

Section One:
Bringing Oregon Back From the Recession

"I am proud Oregonians are fighting back and winning against a grim national recession they did not invite and were powerless to prevent."

During Oregon's political history, eight special sessions have been convened. Four of these occurred during my eight years as Governor, three of them during the first term.

When I came into office, the nation was going through one of its worst recessions ever. The recession placed a great strain on Oregon's state financial position. Revenues dropped, unemployment skyrocketed, and quick and decisive action had to be taken to prevent a potential crisis.

The strategy initiated was a series of programs designed to place restraint on expenditures and governmental positions, direct executive involvement in the budget development and review process, develop a plan to enhance cooperation among agencies of the executive department and the central government, enhance statewide financial reporting, create a council of economic advisors...

Restraint was placed on spending and growth of positions in state government. Today, accounting for inflationary increases, real dollar expenditures are 4.1 percent lower for 1985-87 than they were in 1979-81. (see graph)

Graph illustrating how state expenditures have been decreasing

The growth of state government employment has also been checked. there are fewer government workers today than there were when I took office.

Graph illustrating reduction in growth of state workers

Picture of Governor meeting with
Executive Dept. staff . This picture
will illustrate the Governor working hand-in-hand
with state employees on the budget.

Picture of the Governor in a Cabinet meeting
with state agency heads.

Section Two
Economic Development

"Oregon is open for business"

Picture of the Governor at a ground breaking ceremony for a new company that has moved to Oregon.

This picture is contrasted by one which shows the Governor thanking an an existing Oregon-based company for deciding to expand their operation.

In 1979, when I became Governor, I heard stories of businesses that wanted to move to Oregon, but, for whatever reason, were having problems getting through the red tape.

Because of this, the Governor's Action Council was established. Its membership consists of state agency directors. The Council meets in one room with a prospective employer and discusses whatever stumbling blocks exist that the employer needs help with in order to move to, or expand in, Oregon. A prospective employer gets an answer to his question or a solution to his problem within 24 hours.

Insert an example of Action Council success.

This 24 hour emergency response has cut out the bureaucratic problems and resulted in helping put Oregonians back to work. More importantly, the Action Council has demonstrated to prospective employers that Oregon truly is Open for Business.

Economic development also translates into international trade. During the past few years, I spent approximately two weeks a year overseas selling Oregon to various European, Middle Eastern and Far Eastern countries.

The results have been great! Since I began these missions