

3-1978

# Selected Straub Administration Programs and Legislative Reference Manual

Barbara Hanneman

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/straub\\_papers](https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/straub_papers)

---

## Recommended Citation

Hanneman, Barbara, "Selected Straub Administration Programs and Legislative Reference Manual" (1978). *Documents*. 11.  
[https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/straub\\_papers/11](https://digitalcommons.wou.edu/straub_papers/11)

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Robert W. Straub Oregon Beaches Collection at Digital Commons@WOU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@WOU. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@wou.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@wou.edu).

SELECTED STRAUB ADMINISTRATION  
PROGRAMS  
and  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE MANUAL  
March 1978

*Barbara Hanneman*

SELECTED STRAUB ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS  
and  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE MANUAL  
March 1978

Table of Contents

	Page
I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS	
A. Employment	1
1. Economic Stimulation	1
2. Jobs for Welfare Recipients	1
3. Affirmative Action	1
B. Attracting new Business	2
C. Forestry	2
1. Intensive Management	2
2. Fire Protection	3
3. Severance Tax	3
4. Log Exports	3
D. Incentives for Development	4
1. Tax Credit	4
2. Small Port Loans	4
3. Bonds	4
E. Assistance to Business	5
1. Permit Coordination	5
2. Business Ombudsman	5
3. Forms Reduction	5
F. International Trade	6
G. Workers' Compensation	7
H. Water Development Loans	8
I. Housing	8
J. Transportation	9
1. Highways	9
2. Mass Transit	9
3. Safety	10
K. Drought	10
L. Capital Construction	11
II. LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT	
A. Land Use	12
1. Maintaining LCDC	12
2. Compliance	12
3. State Assistance	12
4. State Agency Coordination	13
5. Coastal Goals	13
6. Tongue Point	13
B. Willamette Greenway	14

II. LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT (cont)

C. Parks	14
D. Wilderness	15
E. Field Burning	15
F. Pollution Control	16
1. Waste Water	16
2. Solid Waste	16
3. Air Quality	17

III. UTILITY RATES & ENERGY

A. Access to Hydropower	19
1. DRPA	19
2. Regional Power Plan	19
B. Fuel & Utility Rate Relief	19
C. Dept. of Energy	20
D. Energy Conservation	20
E. Alternative Energy	23
F. Construction Work in Progress	24
G. Facilities Siting	25

IV SENIORS

A. Project Independence	26
B. Utility Rate Relief	26
C. Housing Bonds	27
D. Denturist	27
E. Ron Wyden	27
F. Rental Assistance	27
G. Property Tax Relief	28
H. Commission on Aging	28



	Page
V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS	
A. Human Resources	29
1. Displaced Homemakers	29
2. Welfare Reform	29
3. Health Care Costs	29
4. Child Support	30
5. Children's Services	30
6. Health	31
7. Handicapped Services	32
8. Mental Health	32
B. Corrections	33
1. Adult Corrections - Community Corrections	33
2. Preventing Death Sentence	34
3. Victims' Compensation	34
4. Support Services/Mental Health	34
5. Crime Rate	34
6. Offender Rehabilitation	35
7. Juvenile Corrections	35
VI. EDUCATION	
A. Basic School Support	36
B. Special Education	37
C. Financial Support to Local Districts	37
D. Financial Assistance to Students	38
E. Instructional Programs	38
F. Higher Education	39
G. Public Broadcasting	40
H. Arts	41
VII. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF - PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS	
A. Tax Relief	42
1. Homeowner and Renter Rebate	42
2. Basic School Support	42
3. Revenue Sharing	42
4. County Courts	42
5. Public Health	43
6. Mental Health	43
B. State Programs for Local Governments	43

	Page
VIII. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	
A. Reorganization	44
1. Department of Human Resources	44
2. State Fair	44
3. Fish & Wildlife	45
4. Dept. of Energy	45
5. Water Resources	45
6. Workers' Compensation	46
7. Court of Appeals	46
8. Employment Relations Board	46
9. Resource Management	46
10. Management Council	47
11. Affirmative Action	47
B. Savings in Government	48
1. Taxes	48
2. Bonds	48
3. Paperwork	48
4. Transportation Dept.	48
5. Zero Base Budget	48
6. State Employment	48
7. Flex Hours	49
8. Shuttle Bus	49
9. State Housing	49
C. Access to Government	49
1. Town Hall Meetings	49
2. Access 800	50
3. Tax Assistance	50
4. Consumer Services	50
5. Ombudsman	51
6. Boards and Commissions	51
7. Field Services	52
8. Open Meetings	52
9. Speak Out Oregon	53

SELECTED STRAUB ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS  
and  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE MANUAL

I ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -- JOBS

A. EMPLOYMENT

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped to 5.6% in March of 1978 from 12.1% in January, 1975. This improvement has been at a faster pace than improvement nationwide.

1. Economic Stimulation Package - To deal with the need for more jobs, Governor Straub initiated, in 1975, an economic stimulation package which created thousands of jobs in the State, in such areas as highway maintenance and reforestation.

This program, initiated by the Governor, came in advance of available federal CETA funds.

2. Jobs for welfare recipients - Governor Straub's welfare policy hinges largely on finding jobs for those welfare recipients who are able to work. Between 1975-77, Adult and Family Services Division has located over 20,000 jobs in the private sector for welfare recipients. They anticipate locating jobs for 31,000 persons in 77-79.

3. Affirmative Action - One of Governor Straub's major goals has been to bring more women and minorities into State government. The results have been impressive.

(a) A 51% increase in minorities in full time positions  
(796 - 1202)

(b) A 43% increase in minorities earning over \$1,000  
per month (168 - 241 )

(c) A 20% increase in women in full time positions  
(8,563 - 10,300)

(d) A 50% increase in women earning over \$1,000  
per month (709 - 1,069)

(e) First woman appointed to the Court of Appeals;  
first women appointed to the Parole Board

(f) More women, handicapped, and minorities were  
appointed to head State agencies and  
divisions than under any previous governor

(g) Over \$280,000 in State contracts were let to  
minority businesses in nine months of 1977.  
Over \$2 million in minority contracts are  
expected in this biennium

(h) New legislation supported by the Governor will  
increase the State's purchase of goods from  
the handicapped

## I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -- JOBS (cont)

B. ATTRACTING NEW BUSINESS

During the Straub administration, the State has developed its first long range Economic Development Plan.

- 1 - Targeted industries - Under Governor Straub's direction the Department of Economic Development is recruiting non-polluting, labor intensive industry to diversify and expand Oregon's economy. Target industries include electronics, medical and dental equipment, sports and recreation equipment, printing and publishing.
- 2 - Since 1975, 54 new plants have decided to locate in Oregon, while 79 additional plants have expanded within the State. Total investment in these developments has been in excess of \$495 million. Over 10,000 new jobs have resulted.
- 3 - Motion Picture Promotion Program - Active recruitment by the program staff has increased the number of TV and film productions and the amount spent by the production companies in Oregon over the last three years.

Year	Productions	Estimated Amount expended in Oregon
1975	11	\$2,249,000
1976	29	4,000,000
1977	31	4,100,000

C. FORESTRY - Over 1/3 of Oregon's economy depends on forest products. The Governor has acted to insure an adequate timber supply for Oregon's future.

- 1 - Intensive Management - thinning, reforestation, fertilization, disease and pest control can increase the yield from existing forest land.

(a) Nonindustrial private woodlands - At Governor Straub's request, the Forestry Dept. received a 100% increase in their Service Forestry Program. The program will bring 500,000 new acres of privately held timber under intensive management plans in the next two years.

Currently, small woodlots account for only 6% of Oregon's timber harvest, but 14% of the State's total commercial forest land. Through intensive management practices, these private forests can more than double their yield by 1980, and sustain that level into the next century.

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

C. FORESTRY (cont)

The Governor has appointed an interagency task force to recommend ways of improving the yield on small private woodlots.

(b) State lands - Over 85,000 acres of State lands will be reforested and intensively managed during the next two years. Investments in management and reforestation will double annual growth on State forest land by 2005 from the current 26 million cubic feet per year to 55 million cubic feet per year.

(c) Federal lands - Governor Straub has consistently urged Congress and the President to increase the budget and OMB manpower ceilings for the Forest Service to allow more intensive management of Oregon's National Forest lands. Congress has approved increases in the Forest Service budget and the OMB has raised their manpower ceiling.

- 2 - Fire Protection - Project Firesafe - In 1977, timber loss due to forest fire damage was 1/4 of the normal loss during an average fire season, despite extreme drought conditions. Governor Straub's commitment of additional resources, specially trained CETA employees, and close interstate co-operation through Project Firesafe was responsible for the reduced damage.
- 3 - Western Oregon Severance Tax - Governor Straub supported the shift from ad valorem taxation to a severance tax in Western Oregon. This will levy the tax on timber when it is harvested, not while it is still standing. The severance tax will encourage the harvesting of high yield mature trees.
- 4 - Log Exports - The Governor has urged that log exports be curtailed. Largely as a result of his urgings, the United States has begun negotiations with Japan to expand Japanese purchase of finished products rather than raw logs.



I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

D. INCENTIVES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1 - Lagging Areas Tax Credit - Governor Straub introduced legislation in 1977 to offer a 10% tax credit for business expansion and location in areas which are "lagging" behind the rest of the State in economic development and jobs.

The Bill passed and the Governor has approved the first group of eligible areas. These include Coos, Cook, Curry, Grant, Hood River, Linn, Tillamook, Wallowa and Wheeler counties as well as special impact areas within Portland and Oakridge/Westfir.

