



Magazine

Conservatism in Olympia

Social programs, the budget and usury are points of contention between Democrats and Republicans.

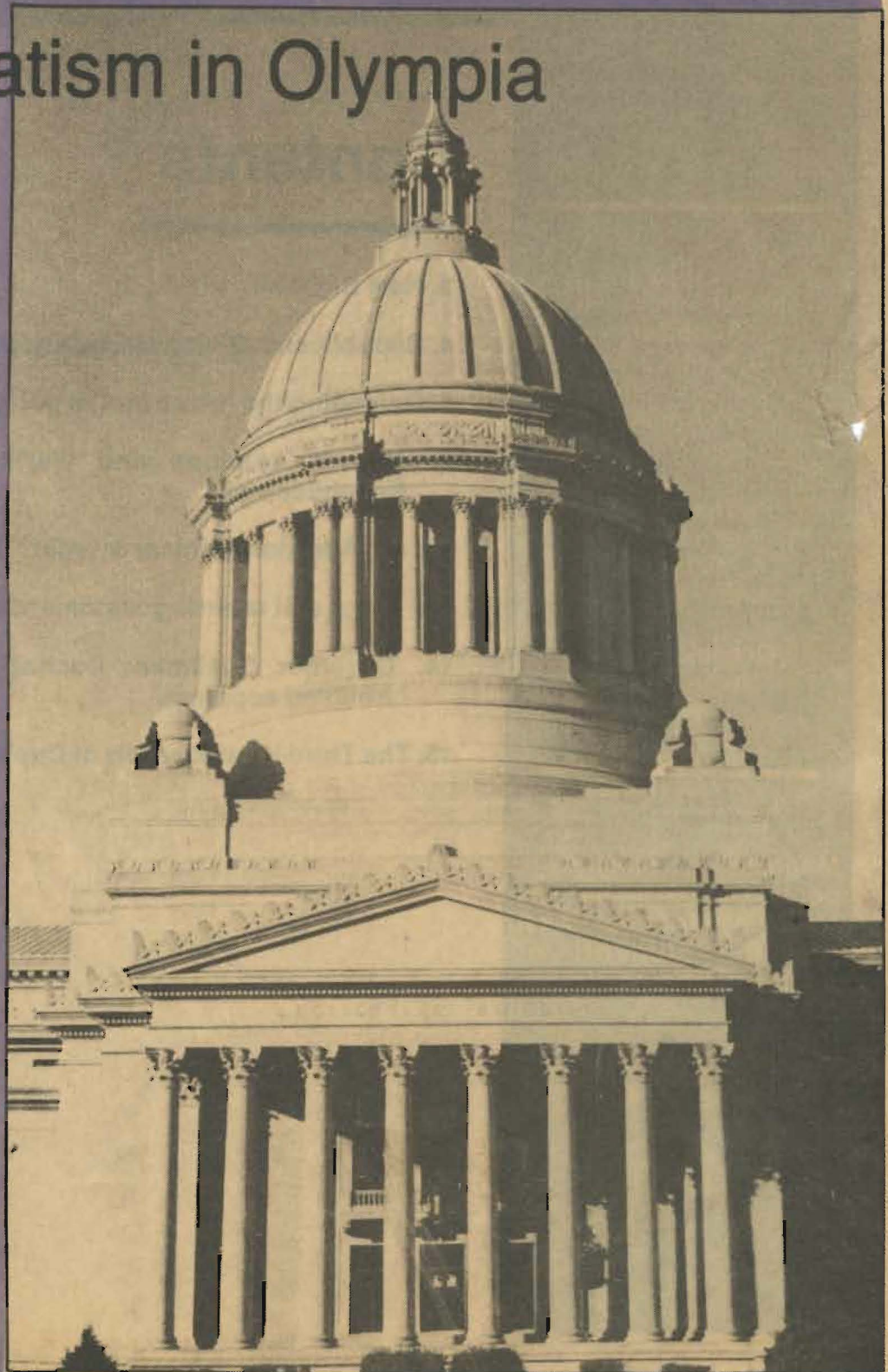
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Lobbyists strive for recognition on moral and political issues.

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Governor Spellman discusses the budget and programs he hopes will lead to the state's economic health.

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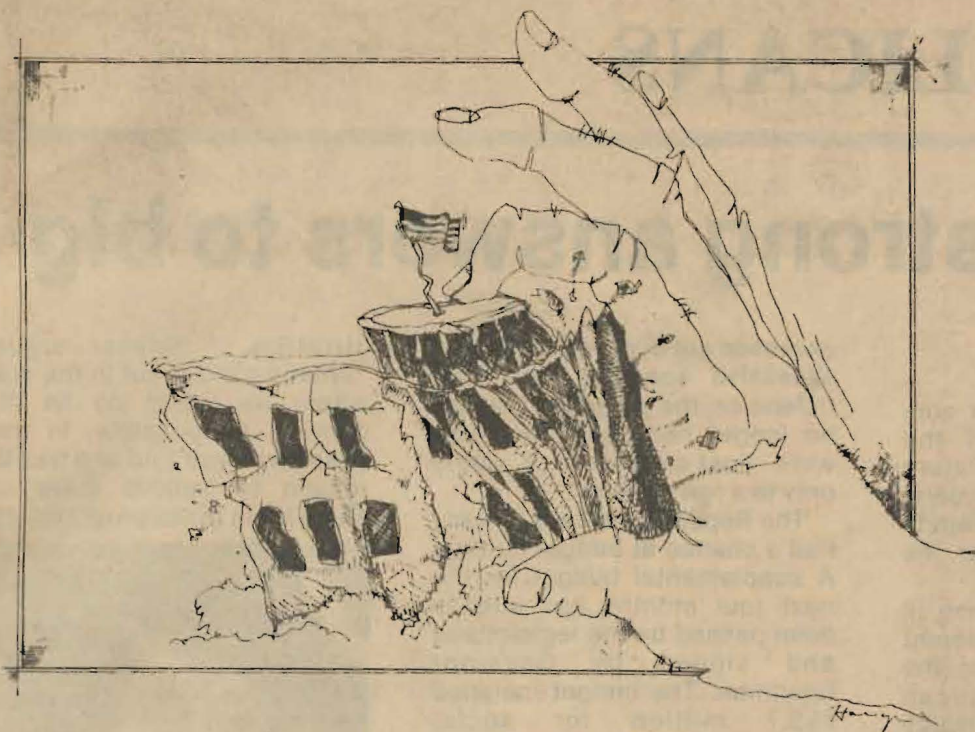
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New Right hits Washington

By Kathleen M. Hosfeld

The times they are 'a changin' for the state's legislators and lobbyist. The Senate majority switch, compliments of new Republican Pete Von Reichbauer, the influence of the Reagan administration and the growing momentum of lobbying groups like Moral Majority are all contributing to an increasingly conservative trend in Olympia.

