

Warren Will Speak at Tri County Meeting

Charles Warren, Project Director for the National Academy of Public Administration, will keynote the Tri-County Local Government Commission meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, in Room 327 of the Smith Memorial Center at Portland State University, SW Park and Montgomery.

Serving on the commission from this area are West Linn Mayor Alan Brickley, Lake Oswego City Councilman Corky Kirkpatrick, Clackamas County Commissioner Robert Schumacher and Ardis Stevenson, a Multnomah County planning coordinator and Lake Oswego resident.

The Tri-County Local Government Commission was formed in December after Portland and Denver won a nationwide competition to become test centers for metropolitan government reorganization projects. The National Academy of Public Administration selected the two cities from among fifteen metropolitan areas submitting proposals. The Academy program is funded under a contract by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The purpose of the project is to help governments in the Tri-County area deal more effectively with their interrelated problems. The 65-member Commission is examining the existing structures of local government in Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah Counties, the services provided and the needs of the people to develop recommendations which can lead to increased citizen participation and bring the costs and benefits of public services into better balance. The analysis will focus on both centralization and decentralization of public services and will be carried out with the involvement of community organizations and citizens.

Warren has served as Project Director of the Metropolitan Government Program for the Academy since 1972 and will speak to the Commission on "Metropolitan Reform - - A Review of the United States Experience." Prior to joining the Academy's staff in 1969, Warren worked for the State of Indiana's Commission on Executive Reorganization. Warren has a master's degree in Public Administration from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

The Commission will also hear reports Thursday night from its five sub-committees on Neighborhood Organizations and Citizen Involvement, Regional Governments, State - Local Relations, Local Government and Intergovernmental Relations, and Finance and Taxation. There is no charge and the public is invited to attend. Parking is available in the University Center Parking Garage, 5th and Harrison Streets entrance.

Tri-County Panel Tackles Local Government Problems

By JEFF WOHLER
Journal Staff Writer

OTTER CREST — No earthshaking revision of local government occurred during the weekend, but the Tri-County Local Government Commission did manage to identify many of the problems it believes must be studied in the coming months.

More than 50 members of the 62-member commission attended a retreat here to complete the four-month problem-identification part of its study and begin charting the course it will take in trying to find solutions to those problems.

The commission, funded by a \$100,000 grant from the National Academy of Public Administration, did agree on a gen-

eral goal outlining its approach to the study.

The group hopes to "develop recommendations for simplifying and reorganizing the Tri-County governments into a comprehensive system that can more efficiently and effectively plan, finance and deliver local and regional services."

Because there are more than 225 local government units in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, the commission will try to answer a basic question of "What level of government should deliver what services?"

Guidelines accepted by the commission as areas to be investigated during the next phase of its study included:

- How to provide serv-

ices at the lowest level of government closest to the people in an economic, responsive and efficient way.

- How to reduce the number of units of government on a rational and functional basis.

- How to develop a system establishing priorities, planning and financing of services in the Tri-County area.

- Make a recommendation on ways to select members of the governing authorities.

- Try to develop meaningful ways for providing citizen participation.

- Try to develop an equitable method of public finance in the Tri-County area.

- Recommend that state government not mandate services to local government without providing funds to perform the job.

Eventually, the commission will make both short- and long-range recommendations on how government should be streamlined.

Under consideration is the so-called "two-tier" approach of coordinating government services at a regional level (Tri-County) and at a local level.

Or. Journal 4 Dec 1975

Local Government Study Begins

By JEFF WOHLER
Journal Staff Writer

Local government in the Portland metropolitan area once again will be given a thorough study, this time by a commission of 55 persons who will have 18 months to develop "a governance plan and a method of implementation."

Is it "just another study," as several questioned Wednesday when the Tri-County Local Government Commission got together for the first time at the Benson Hotel?

Or will it have relevance, with meaningful recommendations on how the governmental entities in the metropolitan area that includes Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties can improve their own structures to give better services to the people?

"This can be either a tremendous flop or a very exciting and useful experience," declared Dr. Ronald C. Cease, Portland State University political science professor and chairman of the commission.

"Our report and recommendations will have meaning and importance," Dr. Cease said, "but only if they have a meaningful relationship to this metropolitan area."

Cease's optimism and excitement over the task ahead was echoed by government officials at a

kickoff luncheon.

Former Gov. Tom McCall called it "an arduous undertaking," mentioning that one member of the sponsoring National Academy of Public Administration suggested that "reorganizing government seems to be the favorite indoor sport in Oregon."

House Speaker Phil Lang called the study "particularly timely." Gov. Bob Straub's chief assistant, Keith Burns, termed it "a bold adventure. Our expectations are very high."

Multnomah County Commission Chairman Don Clark went so far as to say that "cities and counties may not have the relevance they once had, and if this is found true by this commission, I am one public official ready to live with that determination."

The study is sponsored by the National Academy of Public Administration with the aid of a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additionally, \$50,000 in local government and private donations is required for the effort.

Portland and Denver are the two cities selected by the national academy for the study, beating out Seattle, Memphis, Tenn., and Trenton, N.J.

One theory of local government reorganization to be studied by the commission is the so-



RONALD C. CEASE
... heads study group

called "two-tier government."

The two-tier concept, in the words of the national academy, "involves intensive examination of urban services to determine which functions are best administered on a centralized (regional) basis and which are best performed by local jurisdictions."

To that end, scrutiny will be given such groups as Tri-Met, the Port of Portland, Columbia Region Association of Governments and the Metropolitan Service District "to see how they relate and how they overlap," Cease said.

The first organizational meeting, complete with formation of committees an executive board and other preliminary matters, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at a site to be determined.

Portland State University's president, Dr. Joseph Blumel, indicated that the university will make a "significant contribution" to the study, noting that staff support and office space will be provided for the commission.