- 2 - Small Port Loans - As part of his legislative package, the Governor successfully argued for a loan fund for small port development projects.

The Economic Development Commission has approved several loans. One loan will permit expansion of shrimp processing facilities in Coos Bay, providing 16 new jobs and \$2,000,000 of new production per year.

- 3 - Tax Credits for Pollution Control Devices  
Businesses will now be able to receive tax credits for the installation of noise abatement equipment, in addition to water, air and solid waste equipment. The entire program has been extended until 1988. DEQ has issued over 700 certificates authorizing tax credits for pollution control facilities since the program began in 1968. From January, 1975 through December of 1977, 321 certificates were issued for over \$89 million worth of pollution control equipment.

4. Industrial Revenue Bonds - The State can issue revenue bonds for industrial development projects to raise capital for a new or expanding business. Interest on the bonds is exempt from taxes. There have been two industrial revenue bonds issued and 6 more have been approved. The bonds are repaid by the business at no expense to the taxpayer.

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

E. ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS

- 1 - Permit Coordination Center - Opened in 1975, the Center provides complete information on the wide variety of Federal and State permits. They are now handling over 200 inquiries per month, an increase of 100% over the past year.

The Center also arranges and processes master applications for large complex developments. Six have been completed in the last year.

- 2 - Special Assistant for Business and Government Relations -

The special assistant to the Director of the Department of Economic Development serves as an ombudsman to resolve problems arising between businesses and the government. He had over 100 contacts with the business community in 1977, the first year of operation.

- 3 - Forms Reduction and Simplification - Since March of 1976, 25% of all forms used by the State have been eliminated, shortened or consolidated. All forms are currently being reviewed for readability and simplification. (e.g., new employers who were previously required to file separate forms with the Dept. of Revenue, SAIF, and the Employment Division, now need to file only one form.)

- 4 - Preemployment Worker Training - The Dept. of Economic Development now has the capability to assist businesses in training potential employees to upgrade their skills (e.g. basic electronics training at a community college).



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

F. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

- 1 - Dept. of Economic Development - The Department is working on expanding Oregon's economy by encouraging increased exports. By conducting seminars, workshops, foreign market studies and arranging trade shows, the Department has been able to increase the export capabilities of targeted Oregon industries (forest products equipment; lumber and building materials; agribusiness; consulting engineers and architects; and sporting goods).

At one trade fair arranged by the Department in 1977, over \$4 million of Oregon built forest products equipment was sold to foreign buyers.

- 2 - Dept. of Agriculture - The Agricultural Development Division assists Oregon's agricultural producers and processors in finding markets for their products.

Approximately 20% of Oregon's agricultural products were exported in 1977 compared to 10% in 1969. There has been a 27% increase in the value of exported fruits and vegetables, both fresh and processed, since 1974.

These increases have occurred despite foreign protectionism, intense competition and draught conditions in Oregon. The division has been instrumental in developing these foreign markets.

A 50% budget increase was granted the Division at the Governor's request in 1977. This will allow for program expansion to better serve Oregon's agricultural community and increase the percentage of Oregon's products which are exported (goal - 25%).

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

G. WORKERS COMPENSATION

1 - Reorganization - The reorganization of Oregon's Workers Compensation system was a top priority for Governor Straub in 1977. This reorganization has been accomplished with the creation of a Workers Compensation Department under a single Director. The new structure will improve services to the injured worker, while keeping costs down. Several program changes will contribute to these improvements:

- (a) There will be an increase in the number of field service case workers to insure the worker quick assistance and a quick return to the job. Field service workers placed 178 injured workers in jobs in January of '78 compared with 48 in January of '77.
- (b) The injured worker will be placed into vocational rehabilitation or retraining programs at an accelerated rate. This will return the worker to the job more quickly while reducing the amount of temporary disability payments.
- (c) Additional seed money is available to encourage an employer to hire the injured worker.
- (d) A new consultive services section will provide assistance to help employers reduce the number of accidents.
- (e) There has been an increase in permanent total disability payments.
- (f) The Circuit Court has been eliminated from the appeals process to expedite resolution of Workers' Compensation claims.

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

- H. WATER DEVELOPMENT LOANS - Governor Straub supported legislation in 1977 to enable the Department of Water Resources to issue bonds for water development and Oregon's voters approved \$658 million in bonds for the program. Between \$10 - 50 million will be issued in the first year. Eligible projects, such as drainage and irrigation, will increase the productivity of Oregon's agricultural land.

The first low interest loans will be made in late summer, with individual landowners as well as corporations and government units eligible to apply.

The bonds are fully self-supporting and require no tax dollars to retire the debt.

I. HOUSING - Housing starts in Oregon were up 31% in 1977.

1. Housing Division, Dept. of Commerce - The Division has issued \$64 million in revenue bonds to provide loans for single and multi-family dwellings. They will issue another \$136 million in the next two years.

Over 2,000 single family low interest home loans were made to lower income Oregonians as a result of this program in 1977. An estimated 2,600 loans will be made in 1978.

The Division also made loans for 1300 multi-family units in 1977, and expects to issue 800 such loans in 1978.

These loans involve no taxpayer dollars, and were not available prior to 1976.

2. Department of Veterans' Affairs - With Governor Straub's strong support before the Legislature and at the polls, the Department won an increase in their bonding limitation to allow for an expansion of their programs.

Over 20,775 loans were made in 1977, totaling \$620 million. This represents an increase of 47% over the loans made in 1974. One-fourth of all Oregonians who purchased homes last year did so with a Veteran's loan.

The Department expects to make 24,175 home loans in 1978.

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

J. TRANSPORTATION

1. Highways -

- (a) Over 4100 miles of State highways are in need of repair. Governor Straub has been instrumental in developing a financing proposal necessary to fund the highway improvement program. The total package would raise \$118 million for the '79-81 biennium, and will be placed before the voters in the May and November elections.
- (b) Highway Construction- During Governor Straub's administration, there has been a significant shift away from new highway construction to rehabilitation of existing highways.
- (c) Mt. Hood Freeway/I-305 --Governor Straub was influential in the successful transfer of federal funds from these projects to special projects within the Portland and Salem areas. These funds were nearly lost. Over \$200 million is available for projects in the Portland area.
- (d) I-205 -- Completion of I-205 and the Glenn Jackson bridge has been initiated during the Straub administration.

2. Mass Transit

- (a) Mass Transit Districts - Mass Transit Districts have significantly improved public transportation service and bus ridership in the past three years. Tri-Met has increased ridership from 20,551,000 in 1974 to 32,128,000, a 56% increase. Lane Transit District ridership was increased from 2,420,000 in 1974 to 3,343,000 in 1977, a 38% increase.
- (b) State Assistance - Tri-Met and Lane Transit District have received over \$900,000 to assist in the purchase of 125 new buses in the last year. The State Public Transit Division has provided financial and technical assistance to Forest Grove, Oregon City, Gresham, Bend, Astoria, Corvallis, Albany, Ontario, Reedsport, Roseburg, Medford-Ashland, and Columbia County to help them develop public transportation systems. Over \$3 million dollars in State aid will be available for local mass transit in the next two years.

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

J. TRANSPORTATION (cont)

- (c) Willamette Valley Rail - Governor Straub strongly supports a study of the potential for a mass transit fast rail system for the Willamette Valley, and has appointed three members to the study's task force.

3. Railroad Safety

- (a) Since Governor Straub has been in office, safety improvements and repairs have been made to 494 of Oregon's 2,762 crossings. An additional 570 crossing improvement projects are being planned.
- (b) Governor Straub initiated Operation Lifesaver in October of '77 to increase public awareness of railroad crossing hazards. Between Oct. 17 and December 31, injuries and fatalities were down over 50% compared to same period in '76.

4. Motor Vehicles -

- (a) Oregon has implemented a photo driver's license which is issued the same day of examination, eliminating the need for a temporary license.
- (b) Revisions in the Motor Vehicle Code adopted during the Straub administration have provided Oregon with modern and understandable vehicle laws.

K. DROUGHT

Governor Straub took quick and decisive action to minimize the impact of the 1977 drought.

1. Financial Assistance - The Governor recommended that the Legislature set aside funds with the E-Board for use by Water Resources and the Dept. of Agriculture to provide financial aid for drought related problems. This recommendation was accepted.
2. Comprehensive Drought Management - The Governor consolidated agencies dealing with drought problems into a Drought Council and established a toll free phone number to handle citizen problems.
3. Livestock - The Governor was instrumental in securing special assistance for the feeding and watering of livestock, including expanded federal emergency assistance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - JOBS (cont)

L. CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

Capital construction by the State means more jobs and better service to Oregon's citizens. In the 73-75 biennium, slightly over \$1 million was expended for capital construction. In the 75-77 budget period, an estimated \$13 million was appropriated for capital construction. Over \$23 million has been approved by the Legislature for 77-79.

These funds will allow for the construction of office buildings in over 25 locations around the State, to bring State services closer to the people.



