

3/10/75

# Willamette Week

## Politics: Floyd McKay

### Packwood's Dorchester

In 1965 the Dorchester Conference rattled the cages of the Republican Party in Oregon.

In 1975 any difference between Dorchester and the party is lost on the casual viewer, and is more in style than substance. Dorchester is still more fun than the Grim Old Party, and it attracts more news coverage. Most of the other distinctions are blurred by ten years of crossbreeding.

The only constant factor in the process has been Bob Packwood.

When Packwood engineered the first Dorchester in the ashes of the 1964 Goldwater debacle, he picked the softest part of the elephant for his attack: State Chairman Elmo Smith, a small-town newspaper publisher and accidental two-year governor who had the bad fortune of being in charge of the party at the time.

Smith's anger at a rump session of Republicans served to guarantee press coverage of the "revolution." It also kept the list of luminaries down, thereby raising the stature of those who showed up.

The only big-shots (medium-shots at the time) who showed were Tom McCall, the new secretary of state, and John Dellenback, the new Fourth District congressman. Packwood himself carried the day with a polished and thoughtful foreign policy speech. It encouraged Republicans to begin imagining the young legislator as ready for tasks beyond advising candidates on the proper placing of lawn signs.

Bob Packwood emerged from the 1965 Dorchester Conference with a liberal image in the press and with the public. He had challenged the party chairman, who happened to be a conservative: ergo Packwood was a liberal. Obviously Packwood was young (32) and he had delivered a ringing internationalist speech. In the mid-1960s, being young and an internationalist was passage to the Liberal Club, where the best and the brightest were in residence.

Because most of the big guns had stayed away, Packwood loomed larger in the shape of things than if his meeting had attracted Gov. Mark Hatfield, Congressman Wendell Wyatt, House Speaker F.F. Montgomery or other major GOP figures in addition to McCall and Dellenback.

Dorchester I adopted no platform—its purpose was to allow disenchanted Republicans to begin feeling their way out of the Goldwater cave. Four years later, Party Chairman Smith was a forgotten name, and his challenger was addressed as Senator Packwood.

And ten years later, here is the junior senator on the stump at Dorchester XI, delivering his best Dorchester speech since the first one.

It is a "thump the bureaucrats" speech, sounding a bit like the sort of thing Republicans were trying to recover from in 1965. And the audience is lapping it up.

### The basic conservatism of Packwood is reflected in the mood of Dorchester XI.

Federal bureaucrats are destroying privacy (no mention of Nixon/Mitchell/Hoover) and meddling in the lives of average citizens. Applause. Federal bureaucrats are bungling program administration, which would be better handled by local government. Applause. Regulatory bureaus are fouling up the economy, which needs to be de-regulated. Applause. Government should do polling, find out what people want, and draw programs for private enterprise to operate in those areas. Applause.

And spending must be curbed; Republicans cannot outspend Democrats, and should stop trying, whether it's food stamps, Penn Central, or troops in Europe. Much applause. Standing ovation at conclusion.

In the years since Dorchester I, has Packwood changed his tune or his tactics? Neither. The only thing that's changed is the audience; the basic conservatism of Packwood is reflected in the mood of Dorchester XI.

Dorchester may very well be in the mainstream of the Oregon Republican Party right now—in fact, it probably has more influence than the formal party organization.

If Packwood is constant at the center of Dorchester, and he is, then the conference drift may be examined

by viewing the shifting status of those Republican politicians who play cameo roles at Dorchester.

The McCall-style Republican was dominant at the 1965 Dorchester. McCall himself was a major speaker, and the conference was where he and Clay Myers worked out a partnership in politics. Two years later, Myers gave a major Dorchester speech.

This year neither McCall nor Myers was present although both were satirized at the annual tent show review, Myers in the usual tasteless parody on his inability to grow to a suitable height for bigtime politics.

The hero of 1975, recipient of a spontaneous and genuinely warm ovation, was Vic Atiyeh, one of the Republican legislators conspicuous in 1965 by his absence. If Atiyeh wants a group to back him for another run in 1978, here it is. The Arlington Club may never again elect a governor, but masses of aspiring young suburban Republicans with noses pressed to the AC's window are a force to be reckoned with. Their Dorchester warmth, matched with the strong party endorsement of Atiyeh last spring, shows a merging of party and conference.

As for the titular head of the party, the 1965 convention was alien ground for Chairman Smith and National Committee members Dorothea Moore and Lowell Paget. This year, Chairman David Green played a cameo role, and Committeeman George Stadelman was a participant in the meetings.

The list of players in cameo roles now includes Sen. Mark Hatfield, who attended his first session in 1974, as speaker for a newly-scheduled prayer breakfast. (The breakfast is a base-broadening tactic, giving Hatfield a platform without any challenge to Packwood on the latter's turf. Some veteran conferees consider the breakfast somewhat ludicrous, following as it does the Saturday night beer blast, floor show and subsequent round of floating cocktail parties. But a party that prays together may stay together, even if most of the worshippers have hangovers.)

It is simply impossible to view Oregon politics in terms of party structure. Party structures are skeletal, lacking flesh or muscle. Oregon politics is determined by the simultaneous orbiting of individual politicians, each surrounded by a fluttering of followers and flatterers.

Once in a great while, if the timing is right in both party and personal organization, there is a chance the latter will pick up enough speed to eclipse the party itself, and instead of circling the establishment, it will become the establishment.

When that happens, it will be time for some young pup to break loose from the pack, and establish himself as a new force in exactly the manner of Bob Packwood a decade ago. For Elmo Smith and the Republican Party, substitute Bob Packwood and Dorchester. ●

Coos Bay, Oregon  
World  
(Cir. D. 18,038)

FEB 25 1975

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

editorial

## They must 793 speak out

ARE State Sen. Victor Atiyeh's concerns about improved east-west transportation, specifically over Highway 42, for real?

Atiyeh, former gubernatorial candidate and now co-chairman of the Joint Trade and Economic Development Committee, agrees with us that bringing Highway 42 up to first class primary road standards is a necessary step in trying to fulfill the 1973 legislative mandate which calls for balanced economic growth in Oregon. The senator recently addressed the Oregon Loggers Conference and called for "more government involvement in highway projects like Highway 42 to the coast so that citizens can encourage diversified industries and so that we can remove actual—not figurative—roadblocks to economic progress."

Our own south coast legislators may be inclined to respond to Atiyeh's speech as just so much easy talk. Talk, which incidentally, has not been so easy for them.

State Rep. Ed "Doc" Stevenson told us in a weekend telephone conversation that balancing Oregon's economic development "may be fine in theory but in practice, I don't know how effective it's going to be."

Stevenson, who sits on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, added, "We can talk all we want to, but that's not going to influence the highway division."

