Committee assignments for his Republican colleagues.

During his tenure, Senator Packwood will call all caucus meetings and set the agenda for those meetings. Under the Chairman's direction, the Conference develops issues for the party and examines long-range programs and philosophy. In addition, Packwood will work closely with the Democratic leadership on legislation before the 96th Congress.

"I am deeply proud my colleagues have chosen me for this leadership position as Chairman of the Republican Conference," said Packwood. "More importantly, I am thrilled at the prospects for Oregon. It's an enormous opportunity to make Oregon's voice heard in every Committee of the Senate."

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