Linn;
Dennis Bryson, teacher, David Douglas High School;
Cliff Campbell, Portland;
Elsa Coleman, Tri-Met board of directors;
Stuart Crosby, office and professional employes, Union Local No. 11;
Dean Gisvold, attorney, Hardy, Butler, McEwen, Weiss and Newman;
Mel Gordon, Multnomah County commissioner;
Lloyd Hammel, general attorney, Pacific Northwest Bell;
Hazel G. Hays, manager, Albina Human Resources Center;
Roy Hemingway, Oregon Environmental Council, attorney;
Stephen B. Herrel, attorney;
Nancy Hoover, League of Women Voters, Metro Committee;
Barbara Jaeger, North Portland Citizens Committee;
Leland Johnson, president, First National Bank of Oregon;
Dr. Martin Johnson, Wolf Creek Highway District board;
Julie Keller, staff member, Mallicoat & Associates;
Corky S. Kirkpatrick, councilman, City of Lake Oswego;
Loyal Lang, state senator;
Robert Landauer, associate editor, The Oregonian;
Ed Lindquist, state representative;
Dr. Harold Linstone, director, Systems Science Ph.D. program, PSU;
Tom Marsh, state representative;
Wanda Mays, president, League of Women Voters of Oregon;
Hugh McGilvra, publisher, Washington County News-Times;
Dr. Douglas Montgomery, associate professor of urban studies; William Moshofsky, vice president, Georgia-Pacific Corp.; Gary Nees, president, Oregon State Firefighters Union;
Jack Nelson, councilman, City of Beaverton;
John Olson, president, Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local No. 8;
Mary Opray, councilman, City of Gresham;
Mary Rieke, state representative; Frank Roberts, state senator; Dr. Edward E. Rosenbaum, physician;
Betsy Schedeen, chairman, Metropolitan Area Government Committee, Portland Chamber of Commerce;
Robert Schumacher, Clackamas County commissioner;
Mike Shepherd, Washington County commissioner;
Robert Simpson, attorney, South Spalding, Kinsey, Williamson & Schwabe;
Estes Snedecor, vice president, Portland General Electric Co.; Larry Sprecher, director, Department of General Service, State of Oregon;
Ardis Stevenson, research assistant, Division of Planning and Development, Multnomah County;
Steve Teller, director, Local Government Personnel Institute;
Ora Faye Thorgerson, councilman, City of Forest Grove;
Jerry Tippens, associate editor, Oregon Journal;
William Webber, vice president, Tektronix, Inc.;
Ray Wilson, Teamsters Union;
Roger Yost, architect.

Members of the committee are:
Dr. Ronald C. Cease, chairman; professor of political science, PSU;
Carl Halvorson, vice chairman; president, Halvorson-Mason Corp.;
Herb Ballin, vice president, Fred S. James Insurance; president, Association of Oregon Industries;
Mary Elizabeth Blunt, Firwood Neighbors, Inc., Clackamas County;

Commission ✓

OREGONIAN 12/15/78

Regionalism

Portland's air during the past two weeks must have been as dirty as it's been any time during our recent history.

The air pollution problem makes a particularly good case for the kind of regional government that an ad hoc group called the Tri-County Local Government Commission is asking the state legislature to create.

For our area's air pollution problem unquestionably comes largely from the automobile. Regional agencies which deal with the entire tri-county metropolitan area are in the best position to discourage the urban sprawl and the overuse of the auto (to exclusion of mass transit) that is at the heart of the air pollution problem.

To solve the problem there must be a comprehensive land use and mass transit plan for the metropolitan area to contain urban sprawl and encourage people to live where they can use mass transit effectively.

The Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) is this very week taking steps toward the conclusion of a regional framework plan. But it does not begin to contain urban sprawl in any meaningful way, and it is not complemented by a regional transportation plan that is developed in detail or is designed to serve a compact area but not serve a sprawling one.

This is just one reason why we need an elected, truly accountable regional government that includes the current functions of CRAG, the Tri-County Metropolitan Transit District, the Metropolitan Service District and the Port of Portland. We are concerned that this work of the Tri-County Local Government Commission, which would very nearly give us what we need, be elevated to the visibility that would draw the full attention and consideration of the state legislature.

Feb 28 '76

Regional services examined

By ALAN HAYAKAWA
of The Oregonian staff

Which government services should be provided regionally, and which should be provided locally?

The question was put to the 65-member Tri-County Local Government Commission on its creation last fall by the National Academy of Public Administration.

The commission, funded with \$100,000 of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds, with \$25,000 raised from local governments and \$25,000 from private sources, has been examining the structures of 185 local government units in Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah counties with an eye toward recommending changes.

In recent remarks to the commission, Charles R. Warren, director of the project for the academy, said little is known about how to improve government in multicounty regions.

A great deal has been learned from experiments in single-county consolidation and reorganization, he said, citing the successful experiences of Indianapolis, Ind., and Nashville, Tenn.

One of the innovations is the "two-tier" model of government, which will be examined by the commission.

"The two-tier model calls for two levels of government within a metropolitan area, local or community units and an areawide unit," Warren said.

The two-tier model differs from strict consolidation, rejected by Portland and Multnomah County voters in 1974, by being more "sophisticated and selective," he added.

governments would be retained for local services, the role of counties would be strengthened and a regional body overlapping city and county lines would address regional problems.

In the Portland area, the Metropolitan Service District (MSD), Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG), Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (Tri-Met) and the Port of Portland are examples of areawide agencies charged with providing specific services.

Despite the theoretical attractiveness of two-tier government, it has only been implemented in one area, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Warren said.

McKay Rich, staff director to the commission, said the panel would make recommendations on regional or local provision of specific services.

For example, solid waste disposal is often viewed as a regional problem, but collection is viewed as a local responsibility, Rich said.

The panel will attempt to have its recommendations implemented by local governments and the state legislature at the end of its funding period in May, 1977, he said.

The study continues the work of the old Metropolitan Study Commission, he said, which ended in 1971 with proposals leading to the creation of MSD, the Metropolitan Boundary Commission and mergers of city and county health agencies and some fire districts.

Reduction of the number of special sewer and water districts is a possible recommendation, Warren said.

Regional financing for regional services should be considered, as well as consolidation for existing regional agencies, he said.

Warren said political resistance to a regional agency — which would result from merging MSD and Tri-Met, for example — could be reduced by providing for direct election of governing boards, thus improving accounta-

MAR 11 1976

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Goals of tri-county commission explained

Sixty-five citizens of the tri-county area are attending monthly meetings and weekly work sessions trying to come up with some answers concerning relationships between city and county governments, regional and state governmental entities and the independent agencies such as MSD (Metropolitan Service District), Port of Portland and Tri-Met.

They are members of the Tri-County Local Government Commission funded by a \$100,000 HUD grant and \$50,000 in local monies for an 18-month study and hopefully some recommendations for the 1977 state legislature and to local governments. Dr. Ronald Cease, chairman of the commission and a political science professor at Portland State University, spoke to Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce on Monday, explaining the goals of the commission and how it operates.

Two members are from Forest Grove: Ora Faye Thogerson representing the city council; and Hugh McGilvra, president of the Washington County Chambers of Commerce and member of the Portland Community College board of directors.

Cease said that the commission has no standing in law and there is no intention to make it another layer of government.