## II. LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT

### A. LAND USE

1. Preventing repeal of Land Conservation and Development Commission - In November of 1976, an initiative to repeal the legislation establishing LCDC was placed on the ballot. The Governor campaigned hard against the repeal, and the ballot measure was defeated. In supporting LCDC, he recognized the need for new amendments to the legislation. Many of these amendments were enacted by the 1977 Legislature.
2. Compliance with L.C.D.C. Goals
  - (a) All 277 jurisdictions are now on compliance schedules. These schedules call for compliance by the end of 1980. All compliance schedules have been developed since 1975.
  - (b) One county and eight cities have received notification of compliance (Gilliam County; cities of Condon, Central Point, Medford, Eugene, Boardman, King City, Port Orford and Lostine).
  - (c) Four additional cities and one county have requests for acknowledgement of compliance pending. Approval will be decided by May, 1978.
3. State Assistance to Local Government for Land Use Planning
  - (a) Budget increases requested by Governor Straub will provide over \$7 million for local planning assistance, co-ordination, maintenance and update and data and inventory grants. This compares with \$3 million available during the last biennium, and none available in 1973-75.
  - (b) The Department of Land Conservation and Development has opened five field offices in LaGrande, Medford, Salem, Portland, Newport. A sixth field office is planned for Bend. These field offices will improve communications and cooperation between the Department and local governments. Previously, there have been no LCDC field offices.



II. LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT (cont)

A. LAND USE (Cont)

4. State Agency Coordination with L.C.D.C. -  
1977 amendments to the State's Land Use Law required State agencies to submit programs affecting land use to the Department for review and approval. The Department is developing a coordination program with the affected agencies.
  
5. Coastal Goals - During the Straub administration, the four LCDC coastal goals have been adopted. These goals will guarantee careful planning of Coastal development to insure the preservation of Oregon's shorelands.
  
6. Tongue Point - This maritime facility near Astoria has been under federal control since World War II. In recent years, the facility has been underutilized.

Governor Straub has led the effort to return the facility to State control so that it can be put to productive economic use. The federal government has begun negotiations with the State for the return of the property.

f. LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT (cont)

B. WILLAMETTE RIVER GREENWAY

1. Adoption of Plan - During the Straub administration the Greenway Plan was adopted by both the Transportation Commission and LCDC, after development by Parks Branch and affected local governments. The idea of preserving the natural beauty of the Willamette River will now become a reality.
2. Assistance to Local Governments. - The State will offer local governments nearly \$250,000 to assist them in purchasing land along the Greenway.
3. Facilities Improvement - Forty-six Greenway sites will be improved for public use during this biennium. The State will spend approximately \$400,000 to improve these public sites and to protect private lands from abuse. This new State assistance program will allow for development of primitive campsites, sanitary facilities, and sign placement designating public areas.
4. Willamette River Parks - Initial development is under way on three new State Parks at Molalla River, Lone Tree Bar and Dexter.

Governor Straub originated the idea for the Greenway over a decade ago. His administration has provided the leadership to make the idea work.

C. PARKS

1. State Parks - Since July of 1976, there has been an increase of 1175 acres in the State Parks system.
2. Historic Preservation - With Federal assistance, the State has undertaken preservation projects to restore historic sites at several locations including Yaquina Head and Cape Mears Light House, Fort Stevens State Park, and Wolf Creek Tavern.
3. The Coast Trail - The first 64.4 miles of the Oregon Coast Trail were completed by the Parks Branch during the Straub administration.
4. Local Government Assistance - Governor Straub requested General Fund dollars for a new program of grants-in-aid to local governments for park development and improvement during this biennium. The Budget request was approved and \$400,000 has been distributed to Oregon counties.

## II. LAND USE &amp; ENVIRONMENT (cont)

D. WILDERNESS EXPANSION

1. Support for Wilderness Areas - Governor Straub supports reasonable increases in the wilderness system, including French Pete, the Wild Rogue, portions of the Kalmiopsis and Wenaha-Tucannon. All of these areas have been included in the Endangered Wilderness Bill which has passed the Congress. In addition, the Governor supports wilderness designation for Boulder Creek, Limpy Rock, and extensions of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness areas.

E. FIELD BURNING

1. 1975 Compromise -- Previous legislative sessions had established a complete ban on field burning after 1975. No feasible alternatives to field burning had been developed by 1975, and the Legislature was faced with an "all" or "nothing" situation. Governor Straub engineered a compromise to establish a gradual phasedown of acreage to be burned.
2. Veto of Acreage Increases - During the 1977 session, the Legislature approved a Bill to increase the acreage which could be burned, and to eliminate any future phasedown of burning acreage. Governor Straub vetoed this Bill.
3. Maintenance of the Phasedown -- Governor Straub again suggested a compromise solution which maintained a phasedown (beginning with 195,000 acres in 1977). The Bill also abolished the Field Sanitation Committee, placed all responsibility for management of field burning with the D.E.Q., and urged increased emphasis on the study of the health and air quality effects of field burning.

J LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT (cont)

F. POLLUTION CONTROL

1. Waste Water Quality

(a) Public Systems - As of July 1, 1977, 85% of Oregon's publicly owned sewage systems were in compliance with water quality standards. This compares with 52% in Idaho, 39% in Alaska, and 36% in Washington. The D.E.Q. has provided technical and financial assistance through their Pollution Control Fund for development and improvement of these systems.

(b) Major Industries - On Jan. 1, 1975, only 69% of 32 major industries in Oregon were in compliance with waste water quality standards. On July 1, 1977, 91% were in compliance. This compares with 90% in Idaho, 70% in Alaska and 65% in Washington.

(c) Subsurface Sewerage - Conventional septic tank disposal systems do not work in many areas which would otherwise be ideal locations for homesites. In 1975, the D.E.Q. began an experimental sewage disposal program. Over 120 temporary permits have been issued to individuals for alternative disposal systems (e.g. composting toilets). Approximately 300 will be issued by 1979. The Department will study these systems closely and hopes to certify new alternative systems within the next 3 to 4 years.

2. Solid Waste

(a) Resource Recovery - The Dept. of Environmental Quality has provided technical and financial assistance through direct grants and loans to the Portland Metropolitan Service District, Lane and Union counties for development of new Resource Recovery Stations. These stations will be able to recover 75% of their solid waste for resale, utilize waste as a fuel resource, and reduce the degree of dependence on landfills. The Lane County station has begun limited operations, and the Portland MSD station will begin construction this Spring.

Planning grants, loans and technical assistance are available for similar solid waste management programs to other local units of government.

II. LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT (cont)

2. Solid Waste (cont)

(b) Hazardous Waste

1) Transportation - The Straub administration has developed a system for regulating the transportation of hazardous waste (e.g. acids, pesticide waste). The program received legislative approval, and will become operational in a few months. It will allow for the tracking of all hazardous wastes and will insure that the producers of the waste will be responsible for its safe transport. No other northwest state has developed a hazardous waste transportation control system.

2) Disposal of Hazardous Waste - In 1976, the D.E.Q. authorized a disposal site for non-nuclear wastes in Arlington. This site, closely regulated by the D.E.Q., allows for the safe disposal of hazardous wastes which would otherwise be dispersed in environmentally unsound locations with no control. There is only one other site of its kind in the Northwest.

3. Air Quality Control

(a) Portland Auto Inspection - In 1975, automobile emission testing became mandatory in the Portland area. Over 760,000 tests were administered by the State D.E.Q., which issued 458,822 certificates of compliance. During this biennium, the program expects to administer 800,000 tests, and issue 520,000 certificates.

Carbon monoxide levels in the Portland metropolitan area dropped 5% in 1975-76 and another 14% in 1976-77, largely as a result of the auto emissions testing program. This program is totally self-supporting, from fees paid for certificates.

(b) Permit Compliance - In 1977, 98% of industrial sources were in compliance with their air emissions permits. This compares to 100% in Alaska, 96.7% in Idaho, and 96.4% in Washington.



LAND USE & ENVIRONMENT (cont)

3. Air Quality Control (cont)

(c) Air-Shed Standards - In 1974, none of the State's airsheds were in compliance with air quality standards. Several (including Roseburg, Baker and The Dalles) have come into compliance since 1975.

(d) Improvements in Air Monitoring - Major air-sheds in Eugene, Portland, and Medford are not in compliance with air quality standards. Strategies based on a simplistic understanding of air pollution problems in the early '70's were not enough to solve the problem. There is a need to develop new strategies and, therefore, a need for a more specific understanding of the causes of existing air pollution.

With federal assistance, the Straub administration is upgrading the pollution monitoring capabilities. The DEQ has added new weather, particle and chemical analysis equipment to the monitoring systems in Eugene, Portland and Medford air-sheds. Additional monitoring improvements are planned for the entire Willamette Valley air-shed.

### III UTILITY RATES AND ENERGY

#### A. ACCESS TO LOW COST HYDROELECTRIC POWER

Eighty percent of Oregon's residential consumers have been deprived of low cost Bonneville hydropower because they are not served by public utilities which are eligible to purchase hydroelectric energy at "preferential" rates. As a result, a resident in Portland pays \$27 for electricity that costs less than \$11 in Vancouver, Wash.

Governor Straub is working to guarantee Oregon's residential customers their fair share of cheap Bonneville hydropower.

1. DRPA - Governor Straub's number one priority during the last session was the creation of a Domestic and Rural Power Authority. As a state-wide "public" utility, DRPA would be eligible to purchase Bonneville's "preference" energy. This cheap energy would then be available to all of Oregon's residential customers.

The Bill passed the Legislature and will take effect in 1979. The Governor has stated he will call a special session to speed up implementation of DRPA if necessary.

2. Regional Power Plan - Passage of a fair regional policy by Congress would eliminate the need for DRPA. The Governor has worked hard to establish such a policy, and has indicated his support for a new regional power plan if it meets the following criteria:
  - 1) Reduces the rate differences between Oregon and Washington residential customers;
  - 2) Includes strong energy conservation and alternate energy resource development programs;
  - 3) Assures public accountability through formation of a policy board appointed by the Governors of the region

#### B. FUEL AND UTILITY RATE RELIEF

The Governor introduced legislation in 1977 to provide direct rate relief for low income seniors. The Legislature passed the Bill, and \$7 million is available for qualified seniors. The Dept. of Revenue mailed \$50 rate relief checks to 59,630 seniors last October. An additional 60,000 will be sent in 1978.



