

## Senate ponders how to heal Oregon's ravaged highways

This winter has not only been one of the coldest and wettest in Oregon's history, it has also been the reason for the state's roads being in their worst condition in years.

By Senator

Ken Jernstedt

Department of Transportation studies indicate that more than 4,400 miles of highways are moderately to extremely deteriorated and more than half the system is approaching or has exceeded its design life. If the Legislature fails to act this session to increase highway revenue, then within two years more than two-thirds of Oregon's 7,600 miles of roadway may be substandard.

Good roads cost an estimated \$5,000 per mile for regular maintenance. When a road falls into the extremely deteriorated category, costs skyrocket to \$200,000 per mile for major overlay work.

The Department of Transportation says that cost during the next 10 years to keep up with major road repairs would be almost \$1 billion—significantly more than the proposed \$445 million biennium transportation budget.

Actually only about \$223 million would go to the Highway Division—the rest of the \$445 would be designated for local government, state police, parks and administrative costs. I am one of 52 legislators who have sponsored a resolution to change this by submitting for voters' approval a constitutional change which would limit the use of motor vehicle taxes to highway purposes, highway bond retirement, and administrative costs.

A number of other suggestions have been made as to how to increase funding for highway repair and maintenance. One is to increase the present 7 cents per gallon gas tax a penny a year until it reached a ceiling of 11 cents in 1985. Only three states have lower gas taxes than Oregon's.

Other ideas include a \$10 to \$15 tax on studded tires; a new car sales tax; increased vehicle registration fees; higher driver's license fees; taxes on horsepower, tires and lubricating oil; a tax of 10 cents per cubic inch displace-

State seeks info from tagged fish

The Fish and Wildlife Department is still looking for 1978 salmon-steelhead tags, many of which are apparently still traveling about in the wallets of anglers.

Rich Berry, staff biologist for the Department who compiles salmon and steelhead catch data, says only about ten per cent of tags sold in 1978 have been returned so far and he is looking for a return of at least 30 per cent in order to make catch estimates for the various streams and ports as accurate as possible.

The tags provide the bulk of the Department's information on salmon and steelhead catch on a stream by stream and port by port basis. The data received on the catch records is analyzed statistically to come up with harvest estimates for each individual system. The information is crucial to the state's management programs.

Tags from those who did not fish and those who fished but caught nothing are also needed and should be turned in. Berry reminds anglers to check the appropriate boxes on the tag which ask about fishing activity.

Tags can be dropped off in boxes provided at stores where hunting and fishing licenses are sold, or can be mailed directly to the Department, P.O. Box 3503, Portland, OR 97208.

ment—a car with an engine of 100 cubic inches would pay \$10.

And then there is the matter of the disposition of the estimated surplus of at least \$170 million that will be on hand as of July.

Two years ago then-Senator Atiyeh and a few of the rest of us sponsored a bill to return

such surpluses to income taxpayers. That measure got nowhere!

Governor Atiyeh's tax plan, which has apparently died in the House Revenue Committee, called for returning this year's surplus to the taxpayers but he now seems inclined to use \$100 million of it for road repair and maintenance.

This is a dilemma which the Legislature is going to have to solve, and solve soon!

I am very interested in knowing how the people of my district feel about this possible use of the surplus and about any of the other suggestions detailed above, and I would very much appreciate hearing from you on this subject.

## House debates voter registration regulations

By Rep. Bill Bellamy

HB 2322 being debated before the House Elections would cut off voter registration 30 days before an election thus, eliminating election day registration.

Election officials argue that no registration deadline causes legal and technical problems. Some voter registration lines have been several blocks long on election day.

Such waiting lines tie up key election officers, don't allow time to certify that each person is a qualified voter, and cause delays for registered voters who need to see election officials for other reasons.

Election officials say not having a cut off threatens the integrity of Oregon's election process. They say voters have an obligation to register to vote and that obligation should be met 30 days before an election; not 30 minutes.

Supporters of the cut off say present law does not allow time to check identification, and the search for fraud can be done only after the election. In a recent survey taken from Dist. 55, 88 people out of 104 felt there should be a cut off date. Five felt the cut-off date should be one day; 26 said one

week would be sufficient, but the majority—42—seemed to favor a one month cut-off date. People seem to perceive the possibility of fraud and want the law revised.

