

Vote 'no' on 5

To the editor:
I'm writing to urge a "no" vote on ballot measure five, the proposal to give the governor the authority to appoint the chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court.

Measure five is a result of the 1981 special session of the legislature dealing with state financing of local courts and with reorganization of the state court structure. As part of the political compromise which the legislature struck with the Governor to forestall his veto of the court bills, Measure five refers this question of executive authority directly to the voters. It does so precisely because, while the governor favors his office's having the power to appoint the chief justice, a majority of the legislature does not.

As the Oregon State Bar has noted in arguing against passage of the proposal, measure five would fundamentally change the "separa-

tion of powers" principle dividing our government into the legislative, executive and judicial branches. It would give the head of one branch the power to appoint the head of another, and this appointment, unlike many others, would not even be subject to "check and balance" confirmation by the state senate. It would also eliminate the process, existing since the adoption of our state constitution, whereby the seven justices of the supreme court, whom the voters elect as constitutional officers of the state, independently select the chief justice from among themselves.

A "no" vote on measure five is essential to the preservation of the independence of our highest court and the separation of powers of our state government.

Very truly yours,
Fred W. Heard
Senate President

Support Don Clark

To the editor:
I would like to explain to your readers why I support Don Clark for the democratic nomination for governor.

Don Clark is an experienced public official and manager who has solid, detailed plans for Oregon's future.

His economic recovery program has been praised by political writers as "imaginative, daring and carefully-constructed." I agree. His plan would provide 23,000 jobs now for Oregon's unemployed - in their home communities on projects of long-range importance to local economic growth. His plan for an Oregon Job Development Corporation is especially appealing, because it would focus state economic development tools on Oregon's 60,000 small businesses.

Last week he proposed a much-needed \$25 million housing program - again using existing resources - to stimulate construction of 500 new houses and \$15 million in new wages for Oregonians.

I think his State Health

Plan is especially necessary during these times of high unemployment. It would provide comprehensive health coverage for every Oregon resident - whether employed, unemployed or retired - and would cost less than what we currently spend on health care. In fact, it would save more than \$200 million annually, including nearly \$30 million in savings for business.

Don Clark's strong record in fiscal management in county government cannot be overlooked. As Multnomah County's elected executive, he has demonstrated an exceptional ability to stabilize his government despite high inflation. I think he can do the same job as governor.

Don Clark, in summary, is a leader with the experience and vision these difficult times demand. I hope your readers will join me and vote for him on May 18.

Sincerely,
Representative Hardy Myers
Speaker of the House
132 NE Laurelhurst
Portland, Oregon 97232

Not supporting Spicer

To the editor:
Situations may arise in the life of a conscientious citizen and taxpayer which dictate that person's taking a political course contrary to their personal interest. Such a situation now confronts us.

If we were looking out solely for our own interests we would be supporting Ann Spicer to the political hilt in her bid for election as Morrow County's District Attorney. The reason is simple: a weak district attorney is to our advantage as defense lawyers.

We are not supporting Ann Spicer.

As taxpayers, we too are concerned with how our tax dollars are being spent, and as attorneys we are in perhaps a better position than most to see the cost, in dollars, of a prosecutor's poor judgement. Trials are expensive. Unless good evidence exists to prove a criminal charge, common prudence indicates at least one of the following: 1) further investigation, 2) negotiation, or 3) reduction of the charge to something that can be proved.

We are not suggesting that any prosecutor should be, or even can be, 100 percent cer-

tain of every case he or she brings to trial. We do however, believe that a prosecutor should be able to maintain the objectivity essential to a realistic evaluation of a given situation. We also believe a prosecutor should be able to learn from prior experience.