II UTILITY RATES AND ENERGY (cont)

C. THE DEPT. OF ENERGY--

1. Formation - Governor Straub proposed to the State Legislature in 1975 that a Dept. of Energy be created to provide comprehensive State leadership and coordination in energy policy. The Legislature adopted the proposal.

The Department gives the State a voice in developing an energy policy to assure that there is sufficient energy available to Oregonians at the lowest possible cost.

2. Function - Department programs include reviewing siting applications for energy facilities, monitoring their operation, reviewing P.U.D. proposals, coordinating energy research and development, directing Oregon's energy conservation and alternative energy programs, and forecasting energy needs.

Prior to the formation of the D.O.E. there was no Agency which could perform all of these crucial tasks.

3. Forecasting - The Dept. of Energy prepares long range energy forecasts each year. Prior to these forecasts, there was no objective source of information about future energy needs in Oregon.

The Dept. of Energy's most recent forecast suggests approximately 2.5% to 3.5% per year increase in Oregon's energy needs over the next 20 years. This is significantly lower than historical trends and earlier predictions, and may indicate a reduced need for new energy generating facilities.

D. ENERGY CONSERVATION

Saving energy will reduce utility bills, lessen the need for new energy generating facilities, and conserve scarce natural resources.

Governor Straub has urged voluntary conservation measures, and developed energy conservation legislation which has become a model for other state and national programs. The Governor has set a goal of 5-1/4% savings in energy consumption in Oregon by 1980. He hopes to achieve this goal by a comprehensive system of voluntary incentives and mandatory requirements to insure energy conservation.

1. Voluntary Energy Conservation - Early in 1977, Governor Straub began an active campaign to encourage Oregonians to conserve energy voluntarily.

UTILITY RATES AND ENERGY (Cont)

Private utilities had forecast over 7% growth in energy consumption for fiscal year 1977 over fiscal year 1976. Actual growth was half of that projected figure for fiscal year 1977. In March and July 1977, energy use was actually lower than in the same months of 1976.

Despite severe drought conditions, Oregon escaped mandatory curtailment, brownouts and blackouts.

2. Energy Savings in State Buildings - In 1975, Governor Straub set a goal of 15% reduction of energy consumption in State buildings. The State exceeded this goal by achieving a 22% reduction (over 56 trillion BTU's) over projected consumption. This saved Oregon taxpayers over \$2-1/2 million. To maintain this initiative, the Governor has ordered all agencies to develop and implement long range energy conservation measures including target energy budgets and capital improvement plans.

3. New Energy Conservation Legislation - The energy conservation package developed by Governor Straub was adopted by the 1977 Legislature along with several other measures strongly supported by the Governor. This legislation has provided Oregonians with the most comprehensive energy conservation package of any state in the union. These programs hinge on upgrading residential weatherization. If all homes in Oregon were properly weatherized, residential energy consumption could be reduced by 30%. The Governor has set a goal of involving over 200,000 households, 1/3 of all homes in Oregon, in conservation or weatherization programs by 1980. The package includes the following incentives, none of which were available prior to 1977.

(a) Veterans' Energy Conservation Programs - Homes purchased with veterans' loans must meet State weatherization standards. Low cost loans are available through the Veterans' Affairs Department to cover the cost of weatherization. In the first three months of the program's operation, 2,065 weatherization loans were made. Over 22,000 loans are expected for the biennium. All of these loans are economically feasible (i.e. the investment in weatherization will be returned to the homeowner via reduced energy consumption and utility bills within 15 years).

## I. UTILITY RATES AND ENERGY (cont)

(b) Senior Citizen Weatherization - In addition to direct utility rate relief, low income seniors are eligible for direct grants of up to \$300 to insulate their homes. In December, over 64,000 vouchers were mailed to qualified seniors. Completed vouchers are returned to the Dept. of Revenue, which issues the grants.

In the first three months of the program's operation, over 750 vouchers were received by the Dept. of Revenue. Approximately 14,500 low income senior homeowners will receive grants to weatherize this biennium.

(c) Fuel and Utility Company Weatherization Programs - All public and private utility and fuel oil companies are now required to provide weatherization information and advice to their space heating customers. They will also assist the customer in securing low-interest loans to cover the cost of weatherization. Over 40,000 households are expected to participate in this program each year.

(d) Tax Credit for Weatherization - Taxpayers will be able to claim a direct tax credit of up to \$125 for weatherization. The program to certify weatherization services is in operation, and the tax credit may be claimed on the 1977 State income tax return.

3. (e) Energy Conservation in Public Buildings - Legislation sponsored by the Governor will require that all buildings open to the public will be subject to maximum lighting standards. Any building constructed after July 1, 1978, must comply with lighting standards set by the Dept. of Commerce. By 1980, the Dept. of Energy expects that over 1 billion kilowatt hours will be saved in office buildings, retail stores, schools, hospitals and other public buildings, as a result of new lighting standards.
4. Something New - To explain these programs in simple terms, the Dept. of Energy has distributed over 200,000 copies of Something New, an informational brochure summarizing the new energy legislation.

## III. UTILITY RATES AND ENERGY (Cont)

E. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

By developing a strong program to encourage energy generation from resources such as solar, wind, geothermal and wood waste, Oregon can move away from a reliance on limited, non-renewable and environmentally hazardous energy resources for the future.

Governor Straub has been a strong advocate for development of alternative energy systems, and under the Straub administration Oregon has become a national leader in alternative energy development.

1. Tax Credit Individuals installing alternate energy systems are now eligible for a tax credit of 25% of the cost of the device, up to \$1,000. Thirty solar projects were certified for the credit in the first three months of the program's operation. The Dept. of Energy expects to process 200 certification applications in 1978.
2. Loan Fund - The Governor actively supported a November, 1977, bond measure which would have authorized over \$400 million in loans for the development of non-nuclear energy resources. The proposal was defeated at the polls. The measure will be redrafted and introduced at the 1979 legislative session.
3. Veterans' Loans Program - Eligible veterans may now receive low cost loans of up to \$3,000 for the installation of alternative energy devices. In the first 3 months of the program in 1977 five such loans were made. Forty additional loans are expected in 1978.
4. Solar Energy -
  - (a) Increase in Solar Projects - In 1973 there were only 3 solar projects in Oregon; now there are over 60.
  - (b) State Plan - In cooperation with the U of O and OSU, the Dept. of Energy is preparing a long range State Solar Plan to hasten the development of solar energy resources.



III. UTILITY RATES AND ENERGY (Cont)

(c) Public Information - Dept. of Energy and the U of O Solar Center have increased efforts in the last year to make solar energy information and assistance more available to the public. A new Extension Service Program through O.S.U. will also provide solar energy information for citizens throughout the State.

(d) Solar Energy in the Parks - This past summer, Oregon's State Parks became the first in the country to utilize solar energy in Parks facilities. Two State Parks were equipped with solar heated shower systems.

(e) Western SUN - Largely as a result of Oregon's leadership in solar energy development, Portland has been selected as the site for the Western office of the Solar Utilization Network. This federally funded project will assist 13 Western States in implementing solar energy projects, and is expected to have a staff of 20 persons.

5. Geothermal Energy

(a) State Geothermal Plan - The Dept. of Energy in conjunction with the Oregon Institute of Technology, is preparing a long range plan for commercial development of geothermal resources in Oregon. Additionally, the Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries is preparing an inventory of areas in the State with a high potential for geothermal energy.

(b) Geothermal Projects - Oregon is a leader in geothermal development with hundreds of public and private systems currently operating. Major projects in Klamath Falls and on Mt. Hood which have been undertaken in the last three years, have received national attention.

F. CONSTRUCTION WORK IN PROGRESS

In a 1977 rate case, the Public Utility Commissioner ruled that a new utility company facility could not be added into the rate base and charged to customers until that facility is licensed. This will spare current consumers from paying for construction work in progress.

II UTILITY RATES AND ENERGY (cont)

G. ENERGY FACILITIES SITING

1. Standards - The Energy Facility Siting Council, in July of 1977, adopted a set of General Standards to judge an application for an energy facility.

In January of 1978, the Council adopted additional specific standards to judge the Pebble Springs Application. This is the first such set of standards developed by any agency, either Federal or State.

2. Security Programs - The Energy Facility Siting Council has reviewed security programs at the Trojan facility and has imposed safeguard requirements in above those mandated by the federal government.
3. Monitoring - The State has developed a unique monitoring system for the Trojan facility. Readings from the Trojan control room are continuously monitored in the State Police Headquarters in Salem.

IV. SENIORS

A. PROJECT INDEPENDENCE

There are over 18,000 senior citizens in Oregon at "high risk" of being forced out of their homes and into institutions. In 1975, Oregon began Project Independence to provide home based care (e.g. chore, homemaker, home health and meal services) to allow many of these seniors to remain in their own homes.

Governor Straub introduced legislation in 1977 to expand Project Independence. This proposal was adopted, and funding for Project Independence was increased.

In deDecember or 1976, 690 seniors were receiving Project Independence services. From July--September, 1977, 2499 clients received services. Over 8,000 will take part this year.

Less than 7% of the "high risk" seniors served by Project Independence have been admitted to nursing homes. The cost of providing home based care to these clients is less than the cost of institutional care.