The state representative believes, as does fellow Ways and Means member State Sen. Jack Ripper of North Bend, the best way to fight the highway division is to "get the people down home united" and to deal with the highway bureaucracy through the division's budget, which comes before Ways and Means probably sometime next month.

WE ASKED Stevenson, "What precisely will you and Jack do when that highway division budget does come before your committee?"

To that the man from Coquille replied, "We haven't had time to sit down and map out our strategy yet." But Stevenson said he and Ripper would try "for so much money in the budget to fix up Highway 42."

Meanwhile, Stevenson confessed to not being familiar with Gov. Bob Straub's comments regarding using recently released federal funds on Highway 101 and "on laterals from the Willamette Valley to the coast."

Once informed of Straub's remarks, Stevenson suggested "this federal money may be our best hope."

Is it?

Are there no other means of funding Highway 42 improvements! None at all? We informed Stevenson of two separate ideas which came our way recently: one, to effect a regional auto registration fee increase to pay for 42 and two, to propose a constitutional amendment tapping the highway fund for a 2 per cent amount to pay for highways which, if improved, would contribute toward the balanced economic development of the state. We do not necessarily support one or the other, but they are ideas, something we aren't getting much of from the two coastal legislators serving on Ways and Means.

"I NEVER said I had all the ideas," said Stevenson, "or all the answers."

No, no one person has all the ideas or answers. But that shouldn't stop us from thinking, from being aggressive on behalf of the constituency. Rather, we have received words of caution like, "Go easy" and "Don't be pushy" and "Don't be too hard on Bob (Straub)."

There is a good reason to be pushy, we submit, and it is not based simply on years of frustration growing out of inactivity on 42. It is that improvement of this main east-west lateral from Interstate 5 and southern Oregon to the largest port on the Oregon coast is one of the best ways we see to create equal economic development opportunities in the state. We submit that an improved east-west route will help stimulate trade and tourism into the coastal area, and further will provide jobs not just through the construction but in years to come through new economic growth.

If our legislators believe that, they must speak out and think creatively for Highway 42 improvements, immediately.

THE FACT IS, the "folks down home" are united behind the East-west Highway Committee's drive for immediate and complete Highway 42 improvements and our two esteemed members on Ways and Means had best listen to the folks and yes, even get a little pushy if they have to.

State Rep. Bill Grannell of North Bend feels that perhaps Atiyeh's expressed concern about Highway 42 is just so much politics from the minority wedge in the legislature. But we can't agree. It was Atiyeh, not Straub, who committed himself to the highway during last year's gubernatorial race and his remarks now about 42 represent an honest follow-up to his commitments.

However, we look for specific legislation from Atiyeh's Trade and Economic Development Committee; legislation to improve the highway and at the same time the economic posture of southern Oregon.

SALEM SCENE

# Despite distinctions, Atiyeh is uncomfortable

By JACK ZIMMERMAN  
Associated Oregon Industries

If experience were the single most important criterion for a job, Victor Atiyeh should be extraordinarily at ease as minority leader of the Oregon Senate. The Republican veteran from Washington County is participating in his 10th consecutive regular biennial legislative session at Salem -- a record unmatched by any other current lawmaker. And since elected to the first of three terms in the House of Representatives in 1958, not once has he served as a member of the majority.

Despite these distinctive qualifications, Senator Atiyeh is uncomfortable.

There are those who might blame his discomfort on the fact there hasn't been a GOP majority in the Senate since 1953. And others might point out the current minority is the smallest on record.

But the length of his personal minority status, that of his party in the Upper Chamber and the fact he serves with only

five other Republican Senators this session are not at the source of his dissatisfaction.

Although considered by most as his party's ranking leader throughout the state -- and its gubernatorial standard bearer in 1974 -- Vic Atiyeh takes the lawmaking process seriously and never hesitates to place duty to state above partisan expediency.

Consequently, this session has him worried.

**SPEAKING SOMEWHAT** possessively -- and tenure gives him that right -- on the session's 108th day, he said:

"Here we are facing the continuing drama of school finance and property tax relief, energy shortages, imminent problems caused by drought, the medical malpractice insurance issue, products liability, Workmen's Compensation -- and there's no sense of direction."

He tars legislative and executive leadership with the same brush for lack of establishing priorities. Failing completely to live

up to the caricature of the run-of-the-mill loyal opposition leader bent solely upon discrediting the majority, his assessment is shared by many on the scene in Salem.

"It's like we're chasing embers wherever the wind carries them, trying to stomp out brush fires while the inferno rages elsewhere," he declared.

"There is no deliberate approach. No one has the handle. Everyone acts as if they close their eyes the problems will disappear."

Atiyeh claims legislative chairmen are being urged to step up the process and to deal with the major problems without having those problems identified.

"Never," he said, "have I witnessed such a complete lack of cooperation and coordination. We are at loose ends."

Atiyeh is not complaining about a lack of activity. On that 108th day of the current session lawmakers had introduced a rather staggering total of 2,714 measures. Committees have been conducting hearings and taking testimony on these proposals for almost 16 weeks.

But at the same time only 134 measures have been approved by both houses and another 218 have either been tabled in committee or defeated on Senate and House floors.

So with a total of 352 measures disposed of one way or another at that point, the Assembly had completed action on less than 13 percent of the business at hand.

**IN SPITE OF** the paucity of GOP Senators, their leader had high hopes this session would distinguish itself with a degree of greatness.

"All the elements existed last January," Atiyeh said, "for an outstanding session or a really bad one."

His current depression indicates a fear the outcome will be the latter.

But the eternal optimism required by those who follow the political path comes through when Victor Atiyeh speculates about the 60th session in 1979.

"True, there are only six GOP Senators this session," he said. "But only two of those seats are threatened by elections in 1978. And 13 Democrat Senators will have to seek constituent approval to return in '79."

Just on the basis of the arithmetic involved, he believes his party stands a good chance of gaining Senate seats next election.

But he's counting on other factors to boost the odds. During the year he stumped the state as gubernatorial aspirant, Atiyeh was impressed with the numbers of people disenchanted with legislative results.

"And they keep electing the same people who keep doing those things to them," he mused.

Atiyeh believes a politician's greatest satisfaction involves formulating a program for the public good and leading a successful struggle to achievement. He realizes his minority position in the Senate tends to stymie such

personal attainment still is consistent with another assault on office held by Governor Bob Straub.

Each day the session in Salem continues -- under circumstances he abhors -- pushes Vic Atiyeh to seeking again the opportunity to lead Oregonians in struggles to achieve

President Ford is backed by the most distinguished group of proven political leaders to rally behind any one candidate in this bicentennial year, campaign chairman Bo Callaway said in praising the organization's state chairmen and chairwomen.

Congressmen, state legislators, county and city office holders, attorneys, businessmen, judges and physicians form the broad based collection of PFC statewide coordinators.