Tensions between ousted Democrats and reigning Republicans, in addition to tension between Governor Spellman and "King" Bill Polk, Republican Speaker of the House, are not the only pressures that officials in the capitol face.

Riding on the wake of public turmoil over Gamscam and other scandals the consensus of legislators this year is that an important concern is to restore faith in elected officials.

Polk was quoted in a January *Seattle Times* article as saying, "One of our biggest challenges for the next two years is trying to

instill some confidence in leaders."

Republicans, pushing for strong cutbacks in spending are being confronted with the "moral" demands of catering to social programs.

According to Jeanette Hayner, Republican Senate majority leader, "Our real chore in the next four years is to determine what our excesses are in government..."

Following a typical, hard-line Republican lead, Polk has worked to cut spending for Chore serves, to allow private insurance companies into the state workman's compensation monopoly.

This week the usury issue surfaced with Republicans backing off on proposals to deregulate interest rates in the state, although the issue is expected to re-surface later.

This week Republican efforts on the usury issue were stalled when public opinion and Governor Spellman gave Republicans cause to back off on their plan to deregulate interest rates. The

issue is expected to re-surface later.

Democrats on the other side of both the House and Senate, charge that Republicans are making terrible political and moral mistakes, especially with social welfare cuts.

The budget continues to be a grappling point between the parties. According to the governor, despite campaign promises a tax increase may become necessary. Democrats, on the other hand, support a tax increase but are unwilling to support any such increase unless it is clearly a Republican move.

This week *Magazine* looks at the state legislature and the major issues and forces being dealt with this session.

While most of the major pieces of legislation will not be dealt with until the end of the session, the ground-work is now being laid.

The public will have to wait until the conclusion of the legislative session to begin to see the results of their new conservative trend.

REPUBLICANS

Giving strong answers to big

By Andy Baldwin

The Republicans are in control of both houses of the Washington State Legislature for the first time in 26 years. What directions will the Republican legislature take over the coming years?

"I think the new direction is probably not far too different than that of Congress at the national level," Republican Representative Shirley Winsley from District 28 said. "And that is less government support financially of social programs, and fewer government regulations."

Washington's legislative leaders agree. "We're going to be looking in-depth at a lot of the programs that are currently in existence." House Speaker William Polk, said. "We're going to be looking at the deregulation of business, industries, and people."



Andy Baldwin

"I voted against the budget because it did not have enough money in it to take care of the social needs."

Shirley Winsley

Washington's Senate Majority Leader Jeannette Hayner, said, "Our real chore in the next four years is to determine what our

excesses are in government: the excessive spending, the inefficiencies, the programs that are no longer necessary, or never were cost-effective, or apply only to a few people."

The Republicans have already had a chance at budget cutting. A supplemental budget for the next four months has already been passed by the legislatures and signed by Governor Spellman. The budget included \$90.7 million for social programs instead of the \$109.2 million requested by Governor Spellman and the \$109.1 million demanded by Democrats.

As a result, the supplemental budget has been heavily criti-

"We have to have a balanced budget in this state by Constitution."

cized by Democrats who feel it is too tough on the poor.

Democratic Senator Jim McDermott was quoted in the February 22 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* as describing the GOP's economic proposals and supplemental budget as turning the government's "war on poverty" into a "war on the poor, the sick, and the aged."

Even some Republicans believe the recent supplemental budget was too short on money for social programs. Representative Winsley, one of the four Republicans who voted against the supplemental budget, said, "I voted against the budget because it did not have enough money in it to take care of the social needs."

Republican leaders, however, strongly defended the budget.

"We have to have a balanced budget in this state by Con-

stitution..." Hayner argued. "What we did is cut in the areas where we could do as little damage as possible. In most cases we were told and had this reason to believe there was some fat in those programs, that



"Our choice is to either raise taxes or cut programs or both."

Jeannette Hayner

there were some abuses in the system."

Referring to McDermott's remarks Hayner said, "Jim McDermott fails to realize that things have changed. People are not willing to turn over all their income to the federal and state government."

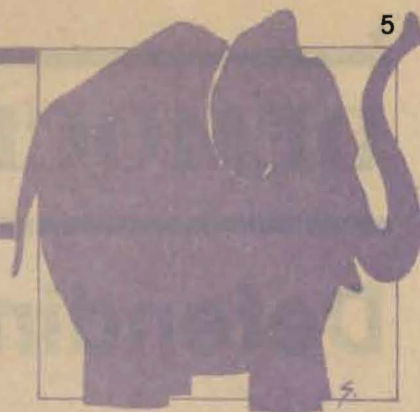
Polk argued that the supplemental budget was generous.

"Look at in reality how much money has been appropriated for those areas. A huge amount has gone into welfare programs," he said.

The Republican legislators are now planning the budget for the next two years.

"Our choice is to either raise taxes or cut programs or both," said Hayner. "Actually we're going to do a little of both."

The Republicans are planning to raise some usury taxes, such as tuition in state universities,



problems

the tax on gas, and license fees as well as trim government programs.

"There certainly will be higher tuition," Polk said. "There is likely to be a different gas tax."