As an example of the problems being considered, Cease stated that Washington County is fast becoming a municipal county with all the problems that entails but without the money to function. He said that if revenue sharing is not continued by Congress, cities, counties and school districts will be in real trouble.

Other issues being explored are whether the Port of Portland, Tri-Met and MSD need elected boards and what should be the role of neighborhood groups in Portland (CPO's in Washing-

ton County).

Grant funds are used for staff members who develop the materials needed by the commission members. A McKay Rich is the top staff member. Efforts are now being focused on a mid-April workshop at the Oregon Coast where it is hoped that the commission can establish some priorities among the issues they have surveyed.

Cease explained that it is impossible for the commission to delve into every problem and that he becomes a bit panicky when he thinks of the 18-month deadline. In reply to questions he said that the commission cannot hope to please everyone with its final recommendations, but that he hopes the independent study by a blue-ribbon group of citizens will carry weight. He said that there are five legislators on the commission who also serve on the interim legislative committee dealing with intergovernmental relations.

He said it is also possible that some of the commission's recommendations will be put to the voters in either initiative or referendum.

In conclusion, Cease said he believes that the Portland metropolitan area is farther along than other parts of the state in trying to work out these problems and he is encouraged by the commitment of the commission members.

Next Monday's Chamber meeting will hear Don Scott of S & S Farms present "An update and review of past and a look to the future in Forest Grove's Agricultural Economy."

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From a **REGIONAL**
PERSPECTIVE

Application to mail
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TO
Warren

ROY CRAWLEY
SR STAFF ASST
AM SOC FOR PUBLIC ADMIN
1225 CONN AVE NW
WASHINGTON D C 20036

Vol. 2, No. 3

National Association of Regional Councils • 1700 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006 • 202-296-5253

March-April, 1976

Consistent Federal Policy on Areawides Needed to Minimize Fragmented Planning



By Warren G. Magnuson
U.S. Senator, State of Washington

On March 4, 1976, Senator Warren Magnuson introduced legislation to establish a consistent and general federal policy on areawide planning and coordination. The bill (S. 3075) was drafted at the request of Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman. Because this legislation has such important implications for local governments, we have reprinted Magnuson's remarks to the Senate when he introduced S. 3075. See article on NARC Agenda, Intergovernmental Coordination (page 2), for details on bill.

At the request of the Honorable Wes Uhlman, the distinguished mayor of the city of Seattle, I am introducing the Intergovernmental Coordination Act of 1976. This bill is designed to initiate discussion in the Congress of an emergent problem facing local governments across the nation.

As we all are aware, federal agencies today require local governments to undertake a myriad of potentially conflicting planning activities. In recent years, we have witnessed the proliferation on the local level of special purpose planning agencies. The federal government encourages the fragmentation of regional planning into exceedingly narrow fields. Transportation, community development, clean air, economic development, health care, equal opportunity, social services, and others each can be handled distinctly under the present system of regional planning fostered by federal agency requirements. Federally mandated planning efforts need not be related to each other and neither does this planning encourage the development of comprehensive, locally determined areawide growth management strategies.

We all deplore the haphazard pattern of growth which has characterized urban development in this country. Existing federal planning requirements exacerbate that chaos. In recent months we have seen the city of New York totter to the brink of bankruptcy and not just because it has been a profligate spender. The plight of the nation's largest city is symptomatic of the general state of urban development today. All our central cities are locked in the same reckless course because they are being forced to go it alone, without the cooperation of their associated metropolitan areas.

Unless and until urban areas begin to forge regional growth and development strategies, our inner cities will remain artificially distinct from their dependent but seemingly unresponsive suburbs. Of course, this will lead to further decay and the death of more core cities. And I think it is fair to say that suburban communities have begun to recognize that they, too, stand to lose if urban growth continues in this same reckless fashion. Suburban cities now understand that new development costs current residents money—money which often is not recovered by taxing the new development. Our older suburbs also are finding themselves in the same situation they created for the central cities after the Second World War. New communities continue to spring up as older ones are discarded. This is just plain wasteful.

This bill would require the development of areawide growth management plans under which more limited policies such as pollution abatement, facilities location, and economic growth would be decided. This should end the multiplicity of often competitive planning efforts required of localities by different federal agencies. The bill favors areawide planning agencies

composed of local elected officials. Federal programs would be required to relate to one another and to conform to whatever areawide growth management plan local officials choose to adopt. The availability to federal assistance would depend upon the assisted activity being consistent with the plan.

I should reiterate that this legislation would not wrest growth management away from local officials. It vests decisionmaking in them and only prods them to do what they undoubtedly already recognize they should be doing—talking with each other and making hard decisions about growth management in their own areas.

Continued on page 3

Rochester Council Ceases Operations; Board Still Meets

The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Board (Rochester, New York) is out of business.

The regional council has been troubled since December when an audit revealed a \$370,000 deficit. Executive Director Stuart Denslow resigned at that time. In March, his successor then discovered that 1975 expenses may have increased the deficit to \$993,000.

Following that discovery, the Monroe County Legislature Ways and Means Committee voted not to make the county's quarterly payment and all operations ceased. While the council's 18-member staff was terminated, the board of directors continues to meet and discuss ways to rectify the situation.

Philip Rowley, Chairman of the Genesee/Finger Lakes and Richmond Town Supervisor, feels Monroe County is partially responsible for the late discovery of these deficits, since the county was in charge of accounting for the regional agency. The planning board's function may be picked up by state agencies for the time being, and Rowley called this a regrettable loss of home rule. State agencies will now have to review area projects.

Chairman of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, William McGowan, has also expressed concern. Instead of abandoning the regional concept, McGowan said, members of the planning board should be designing a new accounting system and finding ways of making the agency better suited to the region's needs.

"Every county could go it alone," McGowan said, "but I would encourage the formation of a regional board. It's just not realistic to abandon the concept."

Regional Tax for Detroit Area Proposed by Michigan Governor

The governor of Michigan has proposed a regional tax-base sharing program for the Detroit metropolitan area, which would channel tax money from growing communities into Detroit and other stagnating cities.

The program was suggested in the governor's state of the state message to the Michigan legislature. A similar program is currently being used in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota.

The tax-base sharing would work as follows. It would only apply to commercial and industrial growth, not residential. No existing business taxes in the seven-county region would be affected. A portion of tax revenues from any future growth would be shared throughout the region on a formula basis.

For example, a city whose tax base grew 10 percent in one year would be able to tax about half that growth. The other half would be put in a regional pot, and the pot would be divided by formula, with more going to poorer cities and less to wealthier ones. The city which had not grown—or had in fact seen its tax base shrink—could levy its tax on part of its growing neighbor's tax base, as well as its own.