B. UTILITY RATE RELIEF

1. Direct Grants for Fuel & Utility Rate Relief - The Governor introduced legislation in 1977 to provide direct rate relief for low income seniors. The Legislature passed the Bill, and \$7 million is available for qualified seniors. The Dept. of Revenue mailed \$50 rate relief checks to 59,630 seniors last October. An additional 60,000 will be sent in 1978.

2. Senior Citizen Weatherization - In addition to direct utility rate relief, low income seniors are eligible for direct grants of up to \$300 to insulate their homes. In December, over 64,000 vouchers were mailed to qualified seniors. Completed vouchers are returned to the Dept. of Revenue, which issues the grants.

In the first three months of the program's operation, over 750 vouchers were received by the Dept. of Revenue. Approximately 14,500 low income senior homeowners will receive grants to weatherize during this biennium.



IV. SENIORS (cont)

C. SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING BONDS

Governor Straub supported a ballot measure in 1976 to authorize bonds to finance housing for low income elderly. This measure was defeated.

The Governor worked closely with senior groups to convince the 1977 Legislature to place this issue before the voters again. A ballot measure to establish housing bonds for low income elderly will be on the May 23, 1978, ballot. If passed, \$200 million will be available to finance elderly housing in Oregon.

D. DENTURISTS

The Governor believes that senior citizens should have the right to choose between a dentist and a qualified denturist for denture services. A denturist can provide these services at a significant savings.

The Governor supported legislation in 1977 to license denturists. When this Bill failed, the Governor became a chief sponsor of an initiative petition now being circulated, to place the issue before the voters at the November, 1978, general election.

E. EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

The Governor believes that senior citizens need a strong advocate on boards and commissions which regulate activities affecting the elderly. To achieve this, the Governor appointed Ron Wyden, Executive Director of the Gray Panthers, to serve on the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators. The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments voted not to confirm Wyden. The Governor felt strongly enough about the importance of the appointment and his constitutional authority, to swear in Wyden despite the legislative action.

F. RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Governor Straub proposed a significant expansion in the Elderly Rental Assistance Program to help low income seniors meet their housing costs. Rent relief has been increased for existing participants and eligibility requirements have been broadened to include more seniors.

In 1977 -- 738 seniors received rental assistance averaging \$343

In 1978 -- an estimated 7000 people will receive approx. \$530 rental assistance

IV. SENIORS (cont)

RENTAL ASSISTANCE (cont)

The program was also refined in 1977 to make it easier for eligible seniors to receive maximum benefits.

G. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

1. Home Owner and Renter Rebate - Governor Straub introduced legislation in 1977 to increase property tax relief for homeowners and renters. Maximum benefits have been increased from \$490 to \$655 for homeowners and from \$255 to \$328 for renters. Over \$110million will be used for property tax relief in 1978.
2. Property tax Deferrals - Low income senior citizens may defer property tax payments until the taxpayer moves, or the property changes ownership.

Program improvements over the past three years have increased the number of participants from 260 in 1974 to 720 in 1977.

A new program will allow low income seniors to defer bonded assessments in a similar manner.

H. COMMISSION ON AGING

The Governor has appointed 19 members, 15 of whom are seniors, to the newly created Commission on Aging. This group is charged with advising the State on policies affecting seniors, and recommending program improvements to the Governor.

Simultaneously, the Dept. of Human Resources consolidated their senior programs into a new Office of Elderly Affairs.

The creation of a Commission on Aging and the Office of Elderly Affairs will improve the quality of senior services, eliminate program duplication, and provide seniors with direct input into policy making.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS

A. Human Resources

1. Displaced Homemakers - At Governor Straub's urging, the 1977 Legislature passed a Bill to create a Displaced Homemakers Program.

The program assists individuals who, as a result of death, divorce or illness of a spouse, are forced to support themselves and provide for their families. Services include counselling, financial management, vocational interest testing, job readiness training, and referral to other resources in the community.

During the first three months of operation, 119 clients entered the demonstration project in Eugene. Over 250 persons will receive services from the program this year. Forty percent of the first group to complete the program have already been placed in jobs.

2. Welfare Reform - Early in 1977, Governor Straub submitted a comprehensive plan for welfare reform to President Carter. Many of the elements of Carter's Bill are recommendations from the Straub proposal.

Governor Straub's proposal hinges on eliminating unnecessary overlap of welfare programs and providing adequate incentives and job opportunities for poor people to work. The Straub administration has already shown that this approach to welfare reform can work. In the last two years, the State found work for over 26,000 welfare recipients. During this time, payments have been reduced by over \$18 million as a result of welfare recipients finding work.

3. Health Care Costs

(a) Cost Review - In 1977, Governor Straub was instrumental in the creation of an agency to monitor and plan for health care costs and services in the State. Under the Governor's leadership, the State Health Planning and Development Agency has been examining costs of medical services to determine whether fees are justified. The agency has the additional responsibility of reviewing all applications for additional hospital and nursing home facilities. This review has prevented unnecessary cost increases which result from unneeded facilities.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS (cont)

A. Human Resources (cont)

3. Health Care Costs (cont)

(b) Hospital Revenues - Hospital costs have been increasing at a rate of between 14 and 17% per year. In early 1978, Governor Straub secured a pledge from representatives of the Hospital Association to lower their revenue increases to 12%. The State Health Planning and Development Agency will monitor hospital records closely to determine if this reduction occurs.

(c) Drug Costs - Governor Straub successfully supported legislation in 1975 to allow pharmacists to supply lower cost generic drugs in place of higher priced brand name drugs.

4. Child Support Service - The State has collected over \$35 million in the last year in child support payments for divorced parents who rely on this income. Approximately \$8 million of this was collected for welfare parents, reducing their need for public assistance.

5. Children's Services-

(a) Emotionally Disturbed Children - These children are in need of improved community services so that they may remain in their homes and out of costly institutions.

The 1977 Legislature adopted Governor Straub's recommendation which will increase the money available for community programs and establish new Day and Residential Treatment Programs for emotionally disturbed children in Lane, Deschutes and Lincoln Counties.

(b) Adoptions - Governor Straub made the very difficult decision to turn over adoptions of easy to place children to private agencies. This will free the State Children's Service Division workers to focus their efforts on developing more homes for children with special needs. The amount of State monies available to permit subsidization of certain adoptions for families who adopt children with special needs has been increased.

(c) Child Abuse - Over 900 cases of child abuse were reported to CSD in 1976. It is essential that these children be protected. Governor Straub recognized this need and recommended an expansion of the Protective Services Program. The Legislature adopted these recommendations, which will allow for around-the-clock protective services in major areas

V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS (cont)

A. HUMAN RESOURCES (cont)

5. Children's Services (cont)

of the State (Multnomah, Lane, Linn, Benton, Jackson, Coos, Josephine and Douglas) In other counties, emergency phone numbers are left with the police and/or Juvenile Departments.

6. Health

(a) Venereal Disease - The U. S. is facing a serious epidemic of venereal disease. During the Straub administration, Oregon became one of only 10 states in the country in which the number of reported cases of venereal disease decreased. Health Dept. screening, consultation and educational programs are largely responsible for this improvement.

(b) Water Bonds - Many of Oregon's water systems are badly in need of repair. The Governor recognized this need and proposed a domestic water fund to the last Legislature. The Legislature accepted the Governor's proposal and a ballot measure to authorize issuance of bonds for the fund will be placed before the voters in May, 1978.

If the measure is passed, over \$200 million will be available for the State to assist local governments in developing new public water systems.

(c) Multnomah County Medically Needy Program - Prior to 1975, low income families who did not qualify for welfare payments were unable to receive medical assistance in Oregon despite significant medical expenses.

During the 1975 Legislative Session, Governor Straub proposed a demonstration project in Multnomah County to address this problem. This program is currently providing medical services to 2500 low income persons in Multnomah County.



V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS (cont)

A. HUMAN RESOURCES (cont)

7. Handicapped Services

(a) Governor's Steering Committee on the Handicapped - The handicapped face special problems and are in need of special services. The Governor recognizes this need. In January, 1978, he established a Steering Committee on the Handicapped to advise him on these problems and recommend solutions.

(b) Architectural Barriers - The handicapped have had limited access to many facilities as a result of architectural barriers (e.g. narrow doorways, no ramps or elevators). During the Straub administration, the State has adopted stringent building codes which require any new construction of public facilities to be free of any such barriers.

8. Mental Health

(a) Community Mental Health Care - The Straub administration has supported the expansion of community mental health programs to serve as an alternative to State hospitalization. In January, 1975, these programs were available in only 7 counties. Services are now available in 13 counties. By 1979, community mental health services, including treatment centers and local hospitalization are expected to be available statewide.

(b) State Hospital Care - State hospitals have been understaffed in past years, affecting the quality of care available for the institutionalized mentally ill and retarded. Governor Straub recommended to the 1977 Legislature that staffing levels be increased to reduce the staff/patient ratio. The Legislature adopted this recommendation and over 250 new direct care positions have been added to Oregon's State Hospitals.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS (cont)

B. CORRECTIONS

1. Adult Corrections - Oregon's adult correctional institutions are overcrowded. Inmate population increased 62% between 1974 and mid 1977 and exceeds the designed capacity of state institutions by 600.

Governor Straub's Task Force on Corrections recommended several innovative programs to the 1977 Legislature. The following programs were adopted by the Legislature, and will reduce the pressure on the State corrections system, eliminating the need for the costly construction of a new corrections facility.

(a) Community Corrections - Nearly two-thirds of all new commitments to Oregon's correctional facilities are people who have never been inmates. Many are non-violent offenders who were committed to institutions because adequate services were not available in their community.

