

## CANDIDATES FAIR

### EMPLOYEES

PGE, INTEL, FLOATING POINTS AND GENERAL TELEPHONE

OCTOBER 12, 1982

PAUL ROMAIN, ON BEHALF OF CONGRESSMAN LES AuCOIN

I'm very pleased to be here today to tell you where Congressman Les AuCoin stands on the critical issues of this campaign and the critical issues facing Oregon -- the economy, jobs, the environment and the fundamental choices we, as Oregonians, will have to make in deciding what kind of future we want.

Ladies and gentlemen, Les AuCoin understands the economy of Oregon inside and out, and he works for it.

That's why Les has fought against this Administration's reckless economic policies that have produced the largest deficits in history (over \$100 billion this year and \$140 billion next year), put millions of Americans out of work, bankrupt businesses and crippled the economy of this state.

Les' opponent has tried to keep Oregonians from thinking too much about the failed promises of economic recovery and renewed prosperity that were the selling points of the President's economic program by labeling Mr. AuCoin as one of the "big spenders" in Congress who refuses to help the President balance the budget.

But that characterization is about as accurate as Vice President George Bush's statement in Oregon, in July, that the recession is over. Well, it's time to set the record straight.

Les AuCoin has consistently voted against government borrowing. He didn't hesitate to vote against Jimmy Carter's deficits or Gerald Ford's deficits. And he doesn't hesitate to vote against Ronald Reagan's deficits because he knows that every deficit raises interest rates and cost jobs.

On appropriations bills, Les AuCoin has voted for less spending than President's have requested in every one of his eight years in Congress. He has even voted to cut President Reagan's spending requests. This year he voted to spend \$12 billion dollars less than the President's requests.

Of course, the issue here is not whether to cut spending, but where to cut spending and that's a question of priorities. Les AuCoin has not fought for more red ink. He has fought against reckless spending and for a different set of budget priorities.

Let me give you a recent example. Just last month, the President vetoed the second urgent supplemental funding bill, calling it a "budget buster". But he was wrong and Congress let him know it by overriding his veto with a strong bipartisan vote of 301-117. Even more momentous, the Senate followed suit.

The President had asked for a bill costing \$16 billion and Congress gave him one costing \$14 billion. The argument was never over the cost of the bill, but where the money was to be spent. What really upset the White House was that it wanted to spend \$2 billion more for the military and \$73 million more for military and economic aid to El Salvador -- at a time when we could use some economic help here in Oregon.

Les has refused to support hollow subsidies that do nothing to increase productivity or stimulate business. He refuses to gut programs for jobs training, education, small business, and research and development to satiate the President's appetite for a bloated defense budget.

Why? Because Les believes that we can do without that kind of spending and, at the same time, by rearranging priorities, get more bang for our buck to help us here at home.

For instance, when the the Administration wanted to drastically reduce the Export-Import Bank's lending authority, Les AuCoin said "No!". In fact, he helped lead a successful fight in Committee and on the House floor to increase funding for the Bank. It makes more sense to Les to spend money on the Export-Import Bank that promotes foreign trade, eases inflationary pressure, provides millions of jobs and actually returns dollars to the Treasury than it does to throw dollars at expensive and unnecessary weapons systems that are both costly and inflationary.

It also makes more sense to Les to do something about the deficit now rather than pass a cosmetic constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

As you may know, the House of Representatives recently rejected the proposed constitutional amendment calling for a balanced budget and Les voted against it for several reasons. First, because it was a sham, merely an attempt to dupe the American people. The Constitution isn't defective. The economic policies of this Administration that said you could cut taxes three times more than you cut spending are what's in need of revision. To Les AuCoin, the constitutional amendment was just a way for those who backed the unprecedented high deficit policies to take political cover.

Another reason Les opposed the amendment was because it wouldn't do anything to eliminate the deficits being inflicted today. The amendment wouldn't go into effect until three-fourths of the States ratify it. That's a process that takes up to seven years or more!. Les asks "what kind of solution is that?" Les is working on the policy changes that are needed to get the job done now.

A final reason for Les' opposition is that the amendment did not

require the President to submit a balanced budget. That could lead to massive tax increases. And increasing taxes during recessions, when revenues are falling off, is the worst thing you can do. Herbert Hoover found that out in 1932.

Les AuCoin doesn't want to wait 7 years to balance the budget. He hasn't even waited for this Administration to cut spending. Since 1977, Les AuCoin has opposed every final, binding budget resolution of Congress because of their excessive deficits.

This year, the budget plan that Mr. AuCoin supported was the "pay-as-you-go" budget. It froze spending at last year's level then said to the President and the Congress -- "if you want a new program or higher levels for defense, raise the funds to pay for it or do without." The plan would have done the job and produced a budget surplus by 1984.