"This is unquestionably a winning team," Callaway told the chairmen during a recent meeting in Washington, D.C. "We've got the leaders putting together the organizations to carry us through to victory on Nov. 2."

Campaign chairmen for the President Ford Committee have been named in virtually every state. The list, as we went to press, included:

**ALABAMA**—Co-Chairpersons **Mildred Anne Lee** of Birmingham and **Charles Chapman, Jr.** Headquarters: P.O. Box 3475, Birmingham, 35205. (205) 322-5733.

**ALASKA** — Co-Chairmen **Keith Specking** of Hope and **State Sen. Mike Colletts** of Anchorage. Headquarters: 415 L St., Anchorage. (907) 276-3673.

**ARIZONA** — **Burton Kruglick** of Phoenix and **Mrs. R. C. (Barbara) Janoff**, co-chairperson, of Tucson. Headquarters: 40 East Thomas Rd., Suite 107, Phoenix, 85012. (602) 277-4855. Also: 2221 E. Broadway in Tucson.

**ARKANSAS** — Co-Chairmen **Guy Newcomb** of Osceola and **Dorothy Webb** of Little Rock. Headquarters: 917 West Markham, Little Rock, 72203. (501) 375-2371.

**CALIFORNIA** — Co-Chairmen **State Attorney General Evelle Younger** of Los Angeles and **State Sen. Denny Carpenter** of Orange County. Headquarters: 4201 Long Beach



**GOP SYMBOL** was the subject of discussion at the White House recently among PFC Comptroller **Bob Moran**, left, Illinois Co-Chairman **Harold Smith**, Pennsylvania Chairman **Drew Lewis** and President **Ford**.

**BLVD.**, Suite 415, Long Beach, 90807. (213) 595-1676.

**COLORADO** — **Steve Duncan** of Littleton. Headquarters: 1600 Broadway, Suite 1545, Denver, 80202. (303) 861-1413. **Bill Graham**, executive director.

**CONNECTICUT** — **Joseph B. Burns** of East Hartford.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**—**Dr. William Cooper** of Washington, D.C.

**FLORIDA**—**Rep. Lou Frey** of Orlando. Headquarters: P.O. Box 1706, Orlando, 32802. (305) 843-3673.

**GEORGIA** — **Matthew Patton** of Atlanta. Headquarters: 2410 Equitable Bldg., Atlanta, 30303. (404) 522-9410. **Susan Tucker**, campaign coordinator.

**HAWAII**—**Vern S. Byre** of Kailua. Headquarters: 413 Merchandise Mart Bldg., Honolulu, 96813. (808) 524-0946.

**IDAHO** — **Dave Leroy** of

Boise. Headquarters: P.O. Box 1151, Boise, 83701. (208) 342-7676. **Roy Eiguren**, executive director.

**ILLINOIS** — Former Gov. **Richard B. Ogilvie**, chairman. Former congressman **Leslie C. Arends**, former congresswoman **Marguerite Stitt Church** and **Sen. Charles Percy**, honorary co-chairmen. Headquarters: 127 North Dearborn St., Room 808, Chicago. (312) 641-6438. **Art Falls**, campaign manager, **Pat Goldman**, office manager.

**INDIANA**—**Donald Cox** of Evansville. Headquarters: Circle Tower, 5 East Market St., Suite 1125, Indianapolis, 46204. (317) 634-8024. **J. C. Beck**, executive director.

**IOWA** — **Ralph McCartney** of Charles City.

**KANSAS**—**Bill Falstad** of Fredonia and **Carol Wiebe** of Hillsboro, co-chairmen. Headquarters: P.O. Box 83, Hillsboro, 67063. (316) 947-3085.

**MAINE**—**Harrison L. Richardson** of Portland.

**MARYLAND** — State Sen. **Newt Steers** of Bethesda and **Robert Pascal** of Severna Park, co-chairmen.

**MASSACHUSETTS** — **Rep. Silvio Conte** of Pittsfield. Headquarters: 68 Leonard St., Belmont, 02178. (617) 489-2505.

**MICHIGAN** — **Peter Fletcher** of Ypsilanti, chairman. **Sen. Robert Griffin**, **Gov. William C. Milliken** and former **Gov. George Romney**, honorary chairmen. Headquarters: 223 North Walnut Street, Lansing, 48933. (517) 487-5413. **Kathleen Seglund**, executive director.

**MINNESOTA** — **Hap LeVander, Jr.**, of South St. Paul, chairman **Anchor Nelson** of Hutchinson and **Dorothy Liljegen** of Wayzata, co-chairmen. Headquarters: 4660 West 77th St., Room 159, Minneapolis, 55435. (612) 831-4227.

**MISSOURI**—**Gene McNary** of Clayton.

**MONTANA**—**Ken Neill** of Great Falls. Headquarters: P.O. Box 1976, Great Falls, 59403. (406) 727-3452. **Sharon Ashton**, executive director.

**NEBRASKA** — **Bill Barrett** of Lexington. **Mrs. William (Dee) Graham** of Omaha, vice-chairman. Headquarters: P.O. Box 711, Lexington, 68850. (308) 324-5621. **Elaine Remmenga**, executive director.

**NEVADA** — Former Mayor **Oran Gragson** of Las Vegas.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**—**Rep. James Cleveland** of New London. Former **Sen. Norris Cotton**, honorary chairman. Headquarters: 150 North Main Street, Concord. (603) 228-0150. **John Michels**, campaign manager.

**NEW JERSEY**—State Rep. **Thomas H. Kean** of Elizabeth.

**NEW MEXICO**—State Rep. **Bob Grant** of Albuquerque. **Mrs. Richard (Karen) Peterson** of Santa Fe, co-chairman. **Sen.**

**Pete V. Domenici** and **Rep. Manuel Lujan Jr.**, honorary chairmen. Headquarters: 555 Montgomery NE, Suite 8, Albuquerque. (505) 883-0200. **Brand Cates**, state coordinator **Maxine Melbourne**, office manager.

**NORTH CAROLINA**—**Jim Peden** of Raleigh and **Mrs. Parks M. (Margaret) King, Jr.** of Charlotte, co-chairmen. Headquarters: P.O. Box 10742 Raleigh, 27611. (919) 821 5021. **Bill Russell**, campaign manager; **Betsy Hamilton**, office manager.

**NORTH DAKOTA** — **C. Warner Litten** of Fargo, State Rep. **Marjorie Kermott** of Minot, co-chairman.

**OHIO**—**Keith McNamara** of Columbus. Honorary co-chairmen are former Gov. **John W. Bricker** and former congressman **Frances P. Bolton**. Headquarters: 21 East State St. Suite 118, Columbus, 43215 (614) 221-FORD.

