

Ullman hits inflation, backs balanced budget



Al Ullman

By Steven A. Powell
Congressman Al Ullman's message in his visit to Heppner last week discussed a wide array of topics but the importance of balancing the federal budget in an effort to control inflation was his main concern.

Orville Cutsforth introduced Ullman at Heppner High School as one of the "most powerful men in the country today as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee."

Ullman explained what he calls the "Three Big E's" at the town hall meeting: excessive government, energy and expectation.

"A person cannot pay 20 percent interest rates and run a farm," he said. "But until we get inflation down, we can't get interest rates down because banks can't loan at less than the inflation rate."

Ullman said the U.S. is running out of domestic oil and depending on foreign oil for 45 percent but right now, cost of alternatives still is more.

He said Americans have to take a look at the tax system and get back to more saving and investing rather than spending.

"Government has to take the lead and produce incentives to save," he said. "People buy today thinking it will be more expensive tomorrow and we have to change that around."

He said the government has to try desperately to balance next year's budget but that is going to take away some services and it will be difficult and controversial to cut \$20 billion from the federal budget.

Ullman said cuts can only be made from one-quarter of the budget because big items like social security, \$75 billion that has to be paid on the national debt, unemployment and military defense cannot be cut. With the critical world problems of today, he said the defense budget cannot be cut, but must be increased.

He said government needs to get a handle on the retirement program but that is very difficult politically.

"We can't afford to have 40-year-olds retire with full pensions after 20 years of service in the army," he said.

"What about postmasters retiring after 20 years of service?" Orville Cutsforth asked. "We have had two in Heppner and if that has happened in every small town in the country, that adds up."

Ullman said he favors cutting down federal revenue sharing to states but not to the county or city levels because "that is too critical right now. But in the future, we may have to. Most states are better off than the federal government anyway. It is going to hurt Oregon though because that money went to education," he said.

Ullman said when most candidates run for office, they say they will give the people what they want. But that costs money. Government is put into too many things and there is too much regulation.

"The 80's are going to be the

Decade of Recognition," Ullman said. "Programs like welfare have been pushed to the federal level to take the burden off the local governments but you can't run all programs from Washington D.C. We have to reverse it back to the local level."

The Congressman said he favors a beef import bill that can be used by the U.S. to fit its situation when the market here is weak.

On the draft, Ullman said he supports a standby to get machinery ready but he does not support at this time registration for the draft.

A high school student asked if war is inevitable.

"I hope not. It would tear apart the country and drain the economy," Ullman said. "We need to strengthen our defense to back up our foreign policy but we must have a steady hand."

Ullman said the Willow Creek Dam project for Heppner is still "on for construction" and he is trying to keep it there but with the squeeze on

federal spending and the cuts that are still being made, it will be hard to get the money.

He said some good bills in Congress have been "watered down" and some have not passed so he is "critical of some of my colleagues" but he thinks the government has had some good bills like incentives in the tax system for alternative energy and standby rationing programs.

On President Jimmy Carter, Ullman said he is in a "no win" situation.

"Carter's demeanor may not be as forceful as it could be but he is moving in the right direction," Ullman said. "People 'bad mouth' him and I am beginning to wonder if this country is governable."

On the Value Added Tax favored by Ullman, he said, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, he has to look at the tax structure and alternatives to it. The V.A.T. will not be able to come into effect until people understand it. Each manufacturer is taxed only on the value that is

added to the finished product. "It is not regressive because it does not tax food, shelter or medical supplies," he said. "We can't cut taxes in the present system and still balance the budget. And we can't cut taxes regardless of the budget as government has in the past or there will be more inflation."

Ullman said the V.A.T. is used in other countries and it is an alternative revenue system to the "excessive high income tax" system now.

"The income tax system awards incompetence," Ullman said.

Ullman said the military is wasteful and it needs to tighten up and they are unhappy but they have to realize they cannot give everything to recruits anymore.

