

ENERGY RESOURCE JOURNAL

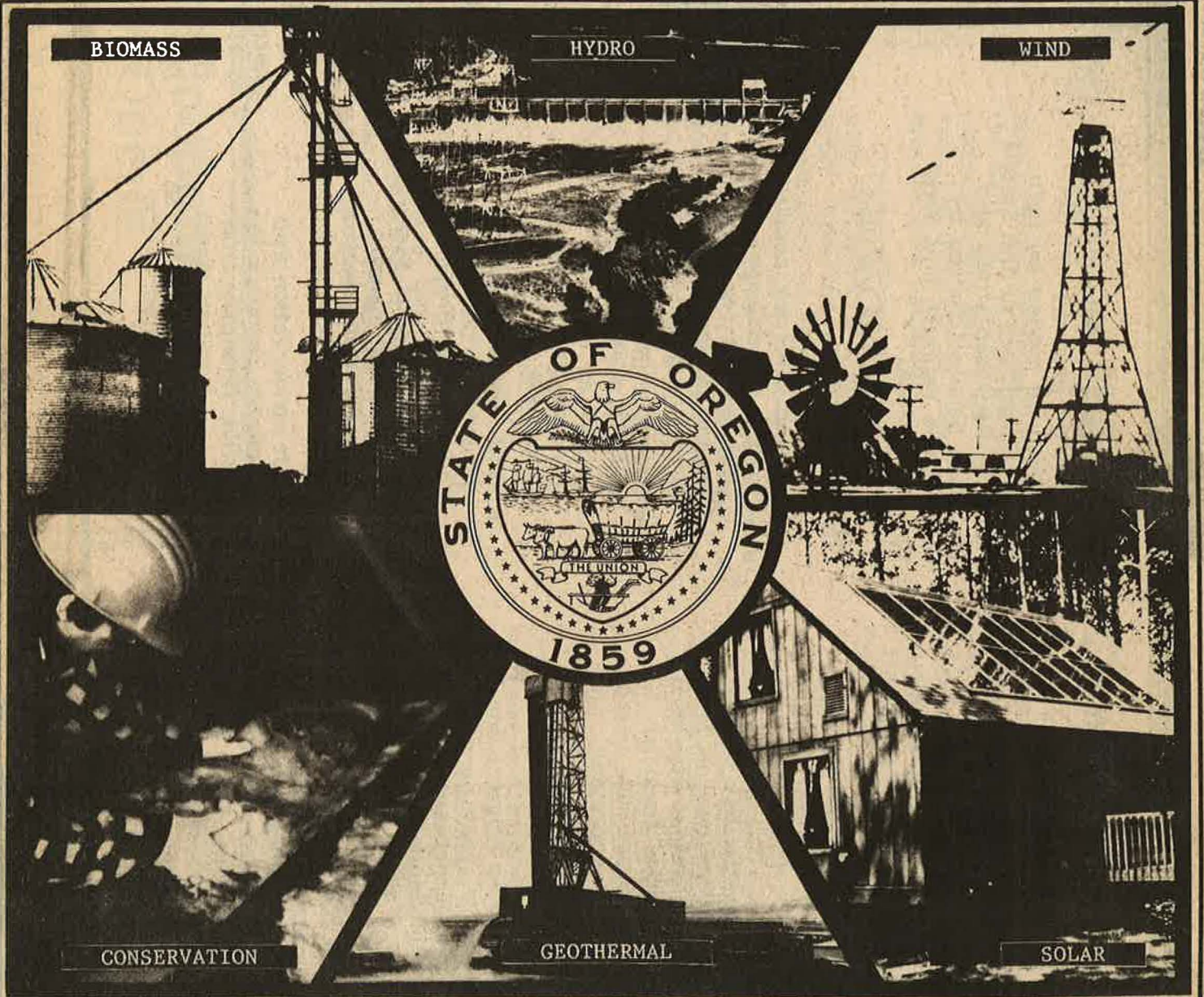
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OREGON'S RENEWABLE RESOURCES

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Atiyeh's Energy Plan Calls For Developing Renewable Resources

by David Davis

"Oregon has done it again," exclaimed several western state governors at a recent governor's conference held in Nevada.

The statements were made in reference to a report called "Future Renewables" circulated by Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, also in attendance at the conference.

The report "Future Renewables" was produced by Oregon's Alternative Energy Development Commission (AEDC) as an in depth study to assess the role that six renewable energy sources could play in the state's energy future; solar/conservation, wind, alcohol, biomass, geothermal and hydro.

The Commission concludes that, "the contribution from renewable resources to Oregon's energy future is potentially very large", adding that developing a vast array of energy options would best serve Oregon's long term energy interests.

The AEDC report, issued to the governor last September, cites 87 specific recommendations which, if implemented, the Commission feels would

encourage rapid development of Oregon's substantial renewable energy resources.

Among the 87 recommendations cited by the Commission, four types of recommendations were classified as highest priority.

The first called for the state to charge a single public body with the responsibility of continuing AEDC's work and acting as Oregon's chief energy planning body.

The second calls for the passage of legislation that would remove institutional barriers that tend to, unnecessarily, impede private sector enterprises from achieving results consistent with state energy goals.

The third group called for a continued, in-depth assessment of Oregon's renewable resource potential.

The fourth called for the state to continue and expand its role of providing education and information to Oregonians with respect to utilization of renewable resources and conservation of non-renewable energy sources.

This January, Governor Atiyeh issued to Oregon's 61st Legislative Session a budget report titled "The Governor's Energy Program". The report represents the governor's proposed 1981-83 biennium energy budget. The report includes 27 legislative bills that would adopt and implement most of AEDC's 87 recommendations.

Said the Governor of his plan, "the program proposes commitments and actions that have no parallel in this nation."

Atiyeh supported the plan stating that "the people of Oregon have sent clear signals to government that they are ready and willing to support energy policies that address the future, even if those policies imply that old ideas, old strategies and old policies must be changed or abandoned."

While implementation of AEDC's recommendations was to carry a projected \$66 million price tag, Atiyeh, in response to the state's severe financial condition, proposed alternative financing for funding the plan.

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