**OKLAHOMA**—**Doug McKeever** of Enid.

**OREGON**—**Craig Berkman** of Portland. Former State Sen. **Victor Atiyeh**, honorary chairman.

**PENNSYLVANIA** — Chairman **Drew Lewis** of Plymouth Meeting. **Mrs. Davitt S. (Marion) Bell** of Pittsburgh, vice chairman.

**RHODE ISLAND** — **James Field, Jr.**, of Providence.

**SOUTH DAKOTA** — **Davi Volk** of Pierre. **Mrs. Robert (Barbara) Gunderson** of Rapid City, vice-chairman. Former congressman **Ben Reifel** and former congressman **E. Y. Berry**, honorary co-chairmen.

**TENNESSEE**—**Sen. Howar Baker**, honorary chairman. **Mr. James R. (Ann) Tuck** of Nashville and **Kyle Testerman** of Knoxville, co-chairmen.

**TEXAS**—**Sen. John Tower** Headquarters: P.O. Box 1534 Austin, 78761. **Mrs. Malcolm Milburn**, campaign director **Roger Wallace**, campaign manager.

**UTAH**—**Warren E. Pugh** of Salt Lake City and **Myrene F. Brewer** of Ogden, co-chairmen.

**WASHINGTON**—**Fred Balzer** of Seattle, Mayor **Dave Rogers** of Spokane, co-chairmen.

**WISCONSIN**—Former Gov. **Warren Knowles** of Milwaukee **Charles O. Davis**, executive director. Headquarters: 229 Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee (414) 224-9630.

## GOP Leaders Meet in Michigan

President Ford has joined his state campaign chairmen and Republican party officials from 12 Midwestern States in attending the GOP's Midwest Leadership Conference in Dearborn, Mich.

The Republican National Committee sponsored event being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn over the Jan. 31 weekend.



President Ford chats with his Pennsylvania Vice-Chairman **Marion Bell** at White House

# State senator gives Lunch-Learn talk

KLJDS  
2/24

The second in a continuing series of Lunch & Learn programs for working women was held Thursday at the Far West Federal Savings community room at Raleigh Hills.

State Sen. Victor Atiyeh was speaker for the event, which aims at acquainting women with the workings of government.

Atiyeh said "In 1876, our society was described as one concerned with political scandals and lingering economic depression. They could just as well have been talking about 1976."

The difference, he remarked, was the confidence the people in 1876 retained in their country. Americans today have lost that confidence and instead reacted with great mistrust in politicians and government.

"I was positive, after Watergate, Oregonians would seize that time of crisis to rise up and be heard," he said, adding that it was a great disappointment to him to see voters stay away from the polls instead.

"If government is not working, we

should look to ourselves. Our government reflects who and what we are," he stated.

Stressing that "our system works well," Atiyeh encouraged the women to "get involved in precinct work, go to central committee meetings, support candidates."

One of the women questioned Atiyeh about his stance on annual legislative sessions. "I feel strongly we should not have them," he answered. "Business can be conducted well biennially if we choose the right kind of legislators."

The next Lunch & Learn program will be in March with Washington County Commissioner Mike Shepherd as speaker. He will explain the workings of government on the county level.

The series is open to the public and anyone interested may contact Jolene Segel, Rt. 1, Box 577, Beaverton, 644-6340.

# Where does Straub stand?

By JOHN SALISBURY

One question being asked — and sometimes answered — around Salem is who's running the Governor's office?

Is it the duly elected steward, Bob Straub, or is it his Executive Assistant Keith Burns? Some legislators are complaining that it is Burns who wields the day-to-day power in Straub's office, intercepting much of the Governor's mail and responding to it with letters Burns dictates for Straub's signature. All of this with Straub's full knowledge and approval, of course.

The basic complaint is that the Governor deals only with those things in which he has a personal, vital interest, leaving the rest of his responsibilities for others to carry. The result is that some members of his own party are apparently counting the days until Straub's term ends and a more able man hopefully takes over.

Straub's defenders counter this criticism by saying that the Governor is in full command of his office, knows what's going on, and will allow his aides to handle things only where he has confidence that they will make decisions of which he would approve.

There do, however, appear to be some gray areas in the Straub

administration: Some members of the Capitol press are saying that he still hasn't pulled it all together — that there still exists some conflict between the members of his staff; that Keith Burns is holding other staffers at arm's length as he continues to strengthen his own power base as Straub's right hand.

If such conflicts do exist, staffers are keeping quiet about it. They are Straub's people and they support him. If there is a measure of discontent among them, it rarely seeps beyond the walls of the Statehouse.

Yet there is evidence enough that all is not running as smoothly as it should at the apex of state government. Straub has made some decisions which have been deservedly criticized by the press — and he has proved indecisive in some areas where he should not have waffled.

So the question: "How good a job is Straub doing?" is a perfectly valid one.

Is it true that he doesn't involve himself to any great degree with agencies and issues unfamiliar and of little interest to him?

Is it true that he is a loner in his working habits to such an extent that he hasn't yet learned, as any

Governor must, to delegate responsibilities while maintaining a firm control over the decision-making process?

How is he relating to the many agencies of state government? Is he aware of potential trouble spots and acting to prevent their flaring up? Are his people — the men and women with whom he's surrounded himself — a capable task force? Is state government being run as a government or as a breeding ground for conflicting egos?

In other words, is Governor Bob Straub really on top of his job? Is he running the office — or is Keith Burns doing it for him?

Yes, these are indeed valid questions, and they should be properly answered without making comparisons between the Straub administration and those preceding him.

Straub, we think, is his own man and should be judged on that basis. He may turn out to be one of Oregon's best governors, but right now, some of those who know state government best — long-time members of the legislature — are not so sure. And the questions they raise demand an answer.

# A senator with dignity



By HENNY WILLIS  
Of the Register-Guard

SALEM — Two years ago, Victor Atiyeh had just gone through the most humiliating experience of his life. Today, he still carries some of the scars of that experience, but, amazingly, there is no bitterness.

This lack of animosity in a business filled with such qualities is a measure of the kind of legislative leader Atiyeh has become.

"I have a crummy memory," is the way the Senate Republican leader puts it. "I carry no burdens like that."

It was the night before the 1971 legislative session was to convene. The Republican Senate caucus met to select its candidate for Senate president. Atiyeh, at least in the halls outside the meeting, was considered a shoo-in, especially since he was at that time the GOP caucus leader. When the Republicans emerged, however, to meet with the full pre-session caucus of the whole Senate, Atiyeh had been dumped — by his own group.

SEN. LYNN NEWBRY, R-Talent, was the GOP nominee for president of the Senate, a move shunting Atiyeh aside so a coalition of Republicans and one conservative Democrat could be formed to gain 15 votes and a dead-even tie with the "regular" Democrats. The conservative Republicans figured the tie and resultant two-week deadlock in organizing the Senate was worth keeping the Democrats from gaining control.