One of Governor Straub's top priorities in the 1977 session, was the passage of the Oregon Community Corrections Act to provide community based facilities and corrections services. The Act was passed by the Legislature, and over \$12 million is available to counties which choose to participate in the program. The program will provide a new sentencing option for local courts, more authority for local governments, and improved local correctional services.

Washington County has become the first to take part in the Community Corrections Program. It expects to reduce commitments to State institutions of Class "C" (minor) felons by 50%. Six other counties are formalizing plans, and 10 to 12 counties are expected to participate in the program this biennium.

(b) Increased Assistance for Parole and Probation - Parole and Probation staff has been increased so that those who have committed non-violent offenses can be handled through probation programs rather than in overcrowded institutions. The staff increases will result in smaller caseloads, better service and closer supervision of minor offenders. Largely as a result of these increases, and the Community Corrections Program, institution population actually declined between July, 1977 and February, 1978, despite earlier estimates of significant increase during that time.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS (cont)

B. CORRECTIONS (cont)

1. Adult Corrections (cont)

(c) Parole - During the Straub administration, the Parole Board has been using a "matrix" system to determine parole eligibility. During the 1977 session, the Legislature passed a Bill to make this practice statutory. This system allows the Parole Board to objectively determine an inmate's parole eligibility based on the seriousness of the offense, criminal record and prison behavior. As a result of this practice, more inmates have been placed on parole, while the average length of time served has increased. This practice has contributed to the decrease in inmate population during the last six months of 1977.

2. Preventing the Death Sentence - During the 1977 session, a Bill was introduced reinstating the death sentence in Oregon. Governor Straub vowed that he would work against passage of the Bill, and veto the measure if it did pass. The Bill did not pass.

3. Victims' Compensation - On January 2, 1978, the State Accident Insurance Fund began processing applications for financial assistance for victims of crime. The assistance includes payment for medical expenses, earnings loss, and rehabilitation for victims who suffer personal injury.

4. Mental Health Services - Many of Oregon's offenders are in need of special mental health services, not available at the State correctional institutions. The 1977 Legislature adopted a series of proposals recommended by Governor Straub to meet this need.

(a) Security expansion - Additional special treatment facilities at the State Hospital to serve 130 inmates. (Developmental stage)

(b) Increased mental health, alcohol and drug treatment services for inmates and recently released offenders.

(c) Increased community based evaluation and treatment of individuals with mental health problems in lieu of sentencing to state institutions.

5. Crime Rate - After increases in the rate of major crimes in Oregon between 1968-1975, the rate decreased by 3% in 1976 and 5% in the first 9 months of 1977.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES & CORRECTIONS (cont)

B. CORRECTIONS (cont)

6. Offender Rehabilitation - Governor Straub developed a program to increase rehabilitation services for offenders. The program provided job training and placement for ex-offenders as well as first time offenders. Over 250 individuals received services from this special program in 1976.
  
7. Juvenile Corrections - Oregon's juvenile corrections system is facing similar problems with overcrowding and inadequate service as had adult corrections. The Governor has appointed a Task Force on Juvenile Corrections to study these problems and recommend solutions. The Task Force has begun meeting and will present a report to the Governor in late 1978. A similar Task Force on Adult Corrections made many of the recommendations which have led to a reduction of the number of inmates in Oregon's prisons, while the crime rate has dropped.

## VI. EDUCATION

Education has a great impact on the people and the economy of Oregon:

One in every five persons is a student in the public school system.

More than 50,000 students attend Oregon's 13 community colleges.

Another 50,000 students are registered at the 8 colleges and universities in the state system of higher education.

About two-thirds of all local property taxes and one-third of State general funds finance Oregon's educational system

About one in every ten workers is employed in public education.

### A. BASIC SCHOOL SUPPORT

In past years, State general funds supported only 30% of the operating costs of school districts. In 1976, 9500 children were closed out of their schools when school districts failed to approve adequate funds.

The Governor appointed a School Finance Advisory Committee to recommend immediate action. With legislative approval, Governor Straub achieved a 45% increase in State support for schools. By 1979, State general funds will support 40% of the operating costs of school districts and provide significant property tax relief to school district residents. In fact, there were 89 fewer school levies that failed in 1977 compared to 1976. Almost 80% of the school levies in 1977 achieved passage on the first election compared with only 66% in 1976. And no school closed its doors to children in 1977. Moreover, the legislatively approved modification of the school fund formula recommended by Governor Straub provides a more equitable distribution of funds and additional property tax relief to school districts.



VI. EDUCATION (cont)

B. SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL SUPPORT

Recent federal legislation mandated new responsibilities to educate an estimated 58,000 handicapped children, without providing funds to pay for these programs. The Governor presented a realistic plan that was accepted by the Legislature. The significant accomplishments include:

A 78% increase in State payments to local districts to support the education of the handicapped. These funds maintained a full 30% State contribution to school districts and provided additional tax relief to residents.

Complete revision of the State reimbursement system. School districts now receive funds in a timely fashion and on an ongoing basis.

A program for the future. Oregon now has a plan to achieve significant and equitable assistance to school districts for special education for all handicapped by 1982.

C. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO LOCAL DISTRICTS

The State of Oregon will distribute \$867 million to support local school and community college districts in 1977-79.

1. Basic School Support - State general funds to school districts will amount to \$608 million.
2. School Lunch Program - About \$46 million of federal funds will be distributed to local school districts to provide some 248,785 schoolchildren with nutritious meals.
3. Programs for the Disadvantaged - An additional \$45 million of federal funds is administered to local school districts to improve the educational opportunities of children whose performances fall below grade level.
4. Program for the Able and Gifted - For the first time, State grants amounting to \$1 million are being distributed to local school districts to encourage and develop specially talented students.
5. Community Colleges - Governor Straub continues the commitment to provide support to local community college districts. For 1977-79, the Governor achieved a 29% increase in funds (\$87.7 million) to support the operation of the colleges and a 73% increase in funds (\$20.8 million) for construction.

## EDUCATION (cont)

### D. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS

During the Straub administration, general fund appropriations to assist college students increased 80%. The Scholarship Commission will administer \$9.5 million in 1977 through 1979. This year, some 7,718 students are receiving financial assistance through the State Scholarship Commission, compared with 6,903 students in the previous year.

To offset the increasing financial burdens on middle income families, Governor Straub recommended and the Legislature approved, a new program that makes qualified families with incomes up to \$20,000 eligible to receive assistance.

To insure that qualified students have the opportunity to attend medical and dental schools in Oregon, \$300,000 has been allocated to sustain students who attend the Oregon Health Sciences Center and who need this financial assistance.

### E. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

The strong "back to basics" movement represents the nationwide concern that students can read, write, compute, and have employable skills when they graduate. With the strong encouragement of Governor Straub, the Dept. of Education is providing leadership and programs that respond to this concern.

1. Basic Skills - "The Right to Read" program trains reading specialists to utilize better testing, to employ improved techniques and materials, and to develop comprehensive reading programs. Governor Straub and Superintendent Duncan encourage reading by issuing certificates to the 6,000 students who read 10 books during the summer of 1977.

2. Career Education - Almost 60% of Oregon's junior and senior highschools now offer career exploration programs compared with only 32% in 1976-77.

3. Vocational and Technical Education - Vocational programs are now offered in 86% of Oregon's highschools. More than half the 11th and 12th grade students are enrolled in these classes.

4. Graduation Requirements - In June, 1978, 35,000 highschool seniors will be the first to demonstrate that they have acquired basic skills in reading, math, citizenship, and career education as a graduate requirement.

VI. EDUCATION (cont)

F. HIGHER EDUCATION

Governor Straub is committed to broad opportunities and excellent service to Oregonians through a strong system of higher education.

1. Tuition Reform - The Governor proposed, and the 1977 Legislature accepted, a freeze on tuition for undergraduate residents. The progressively increasing tuition will be held to \$543 in 1977-79. Moreover, the tuition rate structure has been reformed to relieve some of the burden on Oregonians seeking to educate their children. Non-resident undergraduates and graduates will now contribute a greater percentage of the cost of education than the resident students.

2. Modern Equipment - Governor Straub recommended and received \$2.4 million to replace and restore the equipment that supports high quality instruction.

3. New and Improved Facilities

(a) In response to the Governor's vigorous support, \$700,000 was allocated to plan for the construction of a School of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with the states of Washington and Idaho. With the support of federal funds, this tri-state project will insure that an education in veterinary medicine will be available to qualified Oregonians who seek this career. The graduation of 12 veterinarians from Oregon every year will meet the needs of the State.

(b) Under management directive and with \$20 million recommended by Governor Straub, the hospitals of the Oregon Health Sciences Center modernized equipment, expanded the nursing staff, added new faculty and renovated physical facilities. These hospitals are now 75% self-supporting and provide clinical services second to none for Oregonians.

(c) Since the Straub administration, more than \$27 million have financed the construction of new facilities needed at the State colleges and universities to accommodate and maintain educational opportunities for Oregonians. Over \$13.7 million will correct facility safety deficiencies and thereby preserve the existing buildings on the State campuses.

VI. EDUCATION (cont)

4. Public Medical Service -

(a) Each year, 560 medical, 400 dental, and 500 nursing students receive training at the Oregon Health Science Center. The Center also serves 12,600 inpatients and handles 150,000 outpatient visits a year. Another 41,000 persons receive dental services.

(b) Over 800 handicapped children are treated and rehabilitated at the Crippled Children's Division. More than 2500 persons received genetic counselling to reduce the probability of producing handicapped children.

