

Senate Redistricting June 4, 1991 Page These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks

report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

June 4, 1991Hearing Room "B" 3:00 p.m. Tapes 52 - 53

MEMBERS PRESENT:Sen. Glenn Otto, Chair Sen. Dick Springer, Vice-Chair Sen. John Brenneman Sen. Jim Bunn Sen. Scott Duff Sen. Mae Yih

MEMBERS EXCUSED:Sen. Bill Bradbury

STAFF PRESENT: Gail Ryder, Senior Committee Administrator Joan Green, Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2490 - Relating to campaign finance, PH/WS

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TAPE 52, SIDE A

005 CHAIR OTTO: Called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

(TAPE 52, SIDE A)

PUBLIC HEARING

HB 2490 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Witnesses:Mari Anne Gest, Oregon School Employees Association Denise McPhail, Portland General Electric Chuck Bennett, Oregon Chiropractic Physicians' Association and Oregon Psychological Association: Greg Teeple, Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 Steve Lanning, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations Mary Botkin, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 75 Jeanine Meyer Rodriguez, Oregon Public Employees Union Jon Stubenvoll, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, Consumer Advocate John Danielson, Oregon Education Association Grattan Kerans, Oregon State Senator, District 20 David Buchanan, Oregon Common Cause

014 MARI ANNE GEST, OREGON SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION: Reviews written testimony, Exhibit A.

033 JEANINE MEYER RODRIGUEZ, OREGON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNION: Reviews written testimony, Exhibit B.

076 MARY BOTKIN, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, COUNCIL 75: Speaks in opposition to HB 2490. Our Political Action Committee (PAC) funds are utilized to organize get-out-the-vote drives, to do voter registration, to do general voter education programs and anything that has to do with legislative intent/efforts or ballot measures. Ms. Gest, Ms. Meyer Rodriguez and myself all represent non-partisan organizations. As our members become more active they bring in diverse opinions and beliefs. It is best when dissent is expressed internally rather than externally, and has had the added benefit of strengthening the union. When people are financially vested in the issues they are more likely to speak out. The tax credit is the closest thing to publicly funded campaigns that we are likely to get for a while.

111 OTTO: What would your opinion be if §'s 5-6 were to be deleted from the bill?

115 BOTKIN: Along with our PAC voluntary contributions we do receive grant funds from our International union for issues like Ballot Measure 5. I think this bill would eliminate our ability to do that.

125 OTTO: Even with §'s 4-5?

127 GEST: By deleting that the bill is more palatable, and we can agree with it.

131 MEYER RODRIGUEZ: If that basically restores the tax credit that would be acceptable with our organization. If that still retains the issues of the pass-throughs, I don't understand the need for that.

136 OTTO: As I understand it, if we took out §'s 5-6 we are restoring

the individual tax credit.

138 MEYER RODRIGUEZ: That is the most important issue to us.

146 DENISE McPHAIL, PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC: Speaks in opposition to the bill. We have an employee PAC with approximately 433 members. Employees comprise 380 of that number and the rest are retirees with our average contribution being \$63. Concurs with testimony heard previously.

155 GREG TEEPLE, OREGON STATE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 48: We are opposed to HB 2490-A because it eliminates the tax credit. Collectively, this is our way to have a stronger political voice, to speak to our issues. It is also a \$50 direction of our tax monies, this is the only forum available for direction of tax monies. We can live with eliminating the pass-throughs, although we do not think it is necessary, but we certainly do not want to see the elimination of the tax credit.

169 CHUCK BENNETT, OREGON CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIANS' ASSOCIATION AND OREGON PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION: The Chiropractic Physicians Association's

PAC represents about \$100/year for a member and the Oregon Psychological Association averages about \$10/year for a member. I am not sure whether elimination of the tax credit would change participation by memberships of either organization in their PAC. In working with them I have found that this has been an incentive to include a broad group of the doctors I represent, as well as their staff, in political activity. In terms of the pass-through portion of the bill we have no interest in what candidates do with the money once they receive it. We oppose the bill in its entirety and would like to see tax credits continue.