When the Republicans entered the full caucus room, Atiyeh looked like he'd been hit by an axe. Just having to come into the room, before the full Senate and the Capitol press corps, made his humiliation total.

"It was one of those times when I wished I could've been somewhere else," he says today, "but I simply had to go into that room. It hurt and hurt badly."

Atiyeh, a long-time foe of coalition politics, was as much a victim of that Sunday night's manipulations as were the Democrats. In a personal way, he was more of a victim.

Atiyeh's generous reaction to that incident, his forgive-and-forget attitude, would be an aberration for most politicians. But for the Syrian immigrant's son, it is typical.

ONE WORD ABOVE others describes Victor Atiyeh in the context of the Oregon Legislature. The word is dignity. Atiyeh has dignity, a quiet, self-controlled, serene bearing and demeanor that is at once disarming to foe and appreciated by friend.

"It's just me, the way I am," he says. "I've never been much of a fighter, although I've fought a few times. And, I don't like to get mad. I can't cope with it physically, so I just don't do it. One thing that irritates me about today's society is that we often have to shout and yell to get things done. That irritates me."

There is something of an irony in Atiyeh describing himself as a non-fighter. Of all 90 legislators in Salem, he above all others looks like a true battler. Stocky with a huge upper torso, built like a fullback (he was a high school football star), Atiyeh emits masculine power by his presence. The contrast between looks and personality is akin to the gentle giant.

Born 50 years ago in Portland, Atiyeh is the third son of a man who arrived in the United States from Syria before the turn of the century, settled in Pennsylvania, then came to Oregon to start an Oriental rug business. That business is one of the most successful of its kind in the West today.

GREGARIOUS, volatile old George Atiyeh instilled in his son a love of America. That love, that hope for a nation and for individual opportunity is as much a part of Victor Atiyeh's makeup as his gentility or his "crummy memory"

It dictates, to a great degree, his politics and his philosophies.

"My feeling for this country comes from my dad," Atiyeh says. "What made this country grow is the thought that if a man wanted to, he could be his own boss. I guess it's a sense of hope, the kind of hope that sustains a person, that keeps a man's vigor intact and iraparts that vigor to his nation. Money isn't it at all. It's the feeling of hope, of opportunity to try. What worries me now is people are losing that feeling. If our hope is blunted, we become a nation of faceless people."

"America is different from any other country. We're a funny and grand mixture with some kind of inner feeling that gives us our national character. We're not a perfect country by any means, but we've got a helluva lot of good things and we've got to build on those good things."

What is Atiyeh's political philosophy?

"To answer that, I'll use Lincoln's words because I believe it," he says. "Government should do for people what they cannot do for themselves. Then, I add my own little bit to that — government should not do for people what they are unwilling to do for themselves."

ATIYEH GOT INTO politics by successfully running for the Oregon House in 1958, primarily at the urging of some friends.

"I'd always been interested in politics, in the opportunity it provided for doing things," he says, "but I really hadn't thought of running myself until my friends tapped what I suppose was part ego and part my strong feelings about this state and this country. Actually, the first time I was ever in this Capitol building was the day I came down here to file my candidacy in 1958."

Atiyeh spent three terms in the House, then won his present Senate seat in 1964. He's enjoyed the experience — "I like serving here because it's a rare opportunity for anybody to actually participate in the making of laws which affect everyone" — but the current session has him in a gloomy mood.

"It's a terrible session," he says, knowing that his remarks could be interpreted as sour grapes since it is the opposition party in power. "I know anything I say will sound like sour grapes, but that's a constant problem as minority leader."

Taking the risk, however, Atiyeh is deeply critical of the current session.

"THERE'S JUST very little direction to it," he says. "I can't accuse Jason Boe (Senate President Jason Boe) of it altogether. There are simply too many guys in command, too many hands on the tiller. Also, nobody is saying 'no' right now. Some hard decisions are needed, especially in Ways & Means (the appropriations committee) but no one is making those decisions."

Asked to label himself politically, Atiyeh says: "I'm probably a moderate. I'll swing both ways, depending on the issue, but basically I think I belong in the middle. I don't bother too much with labels."

One wonders about Atiyeh's political future. Higher office, perhaps?

"I would not discount the possibility," he says. "but it would be unfair for me as a legislator to plan for anything else. I'd lose my independence."

The dark eyes sparkle. One then knows that the immigrant's son, Victor, guards that sense of independence fiercely — and with dignity.

# Atiyeh to head Senate Republicans

By DOUGLAS SEYMOUR

of The Oregonian staff

SALEM — Senate Republicans Tuesday picked Sen. Victor Atiyeh, Beaverton, as minority leader and Sen. Wallace Carson Jr., Salem, as the party whip for the 1973 legislative session.

The GOP has 12 members of the 30-member Senate, and 10 of them attended the evening caucus in the Riverside West Restaurant.

Only members missing were George Eivers, Milwaukie, and C.R. Hoyt of Corvallis.

Since the 1961 Legislature, the Senate has been run by a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats, and for the first time since then the GOP is an actual minority party.

Atiyeh said the first priority of the session which opens in January should be property tax relief.

He said the Senate Republicans favor



SEN. VICTOR ATIYEH

having the state pay 50 per cent of school operating costs "and as much

more as we can."

Atiyeh indicated the Senate Republicans do not favor state payment of 100 per cent of school operating costs as proposed by Gov. Tom McCall, also a Republican.

Atiyeh thinks the minority rule of the Republicans next year can prove to be an advantage to the party because the GOP will be able to point out differences between the two parties, something they have been unable to do in recent years because of the coalition setup.

He stressed that the Republicans would work constructively in their new minority role.

In addition to property tax relief, Atiyeh sees traffic safety, solid-waste disposal, land-use planning, distribution of state revenue-sharing money and delivery of social services as major issues in the coming Legislature.

OREGONIAN 12/13/72

JOURNAL 12/13/72

## Atiyeh Draws Post Of Top GOP Solon

By DOUG YOCOM  
Journal Staff Writer

SALEM — Sen. Victor Atiyeh was selected Senate minority leader and Sen. Wallace Carson of Salem was picked as Republican whip at a caucus Tuesday night.

Atiyeh, who lives at 7690 SW Fairmoor St. in Washington County, was elected leader of the 12 Republicans on the first ballot. He said he had no opposition.

"We have no choice now, we are in a minority," Atiyeh noted, referring to the apparent end of the coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats who have dominated the Oregon Senate for a decade.

The Republicans met behind closed doors for three hours. Atiyeh said most of the time was spent "doing a postmortem on the election."

The Republicans lost two Senate seats and control of the House during the general election. He said most senators wanted to talk about "why."

"We had good candidates, some of the best I've seen, and they work hard. We got hung on some issues we didn't deserve," Atiyeh said.