When she assumed office, Ms. Spicer exhibited signs of an ailment common to new prosecutors which is known in the trade as "overcharging." Overcharging simply means that the prosecutor alleges commission of an offense which is more serious than the actual evidence will support. The result, if the case is allowed to proceed to trial, is often acquittal. Defense attorneys won a significant number of cases in Ms. Spicer's early days in office because those cases were overcharged and defendants are winning cases still for the same reason. Experience assumes that a person learns something, not merely that they physically occupy a given office day after day.

We note with a mixture of amusement and chagrin that Ms. Spicer's "Voter's Pamphlet" statement credits her with providing "county counsel." We recall a particular incident in which Ms. Spicer refused to assist a county official concerning a tax dispute. The result: the county court was forced to authorize that official's employment of outside private counsel to conclude the matter. The bill: \$5,929.72.

This account is by no means a complete and total one, but simple space limitation prohibits our detailing of incident after incident wherein the county paid and paid and paid. Suffice it to say that in certain Pendleton legal circle, Morrow County is referred to as "Spicer Country." The remark is not intended as a compliment.

As for Mr. McNeerney, we can say this: we have observed him in trial. His trial skills are perfectly adequate. He is well organized and well prepared. His courtroom manner is polite, straightforward and smooth. He is realistic about his cases, appreciating both their strong points and their weaknesses. He has been honest in his dealings with us; we can trust his spoken promise without having to resort to legal process (and its expense) in order to nail it down in writing.

We fully realize the risk we are running in making this statement publicly. If Ms. Spicer wins the forthcoming

election we can expect to enjoy another four years of defense practice strained by personal antagonism. If that is to be the nature of the beast, so be it. We have followed our consciences and they are clear.

Michael J. Sweeney,
Valerie B Doherty
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 582
Heppner, Oregon

Business Cards
\$19.95
Gazette-Times

Keeping Spicer is essential

To the editor:
Ann Spicer operates the Morrow County District Attorney's office in an efficient, economical and even-handed manner. For those of us interested in fair and impartial enforcement of the law, keeping Ann as district attorney is essential.

Ann brings a unique blend of experience to the district attorney's office beginning with her work in the Clark County Public Defender's office as a student intern progressing through her work as city attorney for Umatilla, deputy

district attorney for Morrow County and then Governor Vic Atiyeh's choice to replace Dennis Doherty as district attorney for Morrow County. Ann's excellent work since her appointment has certainly justified the governor's good sense in appointing her and the voters of this county should show their support of fair and impartial law enforcement by voting for Ann Spicer for Morrow County District Attorney in the May primary.

Very truly yours,
Robert B. Abrams

Thanks for support Vote 'yes' on school tax base

To the editor:
The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Wheels For Life Bike-a-thon is over for this year and, looking back we want to sincerely thank local citizens for their generous support of our campaign.

We are extremely proud of the 33 Lexington, Heppner and Ione riders, the hard working volunteers whose efforts made this a success, and the local citizens.

Because the diseases that St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital is battling can strike any child anywhere, this money will be helping to save children's lives all over the world.

It is a wonderful feeling to know that the people of our communities are concerned and caring individuals and, on behalf of the children of St. Jude's, I want to thank each and every one who helped.

Sincerely,
Bill & Margaret Nichols
Campaign Chairmen

To the editor:
In my judgement, the most important local issue facing voters of Morrow County is whether or not to approve an adequate tax base for Morrow County School District.

The intent of the Oregon Constitutional provision governing the establishment of tax bases was to provide a basic level of funding that would keep schools operating.

This provision also requires districts to ask voters for approval of any tax expenditures which exceed the six percent growth which is allowed in the statute. This is a built-in protection for taxpayers.

In the past years, with so much inflation, voters have been asked to approve tax levies above six percent every year. Actually, voters have no choice. Under our present 1916 tax base, we have only two choices: either approve the levies or close the schools.

A realistic tax base, kept up to date, provides taxpayers with a chance to reject a tax measure when times are tough without the threat of school closure.

I urge you to vote "yes" on the Morrow County School tax base on May 18.