(c) The Rural Medicine Program encourages physicians to practice in rural areas by providing stipends to medical students who intern with doctors in these locations.

5. Financial Assistance to Independent Colleges - Almost \$5 million was appropriated to continue the cost effective program of purchasing educational services for Oregonians provided by 17 independent colleges.

G. PUBLIC BROADCASTING

During the Straub administration, the Oregon Educational Public Broadcasting Service has substantially expanded public television service to Oregonians. The construction of new television translators and transmitters coupled with the acquisition of an additional television station in Salem, now make public television available to approximately 85% of the population. Projects soon to be completed will provide certain areas in southwestern points of the State, with Oregon public television for the first time.

## VI. EDUCATION (cont)

H. THE ARTS

1. Public Support - Public support of the arts is receiving prominent attention in the Straub administration. Since 1975, State general funds have been distributed to local governments to match available federal funds for public art projects. For 1977-79, Governor Straub achieved a 90% increase in State general funds to assist local art programs. More than 150 local organizations will receive assistance in 1978.
2. One Percent for Art Program - During the Straub administration, this program has been implemented and expanded to provide art in all newly constructed State buildings. In 1977, \$93,000 was committed to two projects on the Salem mall. More than a dozen projects are planned throughout the State and another \$200,000 is projected for artwork in 1979.
3. Artists-in-schools - More than 40,000 children in over 125 schools will enjoy the instruction and experience of practicing professional artists. With about 1% of the national population, Oregon involves about 5% of all the artists in this nationwide program.
4. Community Development - Assistance is provided to outlying Oregon communities to develop local arts councils to promote arts activities. Six new councils were formed last year.
5. Folk Arts - One of only six state programs in the United States, Folk Arts promoted the Astoria Folk Festival in 1977, exhibitions, and local workshops.
6. Art Marketing - Public announcements and increased media coverage promote the talents of individual Oregon artists. Direct mail marketing in 1977 generated \$11,000 sales of Northwest graphic art.



## VII. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF -- PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

The Governor developed a comprehensive program of State assistance for local governments and taxpayers. This program, "Partners for Progress", is designed to provide property tax relief while improving the quality of services provided by local governments.

### A. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

1. Home Owner and Renter Rebate - Governor Straub introduced legislation in 1977 to increase the property tax relief available to homeowners and renters. The Legislature extended eligibility to include anyone earning under \$16,000 (previously \$15,000) maximum. Additionally, maximum benefits were increased for all eligible taxpayers. Over \$110 million will be used for direct property tax relief payments in 1978.

In 1977, 502,000 households received over \$73 million in property tax relief payments. The average rebate was \$147.

In 1978, 543,000 households will receive an average \$203. rebate.

2. Increased Basic School Support- A large portion of local schools operating costs are raised by the property tax. In an effort to shift much of this local burden to the State, Governor Straub successfully argued for significant increases in the State's basic school support. State funds will provide 34% of school districts' expenses in 1978 and 40% in 1979. This will cost the State \$607 million, a 45% increase over expenditures for basic school support in 1975-77. As a result, property tax levies for school districts went down in 13 counties, and the statewide increase in school property taxes in 1977-78 was less than 20% of the increase in 1976-77.

3. City Revenue Sharing - Governor Straub introduced legislation in 1977 to create a revenue sharing program between the State's general fund and Oregon's cities. This money could be used by the cities to replace the property tax and bolster city programs. The Legislature approved the concept of revenue sharing and the State will distribute over \$15 million in liquor tax revenues to 209 qualified cities.

4. Assistance to County Courts - Governor Straub sponsored legislation last session to provide financial assistance to Oregon's County Court systems. Over \$5 million will be distributed to Circuit Courts this biennium, based on an appropriation of \$32,000 for each Circuit Court judge in 1977-78 and \$40,000 in 1978-79. This assistance will improve the efficiency of the Courts,

VII. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF - PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS (Cont)

5. Public Health - County Health Departments are the mainstay of Oregon's public health systems. Governor Straub successfully argued for a new program of State aid for public health programs. The Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million for public health programs.

6. Mental Health -

(a) State Funding for Basic Mental Health Programs - In 1975, Governor Straub asked the Legislature to provide 50% of the funding for County Mental Health Programs. This request was approved and, since 1975, State support has fully matched local expenditures. This partnership has allowed the development of community mental health services in all the counties, without placing the entire financial burden on local property taxpayers.

(b) Emergency Holds for Mental Illness - In the 1977 session, Governor Straub recommended State funding to relieve local mental health programs of the burden of paying for temporary care and treatment of persons pending court commitment to the Mental Health Division. The Legislature provided \$1.2 million to reimburse counties for these costs.

These major State assistance programs, coupled with increases in State funding for special education, local parks, community colleges, and sewer and water systems, have had a significant impact in slowing property tax increases. In 1976-77, the average increase in property tax levies was over 10%. In 1977-78, the average increase was only 4.8%. Property tax levies actually dropped in nine counties.

B. ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Another step in the administration's commitment to building a strong state-local government partnership and improving delivery of government services to the people of Oregon, is the publication of a Handbook of State Programs for Local Governments in 1978. This will assist counties, cities and special service districts in making fuller use of State services and programs.

VIII. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A. REORGANIZATION

1. Dept. of Human Resources - The Dept. of Human Resources is the State's largest agency, made up of seven major divisions and over 12,000 employees. It is the heart and soul of State government responsible for providing a wide variety of social and health services. As the population has grown, so has the need for these social services.

The Governor felt that reorganization of the Department was necessary to improve the delivery of these services. Legislation to accomplish this reorganization was introduced by the Governor and approved by the 1977 session. This legislation improves the Director's ability to effectively manage the State's Human Resource Programs. The new legislation places more authority in the Director's office to reduce duplication and improve coordination between the divisions. Innovative programs resulting from the new legislation and Director Davis' initiative include:

(a) a job rotation program to use unique skills in critical areas;

(b) career ladders to keep exceptional managers in State service by giving promotional opportunities;

(c) "Spotlight on Ideas" program allows all employees an opportunity to send along ideas for improvements directly to the Director. Since November, over 1500 suggestions have been collected;

(d) emphasis on a team approach to offering services. Added benefit is increased communication and better client service.

2. State Fair Reorganization - The Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center had suffered decades of neglect to the extent that major managerial changes and new construction had become necessary..

(a) In 1975, Governor initiated a management study of the State Fair.

(b) As a result of the study, the Governor's plan for reorganizing the administrative structure was adopted by the 1977 Legislature.

II. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

2. State Fair Reorganization (cont)

(c) The old Fair Commission was scrapped and a new Advisory Commission, under the Executive Department, was created.

(d) In March, 1976, the Governor named a new Director, Ron Ingberg, who was told to "make the Fair solvent" after the 1976 Fair left a \$69,000 deficit.

(e) As of January, 1978, the Fair's financial position had improved by \$500,000. Fair revenue was up 21% in 1977 over 1976. Also in 1977, \$589,000 was generated from interim events.

(f) Capital construction and improvements for 1975-77 included:

1. major new exposition building
2. new barn constructed for the 4H/FFA livestock exhibits

3. Merger of Fish and Wildlife - Governor Straub worked closely with the 1975 Legislature to bring about the consolidation of the Fish Commission and Wildlife Commission into one agency. As a result of this consolidation, communication between recreational and commercial interests has improved, as have administrative savings. In 1977, the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife was able to continue its programs with the lowest budget increase in several biennia.
4. Dept. of Energy - Governor Straub proposed to the Legislature in 1975 that a Dept. of Energy be created to provide comprehensive State leadership and coordination in energy policy. The Legislature adopted the proposal. The Department combined energy related activities from at least four separate agencies. (see p. 20 - Utility Rates & Energy)
5. Water Resources Dept. - Consolidation of the Water Resources Board and State Engineer into one agency seemed the logical solution to the problem of water policy being formulated in one area and regulation in another. During the 1975 session, the Governor developed and actively supported a proposal to merge. The Legislature responded and adopted the measure to create the Water Resources Department. Benefits have included:



II. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

5. Water Resources Dept. (cont)

- (a) Administration of all water management responsibilities in one location.
- (b) The Department was able to clear up a substantial backlog of work load problems, including water permit applications dating back several years.
- (c) Offers better protection of the State's water resources.

6. Workers Compensation - The reorganization of Oregon's Workers Compensation system was a top priority for Governor Straub in 1977. This reorganization has been accomplished with the creation of a Workers Compensation Department under a single Director. The new structure will improve services to the injured worker, while keeping costs down. (see p. 7 Economic Development & Jobs)

7. Increase in Court of Appeals - The Governor appointed four new judges to the Court of Appeals as a result of a measure passed by the 1977 Legislature expanding the size of the Court from 6 to 10. The increase in size was a direct result of a change in the Court's jurisdiction. As of September 1, 1977, all lower Court decisions are appealed through the Court of Appeals and the increase in workload made additional judges essential.

The Governor appointed W. Michael Gillette, former State Solicitor General; John J. Buttler, Portland attorney; Betty Roberts, former State senator; and George Joseph, former Multnomah County Counsel.

8. Employment Relations Board - Prior to 1977, Oregon's merit system for public employment was largely the responsibility of a parttime board of five members. This board had the fulltime responsibility of reviewing personnel actions and employee complaints. Governor Straub strongly supported legislation in 1977 to create a fulltime three-member board to carry out these responsibilities. That legislation passed and the Governor has appointed the three board members.