The issues "we didn't deserve" were the revised

criminal code, which some challengers claimed stimulated the pornography business, and the sales tax.

He attributed "a lot of" the defeat of Sen. Gordon McKay, R - Bend, by Rep. Fred Heard, D - Klama Falls, to the pornography issue. "Some of us who voted to refer the sales tax issue were accused of voting for it," he said.

Atiyeh also said the Democrats outspent the Republicans.



VICTOR ATIYEH

## Only The Title Stays The Same

Holding the position of minority leader in the state Senate will be no new experience for Sen. Victor Atiyeh, R-Beaverton.

But while the title remains the same, the duties will be different. That's because there will be no coalition in charge in the 1973 session and the Senate finally will be organized within the two-party framework with a clear majority and minority.

Under coalition rule, in which the GOP minority made up the bulk of the controlling majority by joining with a few Democrats, the minority leader sometimes functioned more as a major-

ity leader. But that role had its frustrations. Under these circumstances, it was impossible to draw out the differences between the parties.

Atiyeh, a veteran and respected legislator, has not been a coalition enthusiast. He has gone along with it only reluctantly and he may have been relieved that the strains of hybrid rule have been removed.

In the next session, for the first time, Sen. Atiyeh can be a Republican spokesman speaking for Republicans. The new role will give him opportunities to build party positions to carry into the next election, something that he has not had before.



# OREGON Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

DONALD J. STERLING JR., Editor  
EDWARD F. O'MEARA, Managing Editor  
ROY J. BEADLE, Editor, Editorial Page

*Be calm, be confident, be cheerful  
and do unto others as you would  
have them do unto you.*

C.S. JACKSON, Founder

10 J

PORTLAND, ORE., MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1973

2M

## There Is A Higher Road

The only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn from the protests of opponents to the property tax relief-school finance plan to the information service provided by the Department of Revenue is that they fear knowledge about the issue will be in its favor!

A toll-free telephone line—1-800-452-0330—has been installed to let the taxpayer know how the program would affect him financially. The taxpayer's financial data is fed into a computer and he is given an answer on how much his property tax will go down and his income tax will go up.

This is the sort of service that ought to be made available to the public on any tax state tax proposal. It is not propaganda. No one tries either to advocate or oppose May 1's Ballot Measure 1. The taxpayer is merely informed how much more or less he will pay.

But some of the shriller opponents are depicting the service as a device of the supporters. If they stopped to think about it, they might recognize that—in view of the fact that the service is even-handed—their argument is a tacit admission of the benefits of the program to the vast majority of Oregon residents.

Such attacks, however, seem to be part of the smokescreen designed to confuse the issue or to draw attention away from the program itself.

It's like the billboard bearing the ominous advice, "Don't be fooled." All that can be said about it is, don't be fooled by billboards that say, "Don't be fooled," for they are trying to fool you.

Or the attack on Gov. Tom McCall

for using his time and the conveyances that go with his office to support his tax reform. What's a governor to do? One of his basic responsibilities is public leadership, such as taking his case to the people when he believes it is for the good of his state. That is what he's doing now, and that's what he should be doing. Where were his present day critics four years ago when, in the interest of cooperation, the governor set aside his own tax preferences, acceded to the wishes of his party's legislative leadership, and went to bat for their sales tax?

Persons genuinely fearful of the effects of the program do not have to base their opposition on confusion or distraction.

In a recent debate, for instance, Senate Minority Leader Victor Atiyeh, R-Beaverton, took the high road and shunned every opportunity to exploit the emotional side issues.

He stuck with his concerns that the income tax might become too top-heavy, that sometime in the future operation of the schools might reside in a state bureaucracy, that the program attempts to go too far in one jump, and that there is some danger to citizen involvement in removing nearly all of the schools' operating cost from the local property tax.

We do not share his anxieties about the program, but we respect his views as honestly and intelligently held. If the opposition to the McCall plan were modeled on the Atiyeh approach, the voters could have an informative, above-board debate on the crucial issue before them.



### ***GOP Stalwart***

KEY LEADER in Republican ranks in Oregon Legislature is Senate Minority Leader Victor Atiyeh, Beaverton, who opposes Gov. Tom McCall's tax revision-school finance plan on "philosophical" grounds. He asks voters to weigh what they will save in property taxes against what they will give up, namely local control of school district's purse. (Oregon Journal photo)

# The Oregonian

Letters

Oct. 4, 1850. Established as a daily Feb. 4, 1861. Sunday Oregonian established Dec. 4, 1881. Published daily and Sunday by the Oregonian Publishing Co., Oregonian Bldg., 1320 SW Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97201. Telephone 226-2121.

FRED A. STICKEL,  
President and General Manager  
DONOKES, Managing Editor  
DUNN, Editor, Editorial Page

MICHAEL J. FREY, Chairman

ROBERT C. NOTSON,  
Publisher  
HAROLD V. MANZER, Advertising Director  
GEORGE J. VANEUJ, Circulation Director

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1972

3M

## Guaranty of education

That San Francisco high school graduate's million-dollar suit against the city's school system because he cannot read or write adequately enough to get a job even after receiving his diploma is not as surprising as it may seem. Unfortunately, it has long been true that a number of pupils slide through the 12-year curriculum with a minimum of learning although they put in their time. There would be much less chance of that were school systems generally to decide in specific terms what constitutes a basic public school education.

That is just what Sen. Victor Atiyeh's Interim Committee on Education will propose to the 1973 Legislature. The committee has drawn a comprehensive definition of a "basic education" for enactment into law (SB 2). The bill would also place responsibility in state and local school authorities to see that programs are developed to meet basic standards and that their effectiveness is tested.

Such standards would be established in language arts and reading, mathematics, science, citizenship, history, career opportunities and health and physical education.

Specifics would be detailed in each of these areas. For example, the basic program in language arts and reading would provide that, on its completion, students would have demonstrated, among other things, abilities "to read with speed and comprehension" and "to write legibly, to express thoughts clearly and effectively in writing, to think analytically, to spell and punctuate accurately, to use appropriate grammar, and to employ an adequate vocabulary." Completion of the basic mathematics program would indicate, among other things, a demonstrated "ability to compute accurately and make practical use of mathematical skills."

There is much more in the bill's definition of a basic education, including the statement: "The arts and humanities shall be used for enrichment of all basic subject areas to provide comprehensive understanding of their relationship to cultural heritage and development."

SB 2 is a concise statement of educational basics that have long been applied by the best schools and the best teachers. But they have never been made the subject of law, as now proposed, in Oregon or any other state. A companion measure, SB 1, would give similar status in law to the stated goals and responsibilities of education from the state level down to local boards and administrators and classroom teachers.

The Oregon Legislature thus has opportunity to set a national precedent in defining just what the schools are seeking and are pledged to produce.