The ultimate hope is that a stagnant city could lower its tax rate and industry would be encouraged to move back as tax rates equalized throughout the region. The governor feels the plan would not just aid Detroit, but would help suburban communities which have nearly reached their growth limit.

Highlights

Council Problems

DOT has told Puget Sound officials they will not fund projects in counties that are not COG members. Michigan has notified local governments in the Flint region that the state will take over required regional programs if local governments can't work out a satisfactory regional structure. The staff of the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Board has been terminated. While all council operations have ceased, the Board is seeking ways to continue regional cooperation. See articles on page 1 and 2.

Council Programs

The Lane Council of Governments (Eugene, Oregon) has developed innovative programs for juvenile delinquency prevention and alternative sentencing of misdemeanants. Page 3. In the Bluegrass area of Kentucky, setting local priorities paid off. Instead of competing for balance of SMSA Community Development funds, local governments got together and set their own priorities for the entire region. They not HUD made the decision. Page 4. Citizens can make a difference . . . and did in the Richmond region. Council officials were pleased to find citizens raising tough questions they hadn't even thought of. See page 4.

Areawide Policy

Senator Warren Magnuson has introduced legislation to establish a consistent policy on planning and coordination at the areawide level, where it is required by federal law. It would also provide funds for A-95 review and comment. Page 2

CLACKAMAS
MULTNOMAH
WASHINGTON

TRI-COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

527 S.W. HALL STREET PORTLAND, OREGON 97201 PHONE: 221-1646

RONALD C. CEASE,
Chairman

CARL M. HALVORSON,
Vice Chairman

A. McKAY RICH,
Staff Director

April 1, 1976

M E M O

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

The attached articles appearing in the Oregon Journal,
March 29th should be of interest to you.

Attachments
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No 'Fat' In Sight As County Struggles With Budget Trimming

C-35

By ELAINE COGAN

Cut \$8.4 million from a \$103 million budget. That is the difficult fiscal fact of life for Multnomah County this year. The county commissioners, who must balance the budget by May, are faced with the choice of seeking additional tax revenue or reducing services to an unprecedented degree.

"There's no more fat to whittle at," said Dennis West, director of the Office of County Management, pointing out that in 1974 and 1975 the county budgets were cut back about \$10 million.

Unlike cities, which are general purpose governments which decide their own level of services, counties are administrative units of the state and must perform such so-called mandated services as assessment and collection of property taxes, elections, communicable disease control, land-use planning and operation of the courts and district attorney's office.

State funds, however, often are inadequate to meet the costs of these services. For example, though all the judges and most of the district attorneys' salaries are paid by the state, the county must bear all administrative costs, which are estimated to take as much as 40 per cent from the general fund. Approximately another 40 per cent pays for other state-dictated services and general county administration, leaving just 20 per cent for the county's discretionary use. This latter is the category which bears the greatest burden of loss in programs and money.

Each of the five departments — management, administrative, environmental, justice and human services — has been aware of the bad news since winter and participated in the budget-cutting process. The executive budget document in which the commissioners will

examine in April deals the heaviest blows to justice (\$1 million decrease) and human services (\$2 million cut). It is estimated that through the loss of additional matching funds, grants and revenue as a result of reduction in county support, human services actually will lose \$4 million.

What will result from such drastic cutbacks? For the 1976-77 fiscal year we can anticipate the closure of all park and recreational programs in East County, a substantial reduction in police patrol and criminal prosecution, closure of all but two branch libraries, skeletal

health services with the elimination of all dental and family planning clinics. In addition, the county will cut out its share of support of such community agencies as the Oregon Historical Society and the metropolitan arts and human relations commissions.

As unpopular as they may be, taking these measures will balance the budget. If the commissioners change the suggested cuts, they will have to reduce something else or find new sources of revenues. Already, one special measure has been placed on the November ballot: A three-year property tax levy to

maintain library services at their present level. Other new revenue sources are being considered, including a countywide business income tax and excise taxes on telephones, amusement admissions, soft drinks and auto and truck rentals.

Another course of action always open is to seek more state funds.

Though there are many explanations for the county's present fiscal difficulties, there is at least one clear reason. In the past several years, county officials have willingly obligated the county to provide an impressive array of human

services which are supported in part or totally by the general fund. To do this, they have used up cash surpluses from previous years without anticipating the depth of the problems which may occur in lean times such as these.

With the drastic reductions in service, the county will be making this year, it not only will balance this year's budget but by setting a course of action of providing primarily the legally-mandated services, it probably can maintain itself without much fiscal difficulty. If the populace wants much more, it will have to be willing to pay for it.

Governments Need Sound Financial Reporting

By PHILIP R. BOGUE
President, Portland Chamber
of Commerce

Serious financial difficulties of cities, states, school districts and other governmental units around the nation are being reported more and more frequently. The financial problems of New York City are just the tip of the iceberg. Multnomah County budget experts are working day and night to find ways of closing an \$8 million gap between resources and expenditures.

The nationwide effect of these problems could lead to a crippling financial crisis unless prompt corrective action is forthcoming. Frankly, the nation has been misled by not being alerted to these problems as they have developed over the past decade.

A basic prerequisite to fiscal responsibility in all levels of government is sound financial reporting to the public. In the private sector, proper accounting controls and sound financial reporting

on an accrual basis are required of most publicly held companies by such regulatory agencies as the Securities and Exchange Commission and, on a local level, by corporation commissioners, insurance commissioners, utilities commissioners, etc.

The major stock exchanges, professional accounting organizations and other groups continuously monitor the financial reporting of business and industry. Such a process is essential in order to present meaningful financial data to investors and to the public — not to mention the tax collector.

I believe the time has come when we must demand the same degree of accountability in the public sector with similar accounting controls over governmental affairs and meaningful financial reporting. Here in Oregon we take pride in our state Constitution which requires balanced budgets of governmental units. But how many of you are aware that Oregon ranks 42nd out of the 50 states in the magnitude of per

capita state debt — \$488.35 per person — or that we rank 33rd in state and local debt per capita at \$891.51?

We must begin to ask some searching questions regarding how can government properly measure costs, efficiency, productivity and impact of its programs and develop costs for the services it provides without using accrual accounting which includes all costs, including such major items as accrued pension costs. Could improved "early warning" systems (especially where costs start to increase significantly) be developed if adequate financial information on major programs were available?