As to a national health program, Ullman straightforwardly said, "No way. We cannot have any new spending programs. That is the facts of life."

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HEPPNER, OREGON

Don't forget—
turn your clocks
forward April 27



3-way contest develops for Morrow sheriff's post

A three-way race for the office of sheriff of Morrow County is developing, with one of the two write-in candidates actively seeking the Republican nomination at the May 20 primary election to face Sheriff Larry Fetsch in the Nov. 4 general election.

Fetsch, a Democrat, has led, and his name will be the only one for sheriff to appear on the primary election ballot. The Republican is W.J. (Bud) Englert, a Heppner businessman, who is asking write-in support for his party's nomination.

The third candidate is Heppner policeman Douglas Rathbun, an independent, a declared candidate for the November general election.

Rathbun's posters are being displayed in local store windows. County Clerk Barbara Bloodworth cautioned, however, that he could not actively seek write-in support in the primary election for if he lost, he would be disqualified from running as an independent in November.

Persons who would have their names appear on the

general election ballot as independents would have to file in June, she said.

Englert, a former policeman and municipal judge in Hermiston, has lived in Morrow County for five years. He would have filed to have his name appear on the Republican primary ballot, he said, except that he had not transferred his voter's registration from Hermiston.

Under the state elections code, he said he was told, a candidate filing for any office must have been a registered voter locally for at least 180 days prior to the election.

In Heppner, Englert is owner of a snowmobile distributorship at his Black Mountain Repair, and president of Thompson Bros., a downtown grocery store.

He said he has accepted earnest money from prospective purchasers, so that these business interests would not interfere with his duties as sheriff, should he be elected.

Englert said there were "several reasons" for his candidacy, but he did not go into details except to state that

"I can set up a proper budget and save the taxpayers money."

He said he would put the emphasis of the sheriff's department into patrolling "the back roads" where farmers often leave expensive machinery and equipment unguarded in their fields.

Englert said he was soliciting "as many votes as I can obtain" from both political parties.

Now 48 years old, Englert served for three years on the Hermiston police force. He has had an additional two years' experience as the Hermiston city judge, a position he held while operating a new-and-used furniture store.

He has also driven for the Silver Wheels Freight Lines for 12½ years, and feels he is well acquainted with problems in the north county area. He drove in the Boardman area frequently, during that city's relocation, while being based at the Hermiston office of the freight line.

He is married and has a daughter still living at home. The daughter attends Heppner High School.

Rathbun, in a statement, clarified that he is not seeking the nomination of either major party at the primary election.

"As a registered independent voter of many years," he said, "it would not be fair for

me to seek the write-in nomination of either the Republican or Democratic parties at the primary election."

However, he will file on June 4 as an independent candidate for sheriff, with his name to appear on the general election ballot. He said he would seek to improve the efficiency of the sheriff's department.

Rathbun's qualifications include 12 years' service as an Oregon police officer, including four years in Heppner and seven years as a police chief, in Powers. He has been a lifetime resident of Oregon.

His other qualifications include five years' employment as a bookkeeper, including his four-year stint in the U.S. Navy. In the Navy he earned the Good Conduct Award, Sailor of the Month Award, two letters of commendation and an honorable discharge.

He is a graduate of North Eugene High School, Oregon Police Academy, Blue Mountain Community College and is trained as an emergency medical technician.

He served a two-year term as chairman of the Morrow County Peace Officers Association.

He is married, with three children.

"I feel it high time that the office of sheriff be treated as nonpartisan. Law enforcement officials must be nonpartisan in the performance of their duties."

"Hence, I do not expect the fact that I am not a member of either major party will affect my Republican and Democratic friends or detract from my election."

"I cannot file as an independent candidate until after the primary election—this is the law. I will formally do so on June 4 and my name will appear on the general election ballot."

Fetsch is in the final year of an elected four-year term. He had been the senior deputy sheriff, and succeeded to the top position in September of 1976, when Sheriff Don Mollahan resigned.