Les is not only concerned about where the economy is today, he's also concerned about where it will be tomorrow. Les AuCoin's leadership on the House Appropriations Committee has produced major successes in building this district's future economic base.

Les obtained funding not only for the light rail project, but also for numerous Portland, Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah County road projects. His Washington County roads bill produced 3,100 construction jobs and 1,600 additional jobs in related industries. The Navy contract for Portland's shipyards created 450 new jobs and \$10 million in wages. Les' work this year on the Banfield and other road construction projects translates into 4700 construction jobs and \$95 million in local wages over the next four years. Beyond jobs, it means a serviceable transportation network to meet the Washington County's growing economy.

What's even more impressive is that Les Aucoin was able to do all this at a time when the national total in transit and highway accounts was being dramatically reduced. It's clear that in Congress, Les Aucoin gets results.

But Les' 180-day fight for his Emergency Housing Production Act, perhaps best describes the legislative heights he has reached in the House. Without even having the benefit of a committee chairmanship, Les won over a skeptical Democratic leadership and other opponents. The result: His bill was overwhelmingly passed by a bipartisan majority of the House. This was the only anti-recession piece of legislation to be passed by the 97th Congress. It would have created over 200,000 housing starts and 400,000 jobs in the building trades and wood-products industry.

Even after the President vetoed the bill, Les came within just 17 votes of overturning the President's veto which is no small task. Standing in the well of the House of Representatives, Les argued persuasively in support of his bill,

" The President is saying that we cannot afford, at a time of the deepest, most severe recession since the Great Depression to invest...\$3 billion to create some jobs, to build some houses, to put some carpenters... and electricians back to work and to make small business people profitable again. He is saying that we cannot afford that. But the President ... wants to spend \$4.2 billion in civil defense bomb shelter plans..."

For Les, it comes down to this. Do we want to build places to hide in, or places to live in?

Unemployment went up again this month which doesn't suggest that much of a recovery is under way but does drain the economy of billions of dollars in economic activity.

It's no secret that jobs depend on healthy businesses -- healthy businesses of all kinds. And most of all jobs depend on small businesses. As founder and first chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Industrial Innovation, Les pushed passage of tax legislation to stimulate capital investment and innovation through accelerated depreciation of assets and tax credits for research and development. In high-tech industries, these R&D tax credits have created a better foundation for investment in new products and technologies.

Earlier this year, Les conducted a series of field hearings in Oregon to explore the problems of small businesses and to get ideas from small-business owners and managers on how he could help. Les was successful in putting those ideas into action by co-sponsoring and helping to pass the Small Business Innovation Act which earmarks a portion of federal research and development contracts for small business. Les was instrumental in the passage of the Prompt Payment Act which requires all federal agencies to pay it bills to businesses on time or if late, with interest. Les also supported The National Export Policy Act of 1982 to increase exports of U.S. goods and services by encouraging the formation of export trading associations and export trading companies. The bill passed the House a little over a week ago and the President has signed the bill into law.

No doubt about it. A healthy economy is a priority on Les' agenda. And contrary to the Administration's policy, getting the economy back on its feet has nothing to do with eliminating the gains we've made in safeguarding the environment. It is particularly distressing to Les when people say that environmental protection costs Americans jobs. That's what the Administration might like you to believe, but it simply isn't true.

For instance, a study released this year by the Natural Resources Defense Council discovered that the Clean Air Act had created 200,000 jobs and \$21.4 billion worth of economic and health benefits annually, compared to annual compliance costs of \$17 billion. Les has always felt that it makes more sense to protect our precious environmental resources today than to pay for the costs of their abuse tomorrow.

Les has stopped some of the worst ideas proposed by James Watt. He won the fight to keep James Watt from drilling in four northern basins off the California Coast which lie just 100 miles south of the Oregon border. Les argued successfully that the potential benefits from drilling in those four basins were tiny compared to the damage a spill could inflict on the important fishing and tourist industries of Oregon. In another victory over Watt, Les was able to secure funding for an additional 225 acres for the Cascade Scenic Research Area. You can be sure that Les will continue to fight attempts by Watt and others to undo the great environmental strides we've made in Oregon.

Before I conclude, there's just one more issue that Les wanted me to touch on and its a very important and fundamental issue that goes to the root of what kind of future we want for Oregon and this country. That issue is the issue of fairness.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Les is waging a fight for balance and fairness in the way our tax dollars are spent. During the budget debate in the House of Representatives, Les AuCoin said this, "Where this nation chooses to put money and where it chooses to take it away tells what kind of people we are. That's why there is something very wrong about his budget. We ought to be building jobs, not bombs; funding people, not tobacco; freezing nuclear weapons, not our senior citizens."

I think that statement says a lot about the kind of Congressman we have in Les AuCoin, why we need him, and why we need more people like him in Congress.