

Editorial

Honest Bob vs. Tricky Vic

Is it 1978 or 1968?

Many Oregon citizens, basking in progressive state traditions going back almost 20 years, seem blind to the threat posed by the coming election.

What happened at the national level some ten years ago has suddenly hatched in a state famous for its enlightened and humane laws.

Then, as now, the hue and cry was reactionary; issues like law and order have been reborn here as measures seeking to cripple land use planning, restore the death penalty, and abolish state funding for abortions.

In addition, Measure 6 threatens to wipe-out Oregon's far-sighted homeowner and renter relief program with a near-sighted solution.

And as happened a decade earlier, the reactionary movement has spawned a candidate to match its mood.

Tricky Dick has been replaced by Tricky Vic.

Like the Nixon campaign, Atiyeh's run is heavily financed by wealthy right-wing business and special-interest industries (like timber).

Atiyeh's legislative record reveals a man of vacillating postures and opportune changes of opinion.

His campaign, like Nixon's is all rhetorical fluff and obfuscation. Slogans like "It's time for Atiyeh" are as vapid as Nixon's "Four more years."

Straub, on the other hand, is a leader of unquestioned integrity. His support of Oregon's progressive laws has been consistent and effective.

His record as governor is outstanding. Employment has dropped from 12 to five per cent since he took office. With his help, some 54 new industries have been recruited to the state, and 79 existing industries expanded—all without undue cost to the environment.

Straub has helped the elderly, and hired women and minorities in government. He has been stronger in his support for human rights than any previous Oregon governor.

Atiyeh's slogans, his slick style, pale in comparison to the concrete achievements of the Straub administration.

The choice is clear: honest Bob or tricky Vic.