The legislation envisions a system in which there would be little chance of the failure reflected in the San Francisco suit.



■ السناتور فكتور عطيه ■

وسكونسن ، وعرض عليه اتفاقية للانضمام اليه . وقد رفض فكتور العرض ، ولكنه اضطر فيما بعد الى ترك الجامعة ليدير شؤون تجارة والده الذي توفي عام ١٩٤٤ .

واصبح السيد عطيه رجل اعمال بارزا وزعيما مدنيا في بورتلند وهي اكبر مدن الولاية ( يبلغ عدد سكانها حوالي ٤٠٠ الف نسمة ) . وفي عام ١٩٥٨ ونزولا عند الحاج الاصقاف والشركاء دخل في معركة انتخابية لمقعد في مجلس نواب ولاية اوريغون . وقد فاز السناتور عطيه وحكم مدة ثلاث سنوات في المجلس ، وهو الآن يخدم سنته الثالثة من السنوات الاربع كسناتور في مجلس الشيوخ بالولاية .

### خوض الانتخابات لحاكمية الولاية

والآن يفكر السناتور عطيه في القيام بمحاولة جديدة لخوض الانتخابات لمنصب حاكم ولاية اوريغون وهو اعلى منصب سياسي في الولاية . وكان في العام الماضي قد حث على خوض المعركة لمقعد في الكونغرس الامريكى ، إلا انه قرر البقاء في اوريغون عوضا عن الذهاب الى واشنطن ، وهكذا خاض المعركة لمنصب حاكم وخسر امام منافسه الديمقراطي .

ويقول السناتور عطيه : لقد اصبحت مقتنعا بان السبيل الحقيقي لمساعدة مواطني في اوريغون هو خوض الانتخابات لمقعد حاكم .

ويقول السناتور عطيه انه لو اصبح حاكما ، لحاول تحقيق هدفين اثنين : استكمال اكبر عن الحكومة الفدرالية ، وفعالية اكبر في حكومة الولاية .

وقد خدم السناتور عطيه في اللجنة التشريعية التي طورت قوانين البيئة ، واظهر اهتماما كبيرا في التشريع التي تتعلق بالتعليم والصحة العقلية وسلامة السير ، وكذلك في التشريع العمالية والصناعية .

وبصفته مشرعا ولايا ، فهو يتحمل مسؤولية مهائلة التي يتحملها أي سناتور او نائب في الكونغرس الامريكى . فاعضاء المجلس التشريعي يسنون قوانينهم الخاصة ويتخذون يقترحها الحاكم ، تماما ، كما يطور أعضاء الكونغرس قوانينهم الخاصة اجراءات يصعد التشريعات التي ويظنون اجراءات يصعد تلك التي يقترحها الرئيس .

# مرشح لمنصب حاكم ولاية اميركية

السياسة والزعامة والحكومة قبل اكثر من ٤٠ سنة على الارجح ، عندما زار والده جورج عطيه في عمار الحصن في سوريا ( والدته لندا عسلي من بيروت ) .

ويقول السيد عطيه : كنت دائما اهتم بالزعامة . لقد كنت رئيسا لصفي في الكلية ، ورئيسا لنواد عديدة ، وكنت دائما اهتم بالحكومة وبالنهج الذي تسير عليه بلادي . ويعود الفضل الاكبر في كل ذلك الى والدي . واني لانكر باني زرت لسنوات عديدة مضت مسقط رأس والدي حيث نشأ وترعرع ، وبدأت افكر بالتحول الذي قام به والدي بغية تحقيق ما انجزه هنا في بورتلند .

### محل لاستيراد السجاد التركي

وكان والده جورج عطيه قد سافر الى ولاية اوريغون عام ١٩٠٢ للاتحاق بشقيقه عزيز عطيه ليعمل في شركة للسجاد التركي كان شقيقه قد اسسها قبل عامين . وفي عام ١٩٢٠ زار الوالد سوريا وعاد منها الى بورتلند ومعه عروسه اللبنانية . وبعد بضع سنوات انتقل شقيقه الى نيويورك حيث اسس محلا لاستيراد وبيع السجاد التركي .

تلقى فكتور علومه الثانوية في المدارس الحكومية ، ثم دخل جامعة اوريغون في بوجين ، حيث لعبت اليه انتظار فريق كرة قدم محترف في

قالت نشرة مكتب المعلومات التابع للسفارة الاميركية في بيروت امس ، ان المشرع الامريكى العربي الاصل فكتور عطيه الذي يشغل حاليا منصب سناتور في مجلس شيوخ ولاية اوريغون سيرشح نفسه لمنصب حاكم الولاية . وقد بدأ اهتمام السناتور عطيه في



اجتماعه مع فالدهايم في بغداد ( صورة من واع )

# من يناقش القضية القبرصية تتكرر قضية فلسطين ضوخ للامر الواقع التركي

اليونانيين . وقال جيليق ان الشعور السائد لدى القبارصة الاتراك هو : نحن نقبل برئيس جمهورية يقبل بنا كواقع في الجزيرة . وان مكاريوس يرفض ذلك . واضاف انه على الرغم من معارضة القبارصة اليونانيين ، فان القبارصة الاتراك مصممون على تقسيم الجزيرة الى دولتين فدراليتين . وقال : لا توجد حاجة ملحة الى دعوة مجلس الامن الى عقد جلسة طارئة . اذ لا توجد هناك اية أزمة ، ونحن نتطلع الى استئناف المفاوضات مع القبارصة اليونانيين . الامم المتحدة ، اثينا - رء . آ . ب . و . ص . ف .

المتحدة امس ، ان الرئيس مكاريوس لم يعد مؤهلا لان يكون رئيسا للجمهورية القبرصية ، وعلى انصاره ان يترفوا بذلك . وابلغ وداو جيليق وزير الصناعة في الدولة القبرصية التركية الصحافيين : ان رئاسة مكاريوس مشكلة بالنسبة للقبارصة اليونانيين . لقد خسر مكاريوس لقبه كممثل للجزيرة كلها بسبب اعماله وسوء معاملته للقبارصة الاتراك . واعترف جيليق بان مكاريوس انتخب بصورة شرعية رئيسا للجزيرة التي

الدولي  
البلغ  
الدهايم  
دة ان  
اه من  
نباه  
القضية  
قضية  
ين لن  
يسعى

# الاسرائيليون يتزلجون في الجولان تحت حراسة البنادق



تلقّت « الانوار » هذه الصورة من وكالة « اسوشيتد برس » ويبدو فيها جنود اسرائيليون يمارسون التزلج في الجولان وسط حراسة بنادقهم

بنيويورك  
مجلس  
اثينا .

ممثل  
في الامم

فريقا  
يع جانع  
ة جومو  
ل ليل  
بسة

ر

ركية  
ض

ي  
اول  
من

ملك بلجيكا

قطار... عن... ف...