"Now, the tuition for a year at the University of Washington is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$675," said Hayner. "[Our proposal] would increase it to something over \$800, which is still very low when you compare it to any private school in the country...I want to keep tuition at a level so the private school can survive. If we keep tuition very low and support them totally or substantially by taxpayer funds what we do is drive the private schools right out of business."

However, with the higher tuition in state schools the Republicans believe it is likely that more student loans will be available.

"In the public higher education system there is likely to be greater loan availability," said Polk.

Both the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader in the Senate say there is no likelihood of an increase in the sales or income tax.

Environmental protection laws will also be "tightened up" to provide "some balance between a healthy economy and the environment," said Hayner.

Polk argued that Washington's environmental laws can "be made to work better." There are "an awful lot of problems with environmental laws right now," he said.

The legislature will continue its support for nuclear power and the majority leaders say that an agreement will be made with neighboring states to store

their nuclear waste if they take some of Washington's toxic wastes.

"However, it's very clear that we're not going to become the burial ground for every state in the union," Hayner said.

Will funds for welfare abortions be cut? Legislators don't agree.

"I think the sentiment exists today to cast that program out," said Polk. "My feeling is that if it came to a vote it would be terminated."

Winsley and Hayner aren't so certain abortion funding will be cut off. To terminate abortion

funding would be costly to the state, they say, because a large number of infants would be added to the welfare rolls. Hayner and Winsley point out that such a move might not go over too well in a cost-conscious legislature.

The Republican leaders believe that times have changed—that government no longer has the solution to all the problems of life.

"I don't think anyone expects government to remove all the risks out of living and provide them with cradle-to-grave everything," said Hayner. "That's not our form of government."



House Speaker William Polk: "There certainly will be higher tuition."

DEMOCRATS

Defending the future for the po

By Marci Ameluxen

Democrats are out of the majority power in the Washington legislature this year and party leaders in both the House and Senate are concerned for the state's future under current Republican guidance.

"I think the Republicans have made a terrible political and moral mistake," said Senate minority leader R. Ted Bottiger (D-Tacoma), referring to decisions like budget cuts in welfare and social service programs made in a supplemental budget signed in last month.



"I think the Republicans have made a terrible political and moral mistake."

Ted Bottiger

"I see hard times ahead," said Senator Barney Goltz (D-Bellingham), "with lots of people unemployed, a return to a low poverty level among the population, and lots of ramifications to all that, including social unrest which will hit hardest minorities and poorly trained people in urban areas."

A \$235.97 million supplemental budget was passed in February to maintain some state programs until the new biennial

budget goes into effect July 1. But the added funding included drastic cuts for some social service programs, including mental health programs, chore services for the handicapped and the elderly, social security minimum benefits; it also completely eliminated monies for other programs, like Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Employable (AFDCE), General Assistance Non-Continuing, and federal medical programs.

Loan subsidies and grants for college students will also be pared, as well as a \$220 million cut in vocational and technical education.

All Democrats (legislators) interviewed believe this decreased emphasis on social programs is the result of a conservative trend in Washington influenced by national politics, though different reasons are cited as the cause of the trend.

"Yes, there is a conservative trend running in the country," said Goltz. "Inflation, as the number one issue, was so fright-



"My guess is that had the Republicans had as inept a governor as on our ticket, they would have lost the chair too."

Bud Shinpoch

ening because no one knew how to deal with it. The Republicans articulated that they knew better how to deal with it. A simple two or three points were hammered on, and they [Washington Republicans] did a superior job of bringing in the dollars. The points were: cut government spending, fight inflation, and get government off the backs of the people."



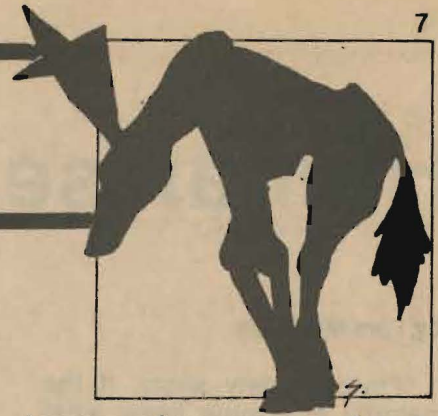
"The response I've received has been overwhelmingly opposed to the cuts made in social services."

Wayne Ehlers.

"The Republicans were successful at labeling Democrats as big spenders and that the [Lyndon] Johnson programs of the 'Great Society' were not making changes," said Senator Bud Shinpoch (D-Renton).

But some legislators feel that the voting in of more Republicans did not express a desire to adopt conservative ideals, but rather a desire for change.

"There was a demonstrated ineptitude from the chief executive at both the state and federal levels," said Shinpoch. "But my guess is that had the Republicans had as inept a governor as on our ticket, they



or, the sick, elderly

would have lost the chair too. It has nothing to do with philosophy."



"You can have cuts or you can have the services but you can't have both."

Helen Sommers

"The people were not advocating a conservative cause," said Bottiger. "The majority of people said that they were concerned about taxes, but when the cuts in welfare aid were actually made they said 'That's not what we meant.'"

An increase in religiously oriented lobbyist groups may or may not be a factor in a conservative trend, the legislators said.

"Groups like the Moral Majority are well funded and have a lot of impact," said Goltz. "And you can bet that they have an effect on the success of political candidates."

"The surveys which the Moral Majority sponsor [which rate candidates according to their stands on issues] do not have great impact on elections," said Shinpoch. "And in my opinion they [the Moral Majority] are neither moral nor a majority."

The tradition of separation of church and state is one that should be continued, said Goltz.

"If the church starts to sup-

port specific candidates [with monetary contributions] then the state starts funding those religions and repressing others," he said.

Response to the curtailment and elimination of social service programs has been almost all negative, the legislators said.

"The response I've received has been overwhelmingly opposed to the cuts made in social services," said Representative Wayne Ehlers (D-Tacoma). "And I think the cuts are not only unwise from a human point of view, but also from the taxpayers' point of view because it will cost them more in the long run."