The balanced budgeting required by our Constitution applies to cash income and cash expenditures only. Unpaid pension costs, escalating rapidly under public employees' employment contracts are not included in adding up the current cost of government. Industrial concerns are required to report these costs

as a current expense of doing business. For government, however, such unfunded costs represent an accumulated deficit of crucial significance because this is the amount of future taxes required to pay present liabilities.

I understand, for example, that the present value of unfunded pension costs for Multnomah County alone is estimated to be in excess of \$30 million. Why should future taxpayers be saddled with these costs which represent today's costs of providing government services? To what degree will future government services be curtailed in order to meet pension costs incurred years ago?

What do you suppose the accrual basis financial statements of New York City might have looked like 10 years ago? What do you suppose the accrual basis financial statements of Multnomah County or the City of Portland might look like today? Perhaps the time has come to demand answers to these questions.

OREGON JOURNAL 3-29-76

FROM: The Salem Statesman April 29, 1976

Land use thinking linked to British

To the Editor:

How many Oregonians know that Mr. Ed Sullivan, a close adviser to Gov. Straub, came from New York and had attended school in Britain? Do Oregonians know that SB 100, the LCDC law is actually based on the British Town and Country Act?

What amusing comments would citizens make if they realized that the American Civil Liberties Union, which started in Britain, has a member on the LCDC commission?

In 1961, two professors trained in the economic philosophy of John Maynard Keynes were put on the Economic Council of the President of the United States. They were Walter Heller and Gardner Ackley.

None of the above people, policies or measures met the traditional test of the American ballot box! That prevented citizens from closely sifting for merit by normal standards. Evidence is collecting that proves large amounts of our own taxes are being used by British influenced politicians to gyp us of our rights to guide government policy by ballot.

The biggest mystery, is finding the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation has such admiration for the British socialized property laws, as expressed in the book, "The Use of Land", a report of one of their committees.

What consideration and what place fits the

\$1,000 John D. Rockefeller gave Robert Packwood for his 1974 Primary campaign or the \$500 Mrs. David Rockefeller gave him in the 1974 General Election?

**Joe Spenner,
15016 Coon Hollow Road SE
Stayton, Ore.**

Oregon Journal 5/6/76

Metro Approach Taking Shape

Sometimes public policy starts to jell in a political campaign, and one idea whose time may be rapidly approaching is the creation of a single, elected governmental structure to handle metropolitan matters.

There seems to be a growing acceptance of the idea that certain services exceed the jurisdiction of any single city or county.

Formal recognition has come in the form of such legislative creations as Tri-Met for transportation, the Boundary Commission to oversee the changing of lines, CRAG to coordinate planning and the Metropolitan Service District with responsibilities for sewage, solid waste, flood waters and also transportation.

While there still may be some fears of "regional government," there is a growing recognition that the metropolitan level is the "most local" level at which certain functions can be performed. Meanwhile,

with the separate metropolitan agencies that have been created, the old bugaboos about loss of community identity or local control have diminished.

But new concerns have arisen over non-elected government.

A solution forming in the minds of many legislative candidates is simple: Take the metropolitan agencies already created, pull them together into a single structure and elect a governing board by districts.

Perhaps consideration could be given to identifying other services and facilities that ought to be included — such as water, regional parks, the Auditorium, Civic Stadium, the Coliseum, the library and the like. There is a measure on the ballot to give the Portland Zoo a metropolitan base.

At any rate, it sounds as though an utterly sensible approach to metropolitan concerns will be given the attention it deserves at the next Legislature.

Opinion

Search For The Better Way

There was, perhaps, nothing particularly new about the problems identified in the governmental hodge-podge of the Portland metropolitan area.

But they were put in fresh focus as the Tri-County Local Government Commission moved to get the problems in perspective so that in the months ahead it can get on with trying to determine better ways to deal with them.

The commission — made up of more than 60 persons representing just about every walk and way of life in the metropolitan community — came about after Portland was selected for a special grant for an 18-month study on what was called "two-tier" metropolitan government.

But more than two tiers were on the members' minds when they arrived at the first key point in carrying out their mission.

The neighborhood exists. Everybody knows that, for each of us lives in one. But what should be its role in the system of governance? Or should it have one?

Whether or not it is popular to admit it, there are certain functions that are metropolitan in scope. Grudging recognition has come, step by step, with

the formation of such bodies as the Port of Portland, Tri-Met, CRAG, the Metropolitan Service District and the Boundary Commission. What kind of governing system should operate at the metropolitan level? Should it be elected? Or should it continue to be a mishmash of separate agencies?

That's two tiers. In between is the other level that delivers most of the municipal services from police protection to recreation. Historically, this is the job of the city. But more than half of the people live outside of any city. Municipal services have been provided them by turning counties into cities, in effect, and plugging gaps with a myriad of special service districts. Is this the best way to go about it?

Some persons get uptight at the very thought of tinkering with government in Metropolitan Portland, apparently fearing loss of local control. But the control of the people ought to be enhanced with a system that improves efficiency, economy and accountability.

If the Tri-County Commission can reach accord on ways to improve the process in the year that it will still be in business, its endeavors will have been worthwhile indeed.

OREGONIAN
5/2/1976

Panel studies 3-county union

By ALAN HAYAKAWA
of The Oregonian staff

Would tri-county government consolidation provide an ideal local government for the Portland area? And if it would, how do you get there from here?

These questions are being addressed by the Tri-County Local Government Commission, a 60-member body funded with federal, local and private money to study government reorganizations.

With three counties, 32 cities, six regional bodies and myriad school, water, sewer and fire districts functioning, the Portland area was selected along with Denver in a national competition for two grants to study ways to alleviate duplication and coordination problems.

A broad outline of an ideal form was drafted for the commission before a weekend retreat last month in the Inn at Otter Crest.

It shows a three-county general government body with a council elected from apportioned districts and a chief executive elected at large.

This body would assume functions of the present Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas County governments, as well as the functions assigned to the Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG), the Metropolitan Service District (MSD), the Metropolitan Boundary Commission, the Port of Portland, the Health Services Agency and the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (Tri-Met).

Below this level, existing city and community organizations would continue to function.

Among the advantages of such a consolidation would be the direct election of officials, replacing the governor's appointment or nomination by member governments that fills the CRAG and Tri-Met boards, said Bill Cross, public information coordinator for the commission.

An interim structure that could be adopted locally resembles one used in Minneapolis-St. Paul, said Cross.

Under that model, a metropolitan council of either elected or appointed officials would establish policies and appoint members of areawide transit, port and planning commissions, and a sewer and water service district.

