

## FOREST RESEARCH

AuCoin hopes to get money to continue research into forest management techniques that promise to produce more timber while protecting environmental values.

## TIMBER APPEALS

Packwood has introduced a bill that would change the judicial review process, which he believes is too time-consuming. Among other provisions, it would change the appeals process of forest plans and require challengers to contest an agency decision 120 days after the agency makes a final decision.

## TIMBER COMMUNITIES

Rep. Sid Morrison, R-Wash., plans to make another effort to win approval of a rural redevelopment plan for communities that depend on federal timber supplies. Morrison's plan involves assigning Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture specialists in development to help communities shift their economic base from timber to other industries. The plan also would provide some grants and a revolving loan fund. Morrison's theory is that federal timber policies encouraged those communities to grow and the

## TRI-MET

Attempts will be made to obtain money for extending westside light rail to Southwest 185th Avenue and also to plan the extension to downtown Hillsboro. AuCoin is working to ensure that the westside line is eligible for 75 percent federal funding.

## EXPORT LICENSING

AuCoin will attempt to reform laws for licensing of exports, particularly those regulating high-tech products, during the reauthorization of the Export Administration Act.

## CAPITAL GAINS

Members from the Northwest have lined up on both sides of the debate over whether to reduce the tax on capital gains. The issue is important to the Northwest timber industry because higher profits compensate for the long-term investment required to grow trees. Packwood and Wyden actively supported the tax cut last year. AuCoin is expected to join them this year.

## EXPORT ENHANCEMENT

Wyden will work to expand federal export loans and credit guarantees that are available for wood

# AuCoin 98/ emerges as leader

□ Oregon's 1st District representative matures in Congress and moves into the national spotlight

By FOSTER CHURCH

of The Oregonian staff

WASHINGTON — After 15 years in Congress, Les AuCoin has hit his stride, emerging as a leader in the House on several key legislative issues.

In the space of six months last year, AuCoin was out in front on the most difficult Northwest issue in Congress — the timber supply-spotted owl fight — and on one of the most volatile issues nationally: abortion.

It was AuCoin, who with Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash, negotiated a compromise that tried to balance timber supply in the Northwest against environmental concerns.

Many environmentalists criticize him sharply for the final product, but the agreement broke a logjam that threatened timber supply to Northwest mills.

AuCoin also led pro-choice activists in the House during crucial legislative battles. He became the chief strategist for measures that would have allowed federal funding for abortion in certain cases.

Beyond those high visibility issues, AuCoin retained his traditional power to bring federal dollars back to Oregon. Since 1980, AuCoin has been on the House Appropriations Committee. The position allows him to direct significant federal grants to



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Rep. Les AuCoin talks on the phone during a visit to his district last week.

the state. Last year, these included money for Tri-Met, for a new lodge at Crater Lake, for wetlands and for the Oregon Graduate Institute.

"He is not shotgunning," says Ron Schmidt, a Portland political consultant. "He is taking politics and doing a rifle approach into areas where he could have some impact, and he is hitting that bullseye right and left."

Life in Congress was not always so successful for the 47-year-old 1st District representative.

Beginning in 1982, he endured three diffi-

cult re-election battles. Twice he defeated Portland businessman Bill Moshofsky and once state Treasurer Tony Meeker. AuCoin indicated the contests, particularly against Moshofsky, made him wonder whether he might ever master the traditionally Republican 1st District.

Image problems have plagued AuCoin from the time he was first elected in 1974. Critics called him "plastic" and "haughty." A tall man with a well-projected baritone

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