"[Governor] Spellman is sending us the problems but not any of the money."

"For instance, without the aid of the chore services an elderly or handicapped person cannot live at home on their own, and will go on public assistance. The state would be paying \$1,000 a month to support that person in a nursing home versus \$150-160 a month for chore services. That's not cost effective and it creates a false economy," he said.

Goltz agrees, saying that providing services such as job skill training, child care and other programs which can build self-confidence and independence will be to the benefit of the state.

"If we invest in human resources the state will get that money back many times over," he said.

But decreased support from the federal level combined with policy coming from the governor's office will make main-

tenance of programs and success of Democratic ideas very difficult.

"[Governor] Spellman is sending us the problems but not any of the money," said Bottiger, "and it's creating a horrendous situation, with the federal government making block grants to states then pulling out."



"If we invest in human resources the state will get that money back many times over."

Barney Goltz

"The states don't have the capacity to expand services if the federal government hands them an extra load," said Representative Helen Sommers (D-Seattle). "You can have cuts or you can have the services but you can't have both."

A second supplemental budget will have to be implemented to replace funding in some threatened programs, said the legislators. Democrats will be pushing for more money for vocational-technical education, prisons, chore services, AFDC, and mental health services.

"But it won't be the Democrats who ask for a second supplemental budget," commented Bottiger.

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Human services and welfare pro

By Tom McCrady

"I'm extremely angry. If the majority of people knew what was going on, they would favor an equitable tax increase."

Kay Thode, a lobbyist for the Seattle Urban League, says in very bitter terms that both state and federal budget cuts in social services were wrong and that "we're putting people out to starve just to please some politicians."

A \$235.97 million supplementary budget signed into law by the Washington legislature in February set aside \$98.83 million for human services, including adult corrections, mental health, developmental disability, community social services, and nursing homes.

But Republican Representative Rod Chandler, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said Washington state budget cuts would have happened even if the Federal government wasn't also swinging the axe on public programs.

"I'm extremely angry. If the majority of people knew what was going on, they would favor an equitable tax increase."

"To continue on with what we were doing would have required an increase of a billion dollars in taxes," Chandler said.

Budget cuts in the social services are happening now because "the mood across the country is that the 'Great Society' programs of Lyndon Johnson were largely ineffective, or so much more expensive [than they were worth]," said Chandler. "There needed to be a real hard look at dismantling all or part of that program.

"And I think there was a high level of frustration on the part of the people with the runaway



cost of government, the perception that there are a lot of people who chose to live off of government rather than making it on their own. Government had stopped guaranteeing opportunity and was guaranteeing the result—a living, security, so forth. And that's not what a free society wants or needs.

Chandler says the state doesn't have enough money for the social services because Olympia granted tax cuts amounting to about \$1 billion in the last five years, and because of increases in other spending requirements, primarily for the state's public schools.

According to Chandler, the state's supplementary budget cut such welfare programs as Aid to Families with Dependent

Children (AFDC), General Assistance Non-Continuing, and Federal Assistance Medical Care Only (FAMCO).

In addition, the legislature cut \$46,000 from Vocational Rehabilitation, \$1.764 million from Juvenile Rehabilitation, \$1.955 million from Public Health, and Administrative and Support Services was cut by \$3.244 million.

However, Chandler said that he still isn't satisfied with the "justification documentation" of the mental health program.

"We aren't satisfied," he explained, that "everything is being done as the local level that can be done for the mentally handicapped. The emphasis is supposed to be on community mental health and

grams feeling the Republican ax

yet we see these more severe people given up on by the local community health people."

Chandler admitted that he didn't know enough about community mental health to know if it's justified or not.

Meanwhile, agencies representing public interests, lobbyists, and welfare recipients themselves are making it known to the legislature that they strongly disagree with the social services and cuts, and one agency has recently won two court battles.

Pat McIntyre, spokesperson for the Evergreen Legal Services of Seattle, said two of the three lawsuits they have filed against the state of Washington have resulted in temporary restraining orders.

Evergreen Legal Services is suing Washington on behalf of low income groups, attempting to force the state to restore the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the Medically Needy Program, and the Continuing General Assistance Program. The latter two won temporary restraining orders.

On March 3, approximately 400 low-income people staged a rally in the capitol building, to protest the welfare cuts. To help illustrate their point, the protesters set up a bread and soup line on the capitol steps.

Christine Marston, representing the Snohomish County Welfare Rights group, told the protesters that "Regardless of what the Representatives in the state House and Senate say, what they are doing is cutting away programs that are the lifeline to millions who will become sicker, colder and hungrier."

Kay Thode told the *Mooring Mast* that the legislators are not addressing the real cause of inflation. "It's not the welfare payments. It's energy and the

military spending increases. Heck, of the \$700 billion federal budget, only 4.1 percent of it is for direct money grants on welfare. Only \$15 billion."

With the budget cuts welfare won't amount to 4.1 percent of the federal budget, Thode said.

However, Representative Chandler said it is quite difficult to decide what to cut when trimming the state budget.

"With all the documentation I can get on a particular program," he explained, "I am never quite sure what's fat and what's meat. This year the fiscal crisis is so severe that we had to cut entire programs. Now, one man's fat is another man's

We've also had sizeable program improvements over the last 15-20 years. The legislature would add a program this year, another the next year. They probably didn't know what they were doing at the time. Their budget balanced at the time."

Chandler did not favor totally phasing out the welfare program.

"If a person just has no other alternative, cannot make it on their own, then I think Social Services ought to step in. We have a responsibility to help out people like that, like the blind and the disabled.

"But I think we've made a mistake over the years when we

"This year the fiscal crisis is so severe that we had to cut entire programs. Now, one man's fat is another man's meat of course, but there is no question that we went right to the bone."

Rod Chandler

meat, of course, but there is no question that we went right to the bone.

"In other programs, such as the Chore Services, we were accused of massive cuts. Actually, what we did was we set up a program a few years ago and budgeted for it. But it just completely exceeded any thought of how much we had intended to spend on it. So with expenditures exceeding revenue coming in, it had to be reduced back within the limits we had originally set. We added another \$16 million to Chore Services."