'Tell us what you want'

Port chief boosts south county

By Steven A. Powell

With the number of lumber mill closures increasing everyday, many people in the Heppner area are concerned about jobs in south Morrow County if Kinzua Corp. is forced to close its doors.

The answer could be in the Port of Morrow, Manager E.S. "Buddy" Toadvin told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce Monday.

"The port is a county-wide district," he said. "We can do anything in the south that we do in the north if you tell us what you want and show some interest. Whether its a manufacturing plant or a steel mill, we need ideas from local people."

Boardman man convicted

Kenneth Plant of Boardman was found guilty of robbery in the first degree last Thursday in Circuit Court in Heppner after the jury deliberated for only 10 minutes, according to Dennis Doherty, district attorney.

A pre-sentence investigation is underway with formal sentencing to be made in approximately six to eight weeks.

Plant was convicted of armed robbery of the Texaco Service Station in Boardman Jan. 25.

Testimony at the trial showed that he had robbed the station with a shotgun for more than \$900 and then was involved in a high speed chase with policemen from Boardman to Plymouth, Wash., where he wrecked his truck

after not being able to make the turn.

The defense did not dispute the facts but instead stated that Plant could not be held responsible for his actions because of a mental disease or defect.

Years before, Plant had worked at the same Texaco Station and had been convicted of third degree armed robbery after entering a guilty plea when he robbed the same station Jan. 13, 1978.

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Toadvin said there are limits to the port bonding including a \$10 million limit per project.

"The port issues the bonds but is not financially responsible," he said. "The port does hold the title until the bonds are paid off. It is like a mortgage. Somebody else can lose money but not the port."

Alcohol Plant
Toadvin also talked about the \$5 million, four million gallon a year alcohol plant that is being proposed to the port.

He said the alcohol plant is going to be built using private capital rather than port bonding or government grants.

The plant will use starch wastes from the two potato processing plants in Boardman that used to just go down the drain. It will ferment the starch to make the alcohol.

"It will not be fit for human consumption," Toadvin said. "It will be used to mix and make gasohol."

"It takes a lot of grain to make gasohol," he added.

Wastewater

treatment system
Toadvin explained that the redone wastewater treatment system, which was made possible by a \$425,000 loan from the Port Revolving Fund, is nearing completion.

A 30 inch in diameter pipe has been replaced with a 20 inch line. The fiberglass 30 inch line that has broken 22 times in the last 4½ years has been removed. There is

enough water to serve three more plants and there is no water pressure problem. Toadvin said.

Pumps for the wastewater treatment system wear out in five to nine months costing the plants, not the port, \$30,000 a year to replace them. They wear out so quickly because of the sand in the sedimentation basin. Bids are currently being taken to change the basin with that work projected to be completed by June.

"You can grow edible crops with the wastewater," Toadvin said.

He added that pumps distribute one million gallons of wastewater from the two potato processing plants over 900 acres of port property every day.

Sewage Sludge
The most talked about topic Monday was the concern about sewage sludge from Portland being barged up the Columbia River to Port of Morrow property.

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Denny Smith

Denny Smith due in Heppner

Denny Smith, Republican Congressional candidate for the 2nd District, is coming to Heppner April 26.

A no-host luncheon will take place in the Heppner Elks dining room that Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Smith, a 41-year-old businessman from Salem, will meet and talk with everyone who is concerned about the national economy and other fiscal problems.

Ken and Jean Ann Turner, local campaign chairmen for Smith, invite everyone to come and visit with the alternative to incumbent Al Ullman.

3 in Heppner win awards

Three Heppner High School women received local scholarships last week to use for post-high school training.

Debbie Paustian won a scholarship from the Lions Club to attend a vocational-technical, trade or community college school. It is to be used for the duration of the schooling.

Paula Heinrichs won a \$200 vocational-technical scholarship from the Soroptimist Club.

A \$200 Soroptimist academic scholarship went to Marie Van Schoelack to use at a four-year university or college.



Paula Heinrichs



Marie Van Schoelack