

# AuCoin

## SENATE

### CAMPAIGN UPDATE

March 1992

238-1992

Les is the only candidate in this race to have gotten on the ballot via petition; the campaign collected the signatures of nearly 2000 registered Democrats statewide in support of Les's candidacy. Both Les and Sue, and now their daughter, Stacy, have been out on the road, advancing Les's ideas and meeting Oregonians. Here's an overview of our activities since the start of the year.

#### SPEECHES

In his first speech at Portland State University, Les introduced a dramatic **series of proposals designed to bolster America's flagging economy** and shift dollars from a bloated military budget into domestic programs and infrastructure. **Cutting the defense budget by 60 percent over the next five years**, as Les proposed, would save \$1.1 trillion by the year 2000 -- "money we could use to not only lower the deficit, improve health care and education, but to lay the foundation...for a competitive, growing economy," Les told the crowd.

His second speech, in Eugene, focused on America's trade and education policies. Specifically, Les called for new legislation that would **eliminate unfair trade barriers, revamp anti-dumping laws, and place a steep excise tax on log exports from private lands.**

He also called for a major shift in school funding, saying that the federal, state and local governments should each put up one-third of the funding. Les wants to **transfer \$100 billion per year from the defense budget into our schools over the next decade** and use the funds to guarantee access to Head Start for all eligible children, and to expand Pell Grants and tax-free savings accounts for college-bound kids and their families.

Les delivered his third policy speech, on health care, to a crowd at Ashland's Southern Oregon State College. He called for a **single-payer health care system to replace the current, inadequate employer-based system.** "Thirty-seven million Americans have no health care coverage at all," he said, "while millions more are just one pink slip away from losing coverage for themselves and their families." Funding for a comprehensive national health care system would come in part from money spent on private premiums -- as it is, America spends \$70 billion per year on paperwork costs alone.

**Following on the heels of these major policy speeches, Les has been traveling around Oregon holding a series of health care forums** to include those most affected by health care policy in the debate. The first was in Medford on Friday, Feb. 28; the second in Portland on Monday, March 2.

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## FEC REPORT

All candidates turned in their financial reports to the Federal Election Commission at the end of January. During the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1991, the AuCoin for Senate Committee raised over \$470,000 -- with **more than \$300,000 from individual contributors**. Packwood has raised \$5.7 million for his campaign -- reportedly more than any of the Democratic presidential candidates have in their coffers.

## PRESS COVERAGE

The Portland Oregonian, Willamette Week and Capitol Hill's Roll Call have all reported an independent poll conducted in November by TH Research which shows **Packwood to be in serious trouble**. Les leads Packwood by a comfortable margin, and wins handily in the primary, too.

Les's speech and involvement in the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) Plenum in Portland received a great deal of press in both the mainstream and the Jewish media. Les spoke at the introduction of **NJCRAC chair and Portland attorney Arden Shenker** at the Chairman's Lunch, and earlier **addressed the plenum on "America's Role in a Changing World."**

## ENDORSEMENTS

**The National Organization for Women Political Action Committee (NOW PAC)** has endorsed Les in both the primary and general elections. In its endorsement, NOW cited Les's leadership on reproductive and civil rights, and his commitment to economic issues of importance to women, including pay equity and the Family and Medical Leave Act. **Voters for Choice** also endorsed Les in the primary.

## FUNDRAISERS

The last few weeks have included a number of local fundraisers, including one for the Pakistani community, hosted by **Dr. Nasim Ashraf** and held at the home of **Salma and Masud Ahmed**. **Marshall Glickman**, senior vice president of the Portland Trailblazers, hosted a breakfast at the end of January with some of his friends from Portland's business community. And **the Kelly family** (Neil, Tom, et. al.) hosted a Valentine's Day fundraiser at the offices of the family business, Neil Kelly Designers/Remodelers. **Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME)** came to Portland to attend a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee fundraiser hosted by Les at the Portland Hilton.

**Future fundraisers...**Stage and film star **Harvey Fierstein** ("La Cage aux Folles") will be the guest of honor at a fundraiser to be held prior to the Human Rights Campaign Fund dinner March 28...Finance committee co-chair **Robert Stoll** will host a fundraising dinner at the home of **Rob and Mara Shlachter**...**Stoel Rives Boley** will host a dinner in late March at the Cafe des Amis.

## COMING UP

**Debates have been set;** the first debate will be in Grants Pass on March 27. Details on others will be announced soon.

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As always, please call the campaign headquarters at 503/238-1992 if you would like to volunteer or know someone who would. Thanks to all of you for your interest and support.