Chandler said welfare spending has increased so dramatically over the years because case loads have increased, programs have expanded, and the state population has grown.

"But mainly it has been the result of the downturn in the economy," he said. "People were working and they aren't now. So they're on welfare.

assumed more and more responsibility for people and allowed them to assume less and less. The result has been that they've become dependent on government. This is a free society. We should have everyone free to the greatest extent possible. Some people just don't want to work, and if that's the case, fine, but I don't think that it should be the state's responsibility to support them."

But according to Thode, "the percent who abuse the welfare program is so very small that it is a miracle to me that more don't cheat—the amount they get is so small."

She said the average time a two-parent family stays on welfare is between four and five months. A single parent usually stays on welfare for thirteen months.

But Chandler said that some individuals "have become fat and lazy. They have not been

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Are abortions ethical or legal?

By Sandy Williams

Heavy lobbying continues in Olympia over the abortion issue where three House bills are still in committees after over a month of debate.

Pro-life proponents filed two bills affecting abortion and pushing to withdraw state public-assistance funds for abortions in February.

House Bill 226, or the "informed consent" bill, would require that physicians discuss with Patients the characteristics of the fetus, the physical dangers and risks of abortion, and alternatives. The physician would then have to certify in writing the woman's consent to have her abortion.

House Bill 149 gives infants born alive in an abortion process the same rights to medical treatment as an infant born prematurely.

According to constituents on both sides of the issue, the hottest debate has been over a third bill filed in February, House Bill 492 (HB 492), relating to social and health services.

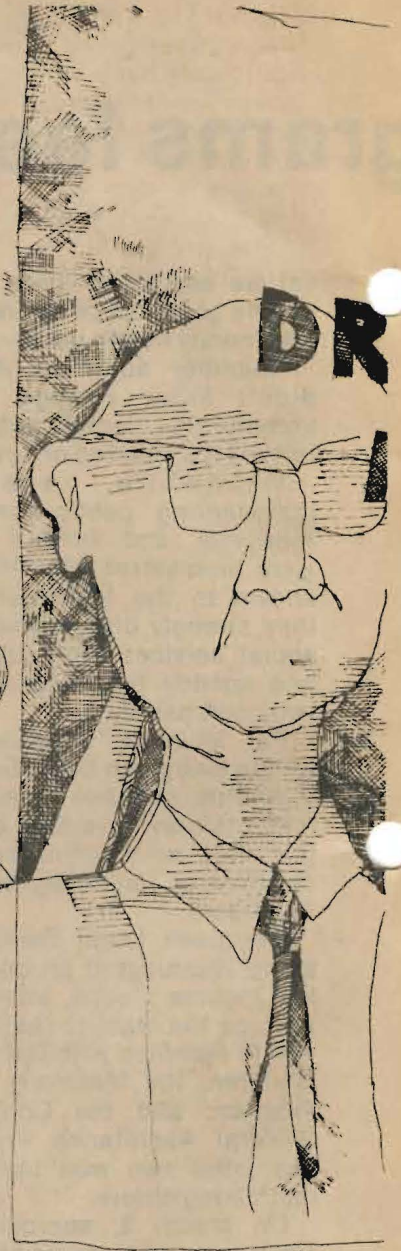
HB 492 "masks the abortion issue," said House Representative Joanne Brekke (D), hiding it behind amendments concerning chore-services, personal and household care, the in-school dental rinse program, and medical assistance.

Section two of HB 492 reads: "Medical assistance may be provided in accordance with eligibility requirements established by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), provided, however, that nothing in this section

"Abortions"

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No Questions
asked.



shall be construed to permit the granting of medical care services where the purpose of such services is to obtain an abortion, induced miscarriage, or induced premature birth."

HB 492 does list exceptions, allowing the abortion procedure when it "is necessary for the preservation of the life of a woman" or when "an induced premature birth intended to produce a live, viable child...is necessary for the health of the mother or her unborn child."

Rape and incest are also exceptions, and victims would be

able to obtain an abortion if the violation was reported to authorities within thirty days.

Brekke sees a split in government over this issue with the Republicans more likely to support constraints on abortion. Brekke is pro-choice.

"I don't have the right to impose choice on someone else," she said.

The pro-choice side fears the future will mean a world in which a woman is required by law to nourish the product of egg and sperm that chance to meet, and to bear a child

whether she wants it or not. For the desperate woman who would dare have an illegal (and probably unsafe) abortion, even to prevent the birth of a child doomed to a short, pain-filled life, the charge would be murder.

The pro-life side envisions genocide, with abortion a first step to a future in which groups of unwanted are destroyed selectively—first the unborn, then perhaps the deformed, the old, the infirm, and members of particular races or religions.

Pro-life contends that the unborn child is a human being from the moment it loses its identity as ovum and sperm (i.e. from the moment of conception). Ken VanDerhoef, president of Human Life, the statewide Right-to-Life organization, said, "To say that it's not a human being, is, I think, intellectually dishonest. Maybe I don't value that human being because it's little, and I can't see it. But if you see pictures, it's absolutely clear that it has everything at six weeks that it's ever going to have.

"To say that it is a nonperson

Pro-life contends that the unborn child is a human being from the moment it loses its identity as ovum and sperm.

because it needs to be in the mother, that it needs those systems to survive—that doesn't change personhood; that's just a reality of where it lives."

For pro-choice people the issue is freedom. Lee Minto, director of the Seattle-King County chapter of Planned Parenthood, one of the groups working to defend what they call "a woman's right to reproductive freedom," said, "I think the freedom to make a choice is the thing that we feel so strongly about. People, regardless of their income level, ought to be able to effect a choice that's consistent with their own conscience, not Ken VanDerhoef's or anyone else's."

Pro-choicers point out that with regard to the informed consent bill there is no law requiring a physician to discuss with a

woman the potential dangers of childbirth.

