

FACTS ON OREGONIAN WORK
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*DURING FIRST P - [unclear],
Demo opponents legal
my Oregonian employment
account at me*

The following is a detailed description of my affiliation with The Oregonian newspaper. My involvement with a newspaper that was in a labor dispute was a mistake I've always admitted. But I believe a fair reading of the facts shows I made the mistake under circumstances that would lead most people to the same error.

There are few persons in or out of public office who have failed to make a mistake of some kind in their early years. I'm certainly no exception.

The important thing, however, is that I realized my mistake on my own when I became active in politics and government and from that point forward, I have known that in order to insure their economic rights, workers in a private enterprise system must have certain basic tools, the strike being one of them. The fact that I have been a good friend of working men and women in my adult political life can be seen in my record in office and my consistent labor support. Every time I have run for office, I have been endorsed by the AFL-CIO convention. After my 1971 freshman session, the AFL-CIO legislative analysis said this of me:

"[AuCoin is] one of the outstanding young political activists in the state. A candidate of this caliber has an extremely bright future."

At the end of the 1973 session, the AFL-CIO gave my voting record a 91 percent score. In that session, it was my job as House Majority Leader to help give impetus and policy direction to major bills for working people and to gather the votes on the House floor to enact them into law.

I submit that my legislative leadership and what I have done for working people in public office is the only accurate gauge of my attitude toward labor -- not a mistake I stumbled into 14 years ago as a young man.

There are those who have never done anything for labor who wish to defeat me by dredging up a mistake

I made prior to building a solid legislative record. After reading the facts, I'll leave the matter to the basic sense of fairness in working people -- men and women whose support I've been proud to have in the past and whose interests I have been proud to work for in the Legislature. I'm confident they won't leave me now.

Sequence of Events

1. I was recruited on a scholarship, at the age of 17, to attend Pacific University to study journalism. I had been raised in Redmond, Oregon, in a family of three headed by my mother, who worked as a waitress. Nothing in my experience had given me any understanding of labor and management principles. A fundamental part of Pacific University's program was the placement of journalism students in area newspapers. When my advisor, the head of the journalism department, met with me at the beginning of fall semester in my freshman year, he told me that the part-time job he had arranged for me was in the sports department of The Oregonian. Naively, I took it. This was in September or October of 1960. The strike was still in progress. Having no comprehension of the real meaning of a strike, I did cross the picket line.

a. The job in the sports department was answering telephones to take prep scores, sometimes writing one paragraph stories, doing odd jobs, and running errands.

b. These part-time jobs had not been filled by union members; "part-timers" were typically high school and college students.

c. As the year went on, I occasionally got a chance to write a longer story -- I believe at least once I got a by-line -- but never was I anything but a part-timer and never did I fill a job vacated by a striking union member.

2. In September of 1961, I made the decision I'd probably enlist in the Army before the fall was out. I transferred to Portland State College in order to squeeze in one short term at low tuition before enlisting. However, I ended up enlisting before the term was up, sometime in mid-October. During this period, I had continued to work as a part-timer in the sports department.

3. From October of 1961 to June of 1964, I served in the Army.

4. From June of 1964 to September of 1964, I was

acting news editor of the Redmond Spokesman newspaper, in Redmond, Oregon.

5. I returned to Pacific in September of 1964 to resume my journalism program studies, which included part-time work in The Oregonian sports department. While I still was not fully aware of the complexities of collective bargaining, I had heard in September of 1963, that the NLRB ruled the Oregonian strike illegal. The merits or demerits of the ruling, however, were unknown to me.

6. In April, 1965, the strike ended.

7. I continued working as a part-timer in the sports department though my sophomore year.

8. Having married my wife that following summer, I was forced for economic reasons to transfer again to Portland State because of lower tuition costs. I continued to work as a part-timer.

9. In November, 1965, I was hired to a full-time staff position on the copy desk in The Oregonian newsroom. I held this position less than a year, until September of 1966, when Pacific University offered me the job of public information director with an agreement to let me finish my journalism studies with free tuition.

10. I finally completed my degree requirements in 1969 and stayed on the Pacific University administrative staff until December of 1972.

I was urged to make this race by several of the most prominent labor leaders of the state who came to me as individuals and argued that my legislative record made me the best qualified Democratic candidate in the First Congressional District. It seems to me that if labor were to withhold support for me now on the basis of the Oregonian issue, it would be saying to one and all that it can't forgive a mistake -- even when the mistake preceded a record of solid performance.