Sincerely,
Ken Broadbent
Boardman

Congratulations

To the editor:

On Tuesday May 4, Pioneer Memorial Hospital staged a fire drill and mock evacuation. All of the people involved are to be congratulated. Whether they were directing traffic, driving an ambulance, fighting the "fire", acting as patients, riding the evacuation vehicles, nursing or acting as "physician director," everyone responded in a selfless manner.

Our special thanks to the following: the volunteer ambulance driver team, the county Sheriffs office and emergency center, the Heppner Volunteer Fire Department, the search and rescue organization, the Heppner Police Department, the hospital employees (on and off duty) and St. Patricks Catholic Church for the use of their parish hall as our evacuation center.

As a result of this experience, our disaster plan has been criticized and will be updated and rewritten.

Our thanks to all
A.K. Felt

Little League Bake Sale
10:00 a.m. May 15th at
Central Market
and
S&J Market



Retain Annetta L. Spicer



Morrow County District Attorney

- ✓ Proven Efficient and Even Handed Law Enforcement
- ✓ 5 Years Governmental Law Enforcement
- ✓ Seasoned Trial Attorney
- ✓ Knows Morrow County and its Problems

Why Change?
Vote Annetta L. Spicer for Morrow County District Attorney May 18

This ad paid for by the committee to retain Annetta L. Spicer as District Attorney. Treasurer: Steve & Cathy Peck, P.O. Box 428 Heppner, OR 97836

Transport Comm. to receive bids on county projects

Bids will be received by the Oregon Transportation Commission on Thursday, May 27, for 14 projects estimated to cost \$9.9 million, stated a news release from the commission.

According to the news release, a project in Morrow County calls for improvements and resurfacing of Bombing Range Road - Butter Creek (Unit No. 2), section of the Lexington-Echo Highway, beginning about 13.2 miles northeast of Lexington. The project is three miles long and the paved width varies from 28 to 32 feet. Completion time is 350 days.

A project involving Morrow and Umatilla counties involves improvements to the Boardman, Stanfield and Deadman Pass Safety Rest Areas to make them accessible to the handicapped, the news release said. At each of the rest areas, two toilet buildings will be remodeled to provide access. An irrigation system will also be constructed at the Boardman Safety Rest Area as part of the project. Completion time is 120 days, the news release said.

Saturday Nite Live
May 15 Happy Hour 8-9p.m.
SPECIAL SUDS
LIVE MUSIC
Dance & Snack
All Nite
Buffet \$5.00
Hot 5 Piece Band
HEPPNER ELKS 358
Elks & Out of Town Guests Only




OREGON'S ROADS NEED HELP!!

A Comprehensive Study by the Road Information Program Found about 20,000 Miles of SUBSTANDARD ROADS in Oregon.

You Can Do Something About This By Voting YES on MEASURE 4

- *Measure 4 in the May 18 Primary Election would increase the gas tax 1 cent a year for the next three years. The weight-mile tax on commercial vehicles would be increased by the same percentage rate.
- *Measure 4 would generate \$21 million annually for road repair, construction, improvement and operation. Of this total, the state would get \$14 million, the counties \$4 million and the cities \$3 million.

WHY MEASURE 4

- If we don't repair roads now, it will cost more to rebuild them later on.
- Winter storms and floods over the past few years have really damaged some Oregon roads.
- Bad highways are a safety hazard and cause accidents.

PROJECTED 3-YEAR REVENUES	
Hermiston	\$51,615
Umatilla	\$16,168
Stanfield	\$ 8,722
Echo	\$ 3,297
Umatilla Co.	\$352,297

COST TO MOTORIST
A Motorist traveling 12,000 miles per year at 18 miles per gallon would pay an additional \$6.70 in taxes per year.

COMMERCIAL COST
An 80,000 GVW diesel-powered commercial vehicle driven 30,000 miles per year would pay an additional \$270 in taxes per year.

Paid For By Committee For Good Roads, John Amort, Treasurer