The key issue is state-funding of abortions as presented by HB 492. "The issue is primarily not whether or not abortion should be stopped but it is a matter of economic discrimination," Brekke said.

Since August 1977, low-income women have not been able to get federal assistance for elective abortions while wealthier women are not impeded in their right to choose. Medicaid had been paying for three of every ten abortions (about 250,000 in 1976) until August when a federal court allowed the Hyde Amendment passed by Congress in 1976 to take effect.

That court decision was prompted by a Supreme Court ruling in June 1977 that governments are not required by the Constitution to finance abortions for indigent women.

Congress revised the 1977 Medicaid funding restriction allowing abortion funding only when the mother's life would be endangered by carrying the fetus to term, when two doctors agree that damage to her physical health would be severe and long-lasting, or when rape or incest has been reported promptly to the authorities.

While federal funds have been cut off, 17 states (as of January 1978) have chosen to continue funding abortions for low-income women through the Medicaid program.

Pro-choicers say fiscal impact of abortion funds in Washington state deal with cost choice: funding abortions is, in the long run, cheaper than funding live births.

In fiscal year 1980, the state paid for 5,307 legal abortions for low-income women at a cost of \$1,126,000. (Data from Assistant Secretary, Management Services, DSHS, December 1980.)

If compulsory childbirth had been forced upon these women, and, of necessity, they enrolled on welfare, the cost to the state in one year for each pregnancy would have been: \$1,487 for pregnancy and delivery, plus \$4,332 for welfare for mother and child. (These figures do not

include costs such as food stamps, housing subsidy, administrative costs, medical expenses or post-natal care for low birth weight and problem babies, day care, etc.)

The cost for 5,307 cases of pregnancy, delivery and welfare for mother and child totals \$30,881,433. The savings to the state in one year would thus total \$29,755,433.

Brekke said she sees a changing direction in fundamental activities of legislators, specifically, eliminated aid and budget conflicts. Budget problems, she said, are due to "the growth and proliferation of government programs" and to the partial distress among people over social programs. She said it is hard to draw limitations due to the shifting ethics of people and there is "more willingness to take advantage of social programs because they exist, not just because they are needed."

She said voters have turned to easy offers from the right which sound good on the surface but in actuality show contradictions, especially regarding costs. The public's desire to constrain and cut out social programs stems from a desire to look in new directions.

In her district (32), 65 percent of her constituents surveyed expressed to her, "yes, consider state funding of abortion." Eighty-seven percent said, "yes, support pregnancy prevention in public education curriculum," and 80 percent said, "yes, secondary schools should provide parenting skills in education."

On the national scene, pro-life workers proposed the "Human Life" Amendment which would amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit legal abortion altogether.

Pro-choicers contend that a Human Life Amendment implies: a woman who suffers a miscarriage could be charged with manslaughter or negligent homicide, and a fetus could be considered a dependent under the income tax laws and could inherit property.

The Moral Majority

'Moral salt government

By Kathleen M. Hosfeld

Michael Farris, director of Washington's chapter of Moral Majority, says that the lobbying group's purpose is not to evangelize via legislation but rather to be an extension of the church which works to retard corruption in society.

"Basically, it is an education/lobbying organization. Our purpose is to raise people's consciousness about issues and effectively lobby for the kinds of positions we hold in the state legislature and other governmental units we touch

here in the state," he said.

"Our positions are summed up in a three-point, pro-life, pro-moral, pro-family statement of belief. Pro-life is fairly well understood. Pro-moral is the area of homosexuality, pornography, legalization of marijuana, gambling, prostitution...Pro-family gets into the area of the Juvenile Justice Act, the ERA..."

As part of what theologian Martin E. Marty called the "New Christian Right," Farris described Moral Majority as "Christian-oriented" but not necessarily Christian.

"We have Jewish members.

We have members who believe in reincarnation...So it's morally affiliated rather than theological," he said.

Although the leadership and constituency of the group is largely Christian, Farris said that "we are looking for the end result rather than how they arrive at the end result."

Farris explained that one member of the group is a reincarnationist who believes that abortion is wrong because it interferes with the reincarnation process.

"He's just as welcome as anybody else," said Farris.

The kinds of people who join Moral Majority are varied, according to Farris.

Farris said an estimate would be that 80 percent of his constituency were evangelicals or fundamentalists. Churches which fall under that category are "just about anybody who isn't in the National Council of Churches," he said.

Of those Farris mentioned as participating church members he numbered Nazarenes, Mormons, Wisconsin and Missouri Synod Lutherans and Baptists, adding that there are about as many kinds of Baptists as General Motors make cars.

Moral Majority is neither totally Christian nor is it new, according to Farris.

Although he said, "It's new in the way that it's been organized," the rapid growth of the group in this state indicates to him that the sentiment behind the organization could not have been new.

Farris was involved in Moral Majority-like organizations for five years.

"My impetus for joining is that I saw my fellow evangelical fundamentalists weren't out there fighting the fight [for moral principles]. It was being won through the Catholics and the



Mike Larson

Michael Farris, director of Washington's Moral Majority: "Some people want to know if we use Moral Majority as a witnessing tool. That's not true...We're trying to be the salt of the earth."

corruption'

Mormons and we believe in those principles every bit as much as they do. There are more of us and we weren't coming to their aid."

The leadership of the organization which is composed of Christian members sees the group as an arm of the church.

"Some people want to know if we use Moral Majority as a witnessing tool. That's not true. To use a biblical analogy, we're not trying to use it to be a subtle light of the earth. We're trying to be the salt of the earth. Salt has a different function," he said.

"The analogy is that the light can spread the gospel but the salt retards corruption," he said.

"People talk too much like bumper stickers and talk too little like the Constitution."

Farris said that the focus of the state-level organization as well is similar but slightly different from the national organization. The state level has a heavier emphasis on lobbying while the national organization works on education about issues and candidates.

The organizational structures between the state and national groups is "very independent" according to Farris.

"We don't share finance, we don't share mailing lists, we don't share board members. We don't share much of anything except information," he said.