9. Dept. of Resource Management - One of Governor Straub's major disappointments during the 1977 session was the failure of the Legislature to adopt his proposal for a consolidated Dept. of Resource Management. This Department would have combined the regulatory functions of five separate agencies, including DEQ, Water Resources, State Lands, Geology and Mineral Industries, and Land Conservation and Development Dept.



V.I. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

10. Governor's Management Council - An effective state government is only as effective as the people who administer and carry out the Governor's policy. Governor Straub recognized this and created the Governor's Management Council in 1976 to foster greater efficiencies and economies in government by developing sound management processes. The Council consists of 10 members, all of whom are State Administrators. Council projects have included:
  - (a) development of conflict of interest policies for State agencies;
  - (b) formulation of a plan for a statewide, toll free, information system to simplify the process of dealing with government for Oregon residents;
  - (c) creation of a Service Ethics Task Force to examine ways to improve public service by State employees;
  - (d) initiation of a series of meetings with members of the Governor's staff and agency heads to insure smooth communications among the Governor's management team.
  
- 11 Affirmative Action - Oregon became the first state to develop a comprehensive program to assure equal opportunities in employment for women, minorities and handicapped with the adoption of a State Affirmative Action Plan in 1976. The plan was designed by Straub administration officials and has resulted in significant increases in State employment of women, minorities and handicapped.  
(see p.1 - Jobs & Economic Dev.)

II. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

B. SAVINGS IN GOVERNMENT

1. Taxes - Governor Straub has held the line on taxes. Under his administration, there has been no new general tax increase. Additionally, Oregon has the most equitable income tax of all the states. (1976 study by the University of Kentucky.)

2. Bond Interest Rate - Oregon enjoys the highest bond rating (AAA by Moody's) available to a state. This allows Oregon to sell bonds at very low interest rates.

Last year, an issue of Veterans' Housing Bonds was sold at 4.87% interest, the lowest rate for any bond issue in Oregon. By selling for such low interest rates, Oregon can make loans for housing, water systems, etc. at the lowest possible interest rates.

3. Reducing Paperwork - In March, 1976, Governor Straub issued a directive to all State agencies to reduce state government paperwork. Since that time, the State has eliminated, shortened or consolidated 25% of all forms used by the State. All forms are being reviewed for readability and simplification.

Based on his strong commitment to reducing paperwork, Governor Straub was recently appointed to a National Citizens' Committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the President's Commission on Federal Paperwork. Governor Straub was one of two governors so honored.

4. Consolidation in the Transportation Dept. - Governor Straub has pushed for a consolidation of the central offices of the Transportation Department. While achieving more coordination among division programs, the Department has reduced the work force by 200 positions.

5. Zero Base Budgeting - In cooperation with the Legislature one third of Oregon's agencies will be preparing their budgets through a zero based budget approach for the first time this year.

II. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

B. SAVINGS IN GOVERNMENT (cont)

6. State Employment -

(a) Collective Bargaining - In each of the last two biennia, the State has reached collective bargaining agreements with State employees providing a fair wage without a strike or undue burden on the taxpayers.

(b) Executive Service - The 1977 Legislature accepted Governor Straub's recommendations to create an Executive Service to identify top State management personnel. The Executive Service will strengthen the Governor's management team and improve their accountability.

7. Flex Hours - To increase use of alternative modes of transportation, reduce traffic congestion, extend hours of public service and offer State employees flexible work schedules, the Governor issued an Executive Order in 1977 authorizing State agencies to develop flexible work schedules. The Governor set a goal of 30% of State employees beginning work before 8:00 A.M. and 20% beginning after 8:00 A.M.

8. Shuttle Bus Service - During the Straub administration, a shuttle bus service was instituted to provide transportation for State employees between Eugene, Salem and Portland. This program has reduced the number of trips driven by State employees in State owned cars.

9. Lowering the Cost of State Provided Housing - The State of Oregon provides housing for its employees, particularly where other housing is not available. Over the years, State provided housing costs have soared. In 1977, Governor Straub directed that employee housing should be phased out wherever possible. The order further required rental charges and utility costs be paid by the employees.

C. PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

1. Town Hall Meetings - Since the beginning of Governor Straub's administration, he has visited with thousands of Oregonians in every corner of the State while conducting Town Hall meetings. These meetings have given the Governor a unique opportunity to listen to the problems and issues which are of concern to the citizens of the State.

II. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

C. PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT (cont)

2. Toll Free Phone Systems - In March, the State instituted a single toll free phone line to allow free and easy public access to all state agencies. "Access 800" will eliminate 19 separate toll free lines and cost the State no extra money.

3. Tax Payer Assistance - For many Oregonians, trying to prepare an Income Tax Form is like a trek through a jungle. The Governor and Dept. of Revenue realized the problems involved and undertook an energetic program to make the trek easier. Dept. of Revenue activities included:

(a) The Tax Jungle Book - Over 60,000 copies of this easy-to-read guide to completing tax forms have been distributed. The Jungle Book won the first place award in the public relations brochure category of the National Federation of Press Women's 1977 Annual Communications Contest.

(b) For the first time in decades, the income tax forms were revised, and tested for uniform and consistent readability at the 8th grade level. The instruction booklet also contains an index for the first time.

(c) Tax Assistance Programs - The Revenue Dept. has established a taxpayer assistance unit and initiated a toll-free number. The unit has received over 15,500 calls since August 10, when service began. The Department is also establishing a Tax Assistance Unit to handle problems with tax forms on a full-time basis beginning July 1, 1978. Another practice of the Department is to use the telephone whenever possible to call tax form submitters and resolve the error or question over the phone. The average time for a tax refund is 3 weeks.

4. Consumer Services - Governor Straub is committed to consumerism. As a result of this commitment, he has strengthened the consumer relations components in several State agencies.

(a) Commerce Dept. - The Consumer Services Division has initiated a vigorous outreach program to increase consumer awareness. These activities include:

1. regular informational releases to news media on consumer product safety;
2. increased staff field work around the State;
3. State Fair booth to handle citizen complaints;
4. newsletter to extension agents, schools, etc. on consumer issues



II. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

4. Consumer Services (cont)

As a result of this awareness program, citizen inquiries to the office have increased significantly in the past year. Responses to these inquiries were 317% above projected levels for the first quarter of the biennium. In January 1978, the Division answered over 1700 calls.

(b) P.U.C. - During the Straub administration, the Public Utility Commissioner has placed great emphasis on the consumer assistance section. This component of the P.U.C. office is responsible for replying to citizen complaints and interceding with utility companies to resolve problems.

(c) Agriculture - The Agriculture Dept. has expanded its Consumer office and developed a comprehensive information-education program. A new consumer specialist and information representative were added to the consumer office in 1977 to carry out this program, which includes public appearances statewide and informational releases on a variety of consumer issues.

5. Ombudsman - The Ombudsman serves as an advocate for citizens having problems with the State bureaucracy. He intercedes for the citizen with the State agency to resolve the problem. During the first three years of Governor Straub's administration, the office was contacted by 4345 Oregonians seeking assistance. Many of these cases required further investigation and communications with an agency. There has been an increase in the number of cases requiring special assistance. To deal with this increase, the Governor has added two CETA funded positions to insure maximum service to the public. In 1977, the office had 1903 contacts, compared to 1041 in 1976.

6. Boards and Commissions -

(a) Public Members - The Governor is responsible for making appointments to over 120 boards and commissions. He is committed to appointing public members to represent consumer interests on these boards, particularly those which are responsible for licensing and regulation. The Governor introduced a Bill in the 1977 session requiring that public members be added to licensing regulatory boards and commissions. Currently many of these boards do not have public members. The Bill was defeated.



VI. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

6. Boards and Commissions (cont)

(b) Appointments of Minorities, Women, and non-Willamette Valley Residents - In an attempt to open up government to more citizens, the Governor has appointed many women and minorities to major board positions. He has also appointed representatives from outside the Willamette Valley.

-- Of the 195 board members residing outside the Willamette Valley, 150 were appointed by Governor Straub. This represents 23% of board memberships.

-- Of the 37 minority board members, 31 were appointed by Governor Straub.

-- Governor Straub has appointed 18 women to boards and commissions which had previously had no women members

7. Improved Field Services

(a) To bring Oregon government closer to the people, the Straub administration has attempted to decentralize by opening new field offices around the State. These include additional local offices for Dept. of Land Conservation and Development, Veterans' Affairs, Housing, Motor Vehicles, and Human Resources.

(b) Consolidated Human Resource Center - When seeking assistance from the Dept. of Human Resources, citizens are often forced to visit many separate offices in different parts of town. To eliminate this problem, the Department is consolidating its field service offices in one location wherever possible. One consolidated center has been established in the Albina neighborhood in Portland.

8. Open Meetings - The Governor is a strong advocate of open meetings allowing maximum citizen input into public decision making. Under the Straub administration, agencies have opened their meetings.

(a) The P.U.C. has established a hearings process for rate cases which allows public witnesses to testify without being sworn in. Several hearings have been televised.

(b) The Dept. of Human Resources has issued new rules which will require many private agencies contracting with the Department to be subject to open meetings and open records laws.

VIII. MANAGEMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (cont)

9. Speak Out, Oregon - Governor Straub is sponsoring Statewide meetings to discuss foreign policy issues. This experimental project is designed to improve dialogue between citizens and the federal government. The opinions resulting from these grass-roots meetings will be forwarded to the White House, State Department and Congress.

Meetings have been held discussing international trade and the Panama Canal. Meetings scheduled for March will consider Human Rights.

Speak Out, Oregon, is the only project of its kind in the country, and is endorsed by the President.