These agencies would provide some of the same services as existing city and county structures, Cross said.

In the seven months since its inception, the commission has identified a number of service delivery problems among existing governments. In the second phase of its study, it will attempt to find a variety of solutions.

After sorting through the possible changes, legislation and other steps toward actual modification of local governments will be sought. Cross said a package of proposals might be ready as early as this fall.

As an example of an areawide problem, commission chairman Ronald Cease noted long-range water needs of the region may outrun available supplies, and there is little coordination among the many public and private agencies supplying it.

Bull Run, by far the largest developed water system in the area, belongs to the City of Portland. The city so far has not been happy with suggestions that it surrender or reduce its control, Cease said.

A commission subcommittee recommended a regional water agency to supply water wholesale to existing districts.

Another question the commission must address is the apparent conflict between sewer construction and land-use planning.

In the past, sewer systems have been put in place by localities with little regard for regional needs, Cease said.

One Probable Difference

Journal May 27

The Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota and metropolitan Portland have much in common.

Both are scenic, have a freshness about them, have set aside substantial territory for parks and are populated with independent spirits with a progressive tradition.

Beyond that, both are metropolitan communities that cross the lines of numerous governmental jurisdictions — cities, counties and special districts. Thus they also have in common several problems that exceed any single jurisdiction.

Minneapolis-St. Paul is a step ahead of Portland in designing a structure to deal with community-wide needs.

Arthur Naftalin, University of Minnesota professor and former mayor of Minneapolis, was in Portland recently to explain the Twin Cities' evolving solution.

As Oregon has gone through the process of establishing a number of single-purpose efforts to deal with the problems of its principal metropolis —

Tri-Met, Port, Boundary Commission, Metropolitan Service District, CRAG — Minnesota also went through several similar steps.

Nearly 10 years ago, in recognition that there still needed to be an overall structure for coordination and planning, a Metropolitan Council was created in the seven-county Twin Cities' area.

Oregon may well be headed the same direction. It now has the MSD with multi-purpose authority, although lack of funding has restricted its development.

But it may be the legal vehicle used to take on the specific services that require some type of metropolitan structure.

There is likely to be one difference. In the Twin Cities, the 17-member council is appointed by the governor. Here a sense of outrage prevails against the "nonelected governments" that operate the metropolitan services.

Therefore, it is a fair bet that any effort made to design a metropolitan structure for Greater Portland will include an elected board.

Oregonian 5/18/76

Fee won't help much

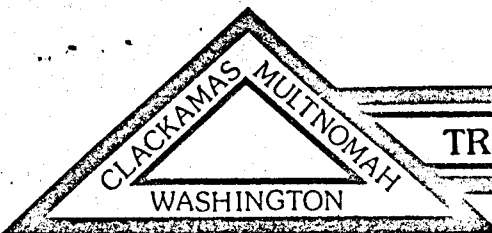
The Portland City Council's decision to charge nonresidents who play in city sports leagues up to \$5 per sport per season for use of the facilities won't clear the traffic jams developing on base paths and basketball courts.

For example, 450 teams in a number of leagues play one or two softball games a week each on some 30 ball fields around the city. So many teams were formed this year that team representatives camped in front of the Park Bureau in the early dawn hours on registration day to ensure that their clubs would not be among those turned away.

The problem is not only that up to 60 per cent of the participants, as in softball, may live outside the city and that Portlanders who want to play may be turned away. Other difficulties are that there is greater competition for field time or court time from Little League and from women's and girls' teams.

Few out-of-city players who do not have leagues in their own areas will be deterred by a \$5 user charge. The City Council's rationale that the fee at least removes the monetary burden from Portland taxpayers is both inaccurate and begs the issue.

Portlanders who want to use Park Bureau facilities built and maintained with their tax dollars should not, under any conditions, have to sit on the sidelines while organized teams of nonresidents preempt the space. Commissioner Schwab, in charge of the Park Bureau, should bring a better deal for Portlanders to the Council for adoption.



TRI-COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

1912 S.W. SIXTH, ROOM 244

PORTLAND, OREGON 97201

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June 22, 1976

MEMORANDUM

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TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: BILL CROSS
RE: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

We are distributing for your information an editorial that appeared in the Gresham Outlook on June 14.

We also have a copy of Alan Hayakawa's June 17 Oregonian article on the Commission's Public Works and Transportation Committee meeting of June 16 available from the office for those who missed it.

In addition, KGW-TV did a general background news story on the Commission which focused on last week's Human Services Committee meeting.

BC:els
Enclosure

C-67

GRESHAM OUTLOOK

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Page 2 Gresham Outlook, Gresham, Oregon 97030 No. 48 Mon., June 14, 1976

Hope For Big Government

Hey, maybe there is hope for big government yet!

A study is presently under way on modernizing government. The 65-member Tri-County Local Government Commission has moved into phase II of its study. Some comments at the end of the phase I, as reported in The Outlook Monday, deserve repeating.

In phase II the commission will focus on developing an area-wide government directly elected by the people. The commission noted the lack of credibility with the populace enjoyed by the five regional governments: Columbia Region Association of Governments, Metropolitan Service District, the Port of Portland, Tri-Met and the Metropolitan Area Boundary Review Commission. Amen.

Our only reservation about such a

combination of government responsibilities is that such a move not turn into a combination of county and City of Portland responsibilities.

The TCLGC is researching ways to have boards elected by residents of the area. What a blessing if that could come about. The frustration is becoming more wide-spread that an individual can't get anywhere with government. Maybe this would aid in that quest.

Combining government agencies is also being considered as well as unnecessary duplication in land-use planning.

Workshops for special interest groups and geographic groups are scheduled for August and September.

We watch with a great deal of interest. This attempt to bring government back to the people is needed. Let's hope it works. (DM)

Political pressures affect CRAG's regional plan

By JAMES DUNCAN

The Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG), charged by statute with the responsibility to create a comprehensive land use plan for the tri-county region, faces the dilemma of coming up with a good plan that can also win consensus from the group of local public officials that makes up its board of directors.

Already resented and misunderstood as a big government agency that wants to tell local people what to do with their land, CRAG appears now to be moving along the path of least resistance.

As the blueprint land use map for the region develops, evidence is mounting that the talents of the CRAG staff have not been directed towards a fresh analysis of the needs of the region and formulation of alternative plans, but towards translating political pressures from local governments into the most palatable map for the CRAG board of directors to digest.