The state chapter has the right to use the name Moral Majority but may not oppose the national chapter's stand on issues, said Farris. The state chapter has the right to avoid issues such as defense spending, Farris said.

Farris was quoted last fall as saying that Moral Majority doesn't promote candidates, but rather principles.

He explained the statement, "Candidates change. We don't endorse candidates because we aren't able to say we like everything about this guy. To us a candidate is a collection of potential votes and we only have a certain section of votes that we are concerned about as an organization," he said.

"We don't endorse candidates because we aren't able to say we like everything about this guy."

"A candidate is just a servant of the people. We're concerned about specific legislation. Elections are just the warm-up for the legislative session," he said.

This support of legislation instead of candidates prevents political trade-offs between candidates and lobbyists, according to Farris.

The objections of people to Moral Majority's actions which are based on the "separation of church and state" issue are erroneous, according to Farris.

"People talk too much like bumper stickers and talk too little like the Constitution. The Constitution doesn't even use the phrase 'separation of church and state.' It's really an erroneous philosophy the way it's being applied today. What the Constitution says is that we shall not have the establishment of religion nor shall we deny the free exercise thereof," he said.

Farris gives Moral Majority credit for 125,000 votes in the last state election.

Farris said that every law has a moral basis and the parallel of a law to biblical principles does not necessarily make the law a step towards the state's establishment of a religion.

Moral Majority's power and influence in the state is

significant and "important" according to Farris.

In response to one legislator's statement that Moral Majority is neither moral nor a majority, Farris said:

"You can make judgments about whether we're moral or not. I don't care about that. But I think the last election proves we're a majority."

"The majority of the state legislators agreed with all ten, every single issue we put in our candidates' surveys," said Farris.

According to Farris, the Moral Majority stand against the ERA extension was endorsed by Republicans 26 to 1 and by the Democrats 3 to 1.

"A three-to-one margin is just overwhelming in politics," he said.

Farris noted similar support of pornography legislation in 1977.

He also said that the Harris poll which came out prior to the national election was the only

"I think the last election proves we're a majority."

poll which did not predict a close race and his prediction was based on the effects of groups like Moral Majority.

Farris gives Moral Majority credit for 125,000 votes in the last state election with a third of those comprised of novice voters.

"We were registering people to vote in churches. Easter morning at Clove Creek Baptist here in Tacoma a couple hundred people registered."

Of the positions Farris mentioned, he said the pro-family would be the main target for the future.

"Parents' rights is probably going to be the issue of the

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Dealing with partisan feuds, troubled economy

By Andy Baldwin

In addition to a new Republican legislature, Washington has a new Republican governor. What new directions will Governor John Spellman take the state of Washington in the next few years?

"First of all we're going to try to get the state out of the financial hold and attempt to assist in getting the economy moving so that we won't repeat the mistakes of the last four years," Spellman said in a March 2 interview.

"Hopefully we'll establish a base of programs which we'll be able to fund from current revenues which are supported by a healthy economy," he said.

Last month the Republican legislature approved a supplemental budget which included \$90.7 million for social programs instead of the \$109.2 million requested by the governor.

Does Spellman see any problems in working with the legislature?

"There are always problems," said Spellman. "But none insurmountable."

The supplemental budget signed by Spellman has been heavily criticized by Democrats for not including enough money for social programs. The February 22 *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* quoted Senator Jim McDermott as saying that GOP economic proposals and the supplemental budget signed by Spellman were turning the government's "war on poverty" into a "war on the poor, the sick and the aged."

In response to such criticism Spellman said, "The real problem is the result of past programs...I'm trying to dig us out of these problems that have been created by these past policies and I don't want to get



Governor John Spellman: getting the state out of the financial hold.

our way out."

The governor and legislature are presently working on the next biennium budget. Will state college tuition be raised to help pay for this new budget?

"I recommended what I call a modest increase in tuition and more or less a status quo student loan program. But there

"I don't see a general tax increase at this point, but it is not beyond the realm of possibility."

is lots of talk about much higher tuition, which would require, in my opinion, a higher student loan program."

Will the state continue to fund abortions for mothers on welfare?

"I don't really know," said Spellman. "It would be pure guesswork to tell you if they would pass it. I favor maintaining the present program the state has."

Will taxes be increased to balance the new biennium budget?

"Very little if any," said Governor Spellman. "It's too early to tell....One reason it's too

early to tell is that the federal budget really hasn't been submitted yet, and we keep getting different figures almost every day to the extent that the federal budget continues to slice into what I call the vital programs at the state level...

"I don't see a general tax increase at this point but it is not beyond the realm of possibility," he said.

Spellman said he will push for additional energy sources "including nuclear, to the extent that it is economically feasible."

Spellman said he was also working on a plan to deal with nuclear waste.

"I'm attempting to work out with Oregon a compact under which we will dispose of their nuclear waste since they are disposing of our hazardous and toxic wastes. I feel that is more than a fair trade. I think we probably will explore with Idaho and maybe a couple of other adjoining states some regional disposal grounds. And it will continue to be at the Hanford site," he said.

Does Spellman have a plan to

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help the economy?

"Yes," said Spellman. "We have a lot of them really. One of the ones I'm working on is called the Local Economic Development Act, which is industrial development revenue bonds, and it's an attempt to make this state competitive with the other 49 which have the ability to offer tax-free financing for new industry or expanding industries."

How does Governor Spellman sum up his goals for the state of Washington?

"I would like to direct the state of Washington towards a policy of providing the basic needs for those truly in need; educational, social, and other needs," Spellman said, "while to the maximum extent promoting the free and vigorous economy with the minimal necessary governmental interference."

The Third House: a view of Capitol Hill from the lobby

By Marci Ameluxen

The Washington legislature is composed of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Third House: the lobbyists who wine, dine and pester the legislators to either act favorably on a bill or bring down the axe to kill it.

Lobbyists this year have some definite, if varied, concerns.

Dick Van Wagenen, a lawyer Association of Washington State Legal Services Programs, is working hard to dull the blow of the welfare cuts to an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 people in Washington.

