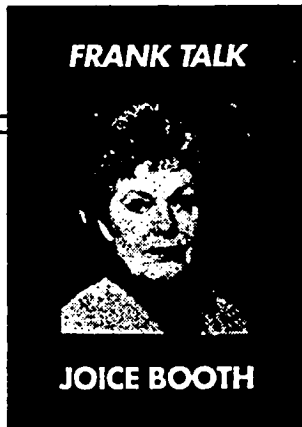


# Taxpayers win some, lose some

**H**URRAY FOR HOOLEY AND HAYES. Darlene Hooley is a Clackamas County Commissioner. Bonnie Hayes is chairwoman of the Washington County Board of



Commissioners. The two, on behalf of their Boards, filed a complaint against a Metro ballot measure - and won.

What Metro had sought was an advisory vote on county consolidation and the restructuring of Metro. The court ruled this ineligible for the ballot.

Here are some of the powers Metro had proposed for itself under the ballot measure:

- 1) Power to take over local services;
- 2) Power to force local governments to change their already adopted land-use plans to meet new sets of standards determined by Metro;
- 3) Power to take over Tri-Met.

According to a Clackamas County study and an estimate by a Washington County commissioner, Metro's pro-

posal would increase revenues in Multnomah County at the expense of Clackamas and Washington County taxpayers. The shift in taxes from Clackamas to Multnomah county was estimated at \$12.3 million and that from Washington to Multnomah County at \$10 million.

In other words, under Metro's plan, taxpayers in Washington and Clackamas counties would pay an additional \$22.3 million in taxes — not to make their own counties better but to subsidize services in Multnomah county. By any yardstick, that's a rip-off.

(For the record, the ballot measure's wording was very misleading. It asks, "Should people adopt Charter to limit Metro powers?" In fact, what the Charter would do is greatly expand them.)

**BOO TO THE OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (OEA).** One of OEA's field workers is helping the Portland Teachers Association, a subsidiary, in an attempt to fleece Portland School District taxpayers. At issue is a new contract. The School Board has offered teachers a cost of living increase. The union says no way. It wants more. Rumor has it the union wants much more — maybe as much as twice the cost of living.

Portland teachers now average \$34,300 a year — which as we know is a full year's pay for considerably less than a full year's work. They not only get more vacation time than those of us who pay their salaries,

but more paid holidays and more perks. How many of you have vision insurance on top of medical and dental?

The OEA is one of the strongest unions in the state. Perhaps this has gone to its head. To even suggest increasing teacher salaries by more than the cost of living is irresponsible in today's economic climate.

In the last two years alone salaries for Portland teachers have gone up by 10 percent (5 percent a year). More of the same would place an undue burden on district taxpayers, many of whom are already having trouble making ends meet.

The OEA needs to be stopped. The Portland contract is the place to do it.

**SHAME ON NORMA PAULUS.** First, she's to be commended for standing up to the governor who had asked her to cut her budget by 20 percent. Paulus refused on the grounds she was not responsible to the governor but to the people who elected her Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Paulus was right. The governor should have set priorities — seeking smaller cuts in essential services such as education and corrections and bigger cuts elsewhere.

But, come on, Norma. We know that there's lard in education budgets that can be cut without hurting education. Put a brake on spending and give taxpayers the break they thought they were getting in passing Measure 5.

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