195 STEVE LANNING, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR-CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS: Is in agreement with what others have testified to about restoring the tax credit. Reviews written testimony, Exhibit C. We could live with a limitation on pass-throughs, only about 10% or less of our money comes from pass-throughs.

231 GRATTAN KERANS, OREGON STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 20: The -A14 amendment, dated 06/04/91, Exhibit D would be an addition to the bill, which encompasses the major thrust of SB 1150. I would recommend these amendments be adopted and the measure be reported out of Committee favorably. This is a revolutionary approach to provide for public financing of political campaigns. It meets the constitutional test, as delivered by the Oregon Supreme Court. Reviews the -A14 amendments, Exhibit D, and what they would and would not do. Refers to his testimony before the Committee on SB 1150, this is approximately the same. We have deleted the additional reporting requirements and have increased the requirement for matching funds from the candidates.

326 BUNN: You call for a tax check on the front of the form or one of the check-offs on the back amongst . . .

328 KERANS: It's right on the front, the top of the form, in the same place and the same way in which the Presidential designation is, in order to increase participation.

342 JON STUBENVOLL, OREGON STATE PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP, CONSUMER ADVOCATE: We support the provisions in the legislation dealing with pass-throughs, we feel they should be prohibited. We oppose provisions that would prohibit the tax credit, especially as it regards initiative ballot measure campaigns. It is important to raise funds from the general public for grass roots groups.

370 JOHN DANIELSON, OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: For a number of years I have worked with the establishment of PAC's, some with substantial individual contributions and some with relatively small ones. I think the first test, one which Oregon passes very well, is to ask if well-qualified candidates have enough money to run a respectable race and be competitive in the contest for election to public office. PAC's provide something for the little people to participate in. At one time our people were prohibited from giving anything of value to a political campaign, including their time. In 1967 that was repealed and subsequent to that time we have worked on trying to involve them in the political process. I don't think the political tax credit would be a compelling factor in keeping our people active, they participate in the process because it is important to their lives and they don't give that much money, individually, to the PAC. There is no system of evaluation based on performance and I think it is important in the political process for the citizen to measure performance. I see nothing wrong with pass-throughs, both parties do it, it is a matter of convenience and efficiency and it is not damaging to the process. More damaging to the process is the movement towards negative campaigning and misrepresentation of the issues. We would say that in your various caucuses and parties a code should be established to follow in campaigns and then you should enforce it among your members in whatever way you can and not try to correct everything with law. The tax credit should be left alone, it is useful, particularly for groups starting out.

035 DAVID BUCHANAN, OREGON COMMON CAUSE: We have testified in favor of previous campaign finance reform measures. We would support the -A14 amendments, Exhibit D. The bill, as it is now before you, is a small step towards campaign finance reform. The real substance of campaign finance reform is to be found in Sen. Bunn's bill and Sen. Kerans' bill.

WORK SESSION

072 MOTION: SEN. BUNN MOVED THE -A14 AMENDMENTS TO HB 2490, DATED 06/04/91, EXHIBIT D.

074 OTTO: Are those Sen. Kerans' amendments?

075 BUNN: Yes. This would preserve HB 2490 A-engrossed, with the exception of \$'s 5-6, and adds the bulk of the provisions of SB 1150.

081 VOTE: MOTION CARRIED, 5-0. EXCUSED: SEN. BRADBURY, SEN. BRENNEMAN.

085 MOTION: SEN. SPRINGER MOVED HB 2490 A-ENGROSSED TO THE FLOOR WITH A DO PASS AS AMENDED RECOMMENDATION.

089 VOTE: MOTION CARRIED, 5-0. EXCUSED: SEN. BRADBURY, SEN. BRENNEMAN. SEN. KERANS WILL LEAD THE FLOOR DISCUSSION.

097 Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Submitted
By:

Reviewed By:

Joan Green
Muñiz
Assistant
nt

Julie

Assista

EXHIBIT LOG

A - Testimony, Gest, 1 pg. B - Testimony, Meyer-Rodriguez, 1 pg. C - Testimony, Lanning, 2 pgs. D - HB 2490-A14 amendments, Kerans, 18 pgs.