## *Rugs, drugs? Gremlin has his inning*

"What are you trying to do to me?" came the voice on the phone to The Times editor Thursday morning. And then there was a laugh. It was State Senator Vic Atiyeh.

In a speech before Washington County Public Affairs Forum last week, Senator Atiyeh mentioned probability that the Legislature will put a sales tax measure before the voters.

He said the measure probably will be a three per cent tax "with food and drugs" excluded.

The news story said: "with food and rugs" excluded. Atiyeh just happens to be in the rug business when he isn't being a Senator or working for the Boy Scouts or some other public service.

This typo caused considerable mirth among Atiyeh's constituents.

"It really is kind of funny," Atiyeh told the concerned editor.

# Atiyeh Named To Probe

OREGON JOURNAL 5-9-66

BEAVERTON — State Sen. Victor Atiyeh has been named to a newly formed blue ribbon committee assigned the task of finding solutions to the financial dilemma aching today's private colleges and universities in Oregon. The appointment was made by the Educational Coordinating Council.

The committee was formed because of what the Council terms "glaring weaknesses" in the fiscal structure of private institutions, their role in our overall educational scheme of Oregon. The committee also will explore the best means for private institutions to stimulate their financial stability without the loss of their independence.

Atiyeh, twice vice chairman of the Senate Education committee, said he was hopeful the committee could conclude its study within the next six months, so as to draw up concrete recommendations in time for the next legislative session.

He said, "It is common knowledge that private institutions are in a precarious financial situation. To meet this crisis, the state must act quickly, but judiciously."

Warning against possible pitfalls in which the committee may find itself, Atiyeh said "in this study, we must continuously walk a tightrope between state assistance, on one side and state domination on the other."

He said if assistance is to come from the state, "we must devise a method that will not endanger the right of the private institutions to remain independent of state controls and regulations.

"Once we step over this line and set standards and regulations for private colleges, they become public controlled," Atiyeh added. "This would be tragic, for private colleges have given the state a successful service in the area of education."

Lauding the appointment of Atiyeh, Senate President E.D. Potts said, "During his two sessions in the Senate, Atiyeh has built a reputation of skillfully initiating and directing many important pieces of legislation, especially in the field of education."

## Tradition Favors Senator

# Atiyeh Takes Over Key Chair

By STAN FEDERMAN  
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

SALEM (Special) — If Sen. Victor Atiyeh and his fellow Republicans believe in fate or chance or even superstition, then he's a cinch to become the next president of the Oregon Senate.

It's only a matter of time. Or, in this case, a chair.

The chair is in the middle of the front row on the left side of the Senate floor. It is a simple, brown-covered swivel chair. At least, it looks that way.

Actually, it is a chair of presidents. Senate presidents. Past, present and maybe future for the 48-year-old Atiyeh.

The chair currently is occupied by Atiyeh, the popular GOP leader from Washington County. Before it was the possession of Democrats Harry Boivin of Klamath Falls, E.D. (Debbs) Potts of Grants Pass and John D. Burns of Portland.

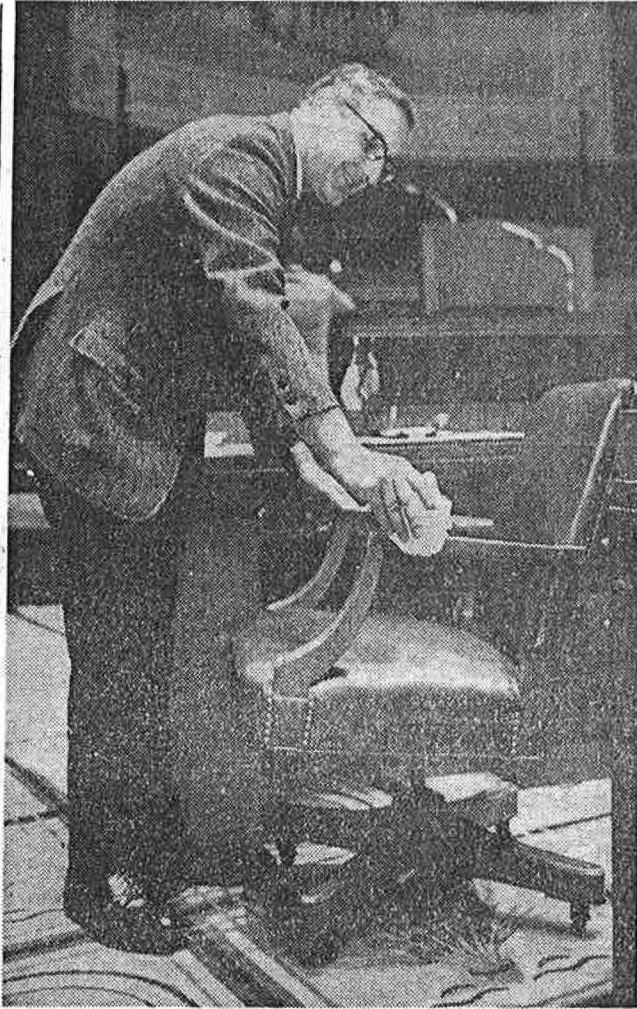
### Occupant Doubtful

Boivin had the chair before he was elected Senate president in 1965. Potts sat in it prior to being elected Senate boss in 1967 and 1969. And Burns recently relinquished it when he took over the presidency of the 1971 session.

Is Atiyeh impressed with the fact that the last three occupants have come out of the Senate pack to win its top job?

"Not much," grinned Atiyeh. "I never wanted the darn chair in the first place."

Senate seats usually are assigned upon a solon's request. Seniority often plays a key role in chair assignments.



**SEN. VICTOR ATIYEH polishes up his chair and hopes some of good fortune of past occupants will rub off on him. Last three owners have become Senate presidents.**

Senators usually consider a certain chair "good luck" — particularly if they keep getting re-elected — and ask for the same one every session. Most chairs and their locations thus become available only through a vacancy.

This session, Atiyeh wanted an outside seat — the one next to his present chair. ("I move around a lot and like the freedom"). But Potts also wanted the same outside seat and got it on seniority.

Atiyeh then put in for several other seats but failed to get them either. He then settled for one just behind his present chair which was occupied by Burns. But when Burns was elected president, Atiyeh was

asked to move up one row, and he did so because he now had an outside seat.

Atiyeh was a leading candidate for the Senate presidency this session and an early GOP choice. But the long voting deadlock forced the party to try Sen. Lynn Newbry, R-Ashland, as a compromise candidate.

When this also failed and the deadlock continued, the entire 14-man GOP delegation then threw their votes to Burns who, supported by Potts, split off from the regular Demos to win a GOP-dominated coalition victory.

Many of Atiyeh's friends now say: Wait until next time. After all, he's sitting pretty — if you believe in chairs.