Opponents of the measure say no election fraud has occurred because of the present registration process. They cite reports from the Secretary of State's office showing no fraud has been proven to back up this contention.

Supporters, however, argue that the threat of fraud looms over the election process. It's also difficult to prove fraud has occurred and Oregon's elections must be above even the suspicion of fraud.

Keeping in mind that the right to vote is still considered a coveted privilege in many countries around the world, shouldn't Oregonians take notice of one of their most valuable rights and make registration a priority rather than a last-minute decision?

Some interesting facts to note...the Oregon Legislature has been in session for more than 60 days now which signals the one-third mark. The 1977 Legislature was in session for 177 days and the 1975 session lasted 181 days.

The Legislature has passed and sent to the Governor 42 pieces of legislation including 27 state budgets totaling \$20 million. The state budget, submitted to the Legislature by Governor Atiyeh, allocates nearly \$10.3 billion of state, federal and other funds. The Ways and Means Committee members seem confident that they can hold state spending close to Governor Atiyeh's austere budget. If that were accomplished, state spending would increase at just eight per cent per year. For the past three years, state spending has increased an average of 23 per cent per year—perhaps the public mandate for reduced state spending has broken through.

printing

The Gazette-Times  
676-9228

### Bill Smith, Contracting

- Road Building • Land Leveling
- We do all types of dozer and backhoe work

FREE ESTIMATES

Prineville 447-3248

NOW OPEN Under New Management

TOM'S CHEVRON Open Everyday

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Major & Minor Tune-ups • Air Conditioning
- Tire Repair of All Sizes, Large Trucks to Motorcycles • Foreign Car Repair
- VISA & Mastercharge Welcome



TOM'S CHEVRON

Center & Main • Heppner  
PHONE 676-5005

SHOP — SAVE  
COMPARE  
Open Every Day  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
1845 N. 1st St.

# HERMISTON

SPECIALIZED DEPARTMENTS  
• Institutional  
• Health Foods  
• Dietetic  
• Non Foods  
• Health & Beauty Aids

# WAREHOUSE FOODS



Pork Steak  
\$1.49 LB.

Hills Sliced Bologna . . . . . \$1.29 LB.

2 Lb. Medium Tillamook Cheese . . . . . \$3.99



Potatoes  
10 Lbs. 59¢

3 Lb. Bag Apples . . . . . 99¢

Sunny Delight - 1/2 Gallon Orange Drink . . . . . 99¢

No Membership . . . Everyone is welcome here!

• Fresh Meat  
• Fresh Produce  
• National Brands

## RED TAG SPECIALS

"Lower Than Our Everyday Discount Prices"  
We receive special discounts from our suppliers every week and we give you the same discount through our "Red Tag Specials."

- Best Foods Mayonnaise 32 Oz. . . . . \$1.49
- Smack Noodles 3 Oz. . . . . 5/\$1.00
- Prestone Anti-Freeze Summer/Winter Gal. . . . . \$2.99
- Light Bulbs Westinghouse, 60-75-100 Watt . . . . . 75¢
- Instant Potatoes Pillsbury, 2 1/2 Lb. . . . . 99¢
- Nalleys Potato Chips 9 Oz. . . . . 69¢
- Field & Farm Dog Food 50 Lb. . . . . \$8.55
- Tide Detergent 10 Lb., 11 Oz. . . . . \$5.39
- Carnation Hot Cocoa Mix 12 Oz. . . . . \$1.15
- Pampers Daytime Ex Absorb, 24 Ct. . . . . \$2.93
- Similac Ready to Feed, 13 Oz. . . . . Ea. 49¢
- Crave Cat Food 8 Lb. . . . . \$3.90
- Nalleys Magic Blend 32 Oz. . . . . \$1.03
- Friskies Can Dog Food 15 Oz. . . . . 4/\$1.00
- My-Te-Fine Dinners Macaroni & Cheese, 7 1/4 Oz. . . . . 4/\$1.00
- Nabisco Crackers 2 Lb. . . . . \$1.49
- Coca Cola 2 Liter . . . . . \$1.27 Plus Dep.
- Carnation Hot Cocoa Mix 20 Oz. . . . . \$1.69
- Tomato Sauce My-Te-Fine, 8 Oz. . . . . 19¢
- Long Spaghetti Best Bet, 4 Lb. . . . . \$1.83