This map, essentially the sum total of CRAG's land use framing efforts to date, is a striking example of the agency's openly cautious approach to its role as coordinator for local jurisdictions in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. The boundaries for urban development are closely in tune with the requests of the individual local jurisdictions, making the map as a whole, as CRAG's environmentalist critics charge, a kind of patchwork of local comprehensive plan maps.

The two major bones of contention are the extent of the urban growth boundaries outlined in CRAG's present draft plan and CRAG's new

designation of certain areas as "rural," a euphemism for limited residential development.

Although CRAG's board of directors is unlikely to adopt this land use "framework plan" before fall, the boundary lines for development have been tentatively drawn and revised, and should not see much change before the final draft is approved.

"There is no denying that this is a composite of the local jurisdiction plans," says CRAG's Director of Natural Resources Jim Sitzman. "The question for the board is going to be the adequacy of this, whether they will be willing to go beneath the political level in determining what the boundaries are going to be.

"One of the constant battles that we fight in-house here," he explains, "is how much of what we do can be based on good land use planning, and how much must be based on political realities."

The land use lawyers of 1000 Friends of Oregon and the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) have been sniping at CRAG's political orientation for a long time. They now say that good land use planning has taken a thumping and political realities have won out.

"CRAG came up with a map that is probably more politically acceptable. We're saying that ours is a map that is closer to the law," contends Robert Stacy, Jr., staff lawyer for 1000 Friends. He reiterates the close adherence of 1000 Friends to the original guidelines expressed by the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) in Goal 14: "Establishment and change of the boundaries shall be based upon consideration of... demon-

Please turn to page 4

strated need to accommodate long-range urban population growth requirements consistent with LCDC goals."

"The logical effect of an over-extensive boundary is to permit sprawl development by the year 2000," argues Stacy. "Draft III [of the CRAG plan] includes roughly 100 square miles of land in excess of any demonstrated future need to accommodate future growth, using either Portland State University's or Pacific Northwest Bell's population projections."

Sprawl costly

Sprawl development is not only unsightly but extremely costly. None of the components of the tri-county region—not Portland, Clackamas County, Gresham, Hillsboro or any other jurisdiction—can afford to administer support services to a scattered urban or suburban population.

Mushrooming growth patterns, dramatically manifested in the rapidly expanding population centers of Gresham and Beaverton, have led many other local jurisdictions to

annex or to plan annexation of large areas of outlying land for future development. Enlarged aerial photographs of these cities line the hallway in the CRAG offices. In many of them a wide belt of farm land is bound within the thick black line marking each city's limits, along with the streets and houses of the present township.

The CRAG staff recently computed the cumulative population growth from 1970-75 of Sandy, Estacada, Molalla, Canby, Barlow, Wilsonville, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Cornelius, Gaston, North Plains and Banks at 11,000 people, or 31 per cent. The land area of these towns increased from 21.9 to 27.3 square miles (25 per cent). The framework plan would allow these townships another 50 per cent of their present size to accommodate future populations.

Will these local jurisdictions exercise constraint in the next 25 years, or will they allow developers to raid the cookie jar?

The Draft III plan states: "Because future population projections of the region are not agreed upon, use of such projections should be limited to a rough evaluation as to whether the areas identified for further urban and rural development planning are ample."

1000 Friends say that the CRAG projection has created a map with excessive urban growth boundaries, and they are worried about the consequences of its adoption.

"Our position is to make the boundaries tight and leave the option to open them up if need be," says

RAG's new plan

Continued from 1

Stacy. "CRAG's position is to leave them open and hope for the best. Well, homebuilders aren't going to be assassinated by local government officials. When 1985 rolls around and the need is for more land, all the leftist environmentalist freaks in the world won't affect that."

The scenario he forwards, assuming the present CRAG draft, describes a situation of continuing development from the outside in: land at the periphery of the urban growth boundaries being developed first—a hypothesis which seems to be borne out by trends of the past ten years—and piecemeal, low-density development on the intervening land.

"Rural" areas

In addition to 122.3 new square miles allotted to urban development, CRAG has designated another 170.6 as "Rural Areas."

"Rural" as defined here is an introduction into the planning field of something beyond the LCDC designation, saying that there are pockets of development outside of 'Urban' and 'Natural Resource' designations," says Sitzman. "Actual agricultural lands fall under the 'Natural Resource' category."

1000 Friends tangled with CRAG over inclusion of this new category, arguing that it represents an extension of urban-type development in the form of a wasteful, low-density mode of development. Although there are restrictions upon water and sewage services, the "Rural" designation permits 100 units of housing per square mile. In most cases, this means situations of large lot homesites located among undeveloped farmlands.

The possibility of a compromise on this issue between CRAG and 1000 Friends exists, should a further requirement be added to the "Rural" designation. This requirement would insist that there be no housing on "Rural" lots smaller than four acres, and if the soil were prime quality, lot size be at least 20 acres for housing.

These basic development boundaries are likely to be as deep into land use classification as CRAG is going to go. Except in cases of developments of unquestionable regional significance—such as major shopping centers or alteration of arterials—CRAG will leave the specific decisions as to what is built where to the local jurisdictions.

Washington County Commissioner Ray Miller, representing his county on the CRAG board of directors, is candid about his expectations on this eventuality. Would the construction industry develop outlying lands first?

"That's exactly what they'd do, if they could."

Are the local jurisdictions ready to take on the ultimate responsibility for guiding growth?

"It depends on whether the commissioner has the guts to make the stand," he says. "I wouldn't say that they're ready to do that yet, but there are some encouraging signs."

Troutdale example

1000 Friends' Stacy pinpoints a potential example of stone's throw development and its hazards in the

Troutdale area, where a proposed subdivision along the Sandy River, well away from the present township, could doom the intervening farmland. "There's still a viable agriculture going on out there," he says, "but it will only take a couple more super centers to commit that land the other way. Aerial spraying and any kind of dust-raising farm activity will be ruled out because of the proximity to residential areas. That's what the commercial-scale farmer can expect."

If CRAG seems to be allowing too much leeway for that kind of thing, a look at its structure is warranted. Its paid professional staff is overseen by members of the same local governments for which the staff is planning. Sitzman explains the anomaly: "The relationship between CRAG and local jurisdictions is not like a state and its counties, with a different set of people at each level. This is like county commissioners enacting county-related legislation in Salem... While the agency is given large powers by legislation, the legislation also requires a membership pattern in the agency which makes us dependent on local jurisdictions."

This curious structure makes CRAG something less than the Big Brother figure to local governments it is popularly reckoned to be. A top assistant to Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt is careful to express a realistic assessment of CRAG's role.

"It should not exist as a super body to correct local constituencies at every turn," he says. "What's more, it would be sounding its own death knell if it tried to exercise its authority by statute instead of by consensus."