"All but the elderly and the totally disabled are feeling 15 to 20 percent cuts in their welfare grants this year and with Governor Ray's cuts of last year, that totals 20 to 25 percent cuts," he said.

"I'm anticipating an increase in suicides from mentally ill people whose health programs are affected, and the DSHS [Department of Social and Health Services] predicts 30 percent of the families receiving AFDC [Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Employable] will break up as a result of the cuts. That's what happened in Oregon when they made similar changes in their

budget."

Van Wagenen says one suicide in February in North King County has been related to notice of the income cuts.

A premium tax increase is what concerns Legislative Assistant Greg Zoro and Safeco Corporation, which he represents.

Safeco has a major investment in the insurance business, though most of the insurances sold in Washington is sold by



Marci Ameluxen

"I'm anticipating an increase in suicides from mentally ill people whose health programs are affected [by budget cuts]."

Dick Van Wagenen

companies domicile in other states, Zoro said. Safeco, domicile in Washington, sells 14 percent of the insurance here, but shares 25 percent of the tax

obligation, he said.

"Now, foreign [insurance] companies are taxed by Washington state at two percent. The proposal is to raise that to 2.5 percent. The state estimates that that will bring in \$15.6 million over the next two years."

But, says Zoro, a retaliatory tax is applied among states that would make sure that Washington does not tax a foreign insurance company more than a company domicile to Washington (such as Safeco) is taxed in another state. Thus, if Washington raises its foreign company tax, the 33 other states in which Safeco does business will raise their tax on Safeco accordingly. The same would happen for Washington's other 42 domestic insurance companies which would mean a combined pay-out of an extra \$8 million.

"For every \$1 coming in, 50 cents goes out," said Zoro. "In addition, of the 993 foreign

"You can't play by 1968 rules in 1981."

companies, many will say that it is not worth staying in Washington with the additional tax, and they will move out. The state will not raise the \$15.6 million anticipated, and probably quite less."

But Van Wagenen does not think that higher taxes will make problems worse.

"All these cuts are being done because of one central myth: that we are overtaxed at the state level. We're ninth highest in median income level, and well below in the state and federal tax burden. We have the most regressive tax system in the U.S. and we're the only state that does not tax intangible property, such as stocks and bonds. If we taxed this, we would generate enough revenue to restore some cuts to the poorest."

Bob Shults represents 49 Washington savings and loan institutions, which would like to see the state's usury rate changed.

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In addition Democrats are also in agreement that some sort of tax increase will have to be initiated to relieve the billion dollar shortage the state now faces. According to Sommers, Spellman has proposed two changes in property tax assessment which, in her view, amount to tax increases.

"And when the federal government cuts aid to states, which is what we balance our budget on, we have to pass on the responsibility to local tax payers," said Ehlers.

"Spellman convinced the voters that McDermott was a big spender," said Goltz, "but Spellman will be begging for a

tax increase soon."

A substantial number of his constituents have told Ehlers that they would favor a graduated net income tax or increased sales tax as an answer to the state's fiscal problems.

Ehlers favors a three-prong approach to saving money, by prioritizing within the existing budget, reevaluating property tax loopholes, and increasing productivity, getting more from government employees and the system.

If the Democrats were in the majority, Goltz thinks they would favor an increase in business and occupation (B and O) taxes, sales tax, and the elimination of some tax breaks to corporations.

Social Services, cont. from page 9

held responsible for their own actions. A young girl that gets pregnant today keeps her baby. A few years ago when the welfare options weren't anywhere near as open, they didn't keep those babies. They put them up for adoption. Then they went back to school. Not anymore. They're quitting school, having these babies, staying on welfare. That just doesn't make any sense to me at all."

Thode said that 42 percent of the heads of the house in two-parent families who receive AFDC have less than a high school education.

Kate Foreman, senior fiscal analyst for the council, said that during her interviews with

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"Everybody knows that with high prices and inflation [a bank] can't make loans at 12 percent [interest] when paying 14.6 percent to people with savings accounts," Shults said.

Financial institutions are having to turn away people who are seeking home improvement loans for tax credit purposes.

"We have to tell people that if they want to insulate their homes they have to go to small loan companies—who charge sky-high rates—when they should be going with established financial institutions."

"The 12 percent [interest] lid was made in 1968 when we had an inflation rate of 4.5 percent. You can't play by 1968 rules in 1981."

Van Wagenen commented that there are two differences between lobbyists for the poor and "big business" lobbyists: access to money, and organized constituencies.

"Low income people notoriously have bad organization, they don't have a large voting turnout, and they're not good at writing letters," he said. "Many can't afford the 15 cents for a stamp."

One of the biggest mistakes the Republicans have made as the majority party is to make across-the-board cuts without specifying who wins or who loses.

"It's irresponsible to put arbitrary ceilings on agencies and leave it to them to decide where to make the cuts," he said.

Moral Majority, cont. from page 13

1980s," he said. This issue in particular will be of interest to the group because, according to Farris, "we're seeing an increasing battle over who owns the kids. The battle is presently between government agencies, particularly social workers and the public schools and parents."

Farris noted that one case which he said was in the state

supreme court and would probably go on the U.S. Supreme Court dealt with the right of the state to interfere in the parent/child relationship for "no other reason than that there is a dispute in the family over reasonable rules."

"Only in cases of physical abuse and neglect should that [relationship] be interfered with," he said.



"It was a real crisis situation. There's no other way to describe it. Swift and stern measures had to be taken."

Rod Chandler

federal, state, and local officials, she was given the impression that everyone thought Congress and the State Legislature would consider veterans' benefits and human services as basic commitments which must remain intact.

Meanwhile, welfare recipients, lobbyists, and the majority of Democrats are screaming to restore the welfare cuts.

"I would have been interested to see how the Democrats, had they been in the position of responsibility, would have handled it differently," said Chandler. "It was a real crisis situation. There's no other way to describe it. Swift and stern measures had to be taken."

I think we were as responsible as we could possibly be under the circumstances."