An alternative to both the apparently pragmatic approach of the CRAG staff and the hard line taken by 1000 Friends and OEC is suggested by Frances Diemoz of the Skidmore, Owings & Merrill architectural firm in Portland. She cites a procedure which the firm's Environmental Study Group followed as consultants in the Sauvie Island development question.

Household mailers

The Study Group sent out a series of mailers to households on Sauvie Island which progressively identified the concerns and desires of the population, drafted and presented alternative schemes of development with substantial background information on each, and polled participants on their preference of the alternatives. Meetings were held along the way.

"Because the people were involved in the process and knew the alternatives and consequences, they were able to come to their own, informed decision. It's a lasting decision, too," says Diemoz. "You can't achieve it if you simply hold public meetings, because they often turn out to be a case of who can yell the longest and the loudest... The CRAG staff hasn't gotten to a larger constituency who are concerned about something more than their own land."

At the suggestion that the CRAG staff might be anticipating the reaction of the directors and preparing their plan accordingly, Ray Miller responds, "I would hope not. It's up to them to present us with what they see as the best plan for the region, and then it's up to us to decide if it's right. But to be honest with you, if they're doing that [giving the board an easy plan for approval] they've got me fooled."

Ernie Bonner, director of planning for the city of Portland, says, "It's a reasonable first plan for this region. Over the next five to 10 years we'll see some modifications. We may be encouraged by LCDC to have some tightening up of those urban growth boundaries... But I have some faith in the middle electorate. They do not want to see their quality of life go downhill."



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December 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: A. McKay RICH
RE: EDITORIAL SUPPORT

We thought you might be interested in reading what the Eugene Register Guard said about the reorganization proposal (on the reverse side of this page).

Both the Register Guard and the Oregon Journal have come out in favor of the final proposal and earlier the Oregonian, News Times (Washington County) and several other Tri-County weeklies editorially supported the Commission's effort.

We will keep you informed of the various editorial statements during the next few months. We would appreciate any assistance you can provide in soliciting editorial support. If you know any weekly newspaper editors well enough to personally contact, please let Bill Cross know, so that he can make the appropriate arrangements.

AMR:els
Attachment: Editorial

We'd like to see it

The Oregon Journal calls it a "democratic idea whose time is here." And, in the Portland metropolitan area, that may be right.

If so, the 1977 legislature will establish a new elective governmental body to take over the functions of a number of appointive bodies in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. And through the next couple of years interest in this governmental experiment may logically spread to the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

The Portland area now has separate metropolitan agencies operating its mass transit system and its burgeoning port facilities, handling its regional planning, its waste disposal problems and its local government boundary issues. Intergovernmental cooperation is both directly and indirectly involved in these for-the-good-of-the-general-community endeavors. But the various agencies are independently operated. Their programs are not systematically coordinated. And none of their governing boards are directly elected by the people. In fact, several of the boards are made up of gubernatorial appointees.

The plan the Oregon Journal applauds would respond to dissatisfaction with "nonelected government." It would eventually put all areawide public service programs under the control of a 15-member council whose members would be elected from as many different parts of the tri-county area.

The chairman of the Tri-County Local Government Commission that drew up this proposal has stated that no additional public funding would be required to gather all of the Portland area's metropolitan service agencies together under one governing council.

Speaking to the Portland Chamber of Commerce this week, Ron Cease also stressed that this metropolitan government reorganization plan would promote the effectiveness with which areawide public services are provided. At the same time, he said, it would make regional government more visible to the public — and hence more responsive to the will of the people.

If this experiment actually is carried out, it undoubtedly will be closely watched by Eugene-Springfield area residents who also feel that more visibility and accountability are needed in the handling of areawide public service programs.

Eugene, Oregon
Register-Guard
(Cir.D.51,872)
(Cir.S.60,716)

NOV 24 1976

Eugene and Springfield work together and with Lane County for overall community benefits of many kinds: law enforcement, fire protection and traffic planning, to mention just a few. In these areas of concern, directly elected public officials represent the area's different constituencies. Sitting together in the Lane council of governments, elected officials from the county, cities, school districts and special service districts utilize intergovernmental cooperation even more.

However, directors of the Lane Transit District and members of the powerful Lane County Boundary Board are appointees of the governor. Current plans for a metropolitan sewage treatment program call for its operation by a new board of representatives of Eugene and Springfield and the county, some of whom might not be directly accountable to the voting public.

Looking down the road, the day may not be far distant when this area will have a metropolitan water system as well as a metropolitan sewage treatment system. And economically, if not politically, strong arguments can be made for the eventual development of a broad range of areawide public service operations. Why, for example, should Eugene have one police force, Springfield another and the suburbs of both cities yet another?

The plan being advanced for the Portland area will be argued in the legislature next year. It undoubtedly will be branded a "super-government" scheme, somehow nefarious because of its scope.

But as the Journal says, "A democratic system with direct accountability to the people ought to work as well at the metropolitan level as it does at any other level either larger or smaller." Our hope is that the legislature will sanction the Portland experiment so that its adaptability to Eugene-Springfield area conditions can be pragmatically appraised.

January 5, 1977

C-121

TO: COMMISSION MEMBERS
FROM: BILL CROSS
RE: EDITORIAL SUPPORT

I thought you might be interested in and encouraged by this editorial which appeared in the GRESHAM OUTLOOK.

GRESHAM OUTLOOK

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Page 2 Gresham Outlook, Gresham, Oregon 97030 No. 104 Mon., Dec. 27, 1976 1, 1976

Electing Officials Makes Sense

The proposed governmental reorganization plan for the Portland Metropolitan area (conceived by the Tri-County Local Government Commission) still has a long way to go.

But a lot of people are pleased with its emphasis on elected officials.

Briefly, it proposes modification of the Metropolitan Service District to provide for a 15-member elected board. Board members would come from single-member, apportioned districts. Hopefully, rural areas would be represented equitably with urban.

If approved by the voters, the proposal would eliminate CRAG (the Columbia Region Assn. of Governments) and its duties would be

assumed by the elected officials serving MSD.

Moreover, the same authority could—and hopefully, would—soon be extended to Tri-Met, the Port of Portland and the Boundary commission . . . all appointive groups today.

We haven't read all the fine print of the Tri-County plan but we enthusiastically support the replacement of appointive officials by elective. We've railed long and often about the taxing powers of appointed officials and the Tri-County proposal appeals to us.

No one has a rein on appointed officials but elected officials are much more responsible, and responsive, to the voters.