

OPENING REMARKS

Campaigns always come down to a choice. Between candidates. What they've done. And what they're made of.

The choice Oregonians face on May 19th could not be more clear.

The ability to get things done -- even under a deeply divided government -- that's the leadership I've demonstrated -- and offer -- to the people of Oregon.

We have a new Bonneville Lock to speed agricultural shipments down the Columbia because of my work. A new Oregon wheat marketing center selling Oregon products to the world; thousands of jobs in our shipyards; and a ban on anti-satellite weapons in space. These aren't political promises. They are results -- for Oregon. And I'm proud of them.

So when I talk about the future, these are not empty promises. They are deeds.

My record is an open book -- and I invite every one of you to read it.

But this election is not just about my record; this election is a choice -- fundamentally between Les AuCoin and Harry Lonsdale.

Harry describes himself as an outsider. But he, too, has a record -- a record of public statements, positions and business interests. It's a record very different from my own.

I support middle income tax relief. My opponent is against it.

My opponent has said the only way to fix our economy is to lower wages of American workers. I believe in better wages for working Americans.

I killed punitive grazing fee increases to save our sheep and cattle industry. My opponent wants to increase grazing fees for Eastern Oregonians.

I've fought for tough U.S. trade policies -- but I also know that protectionism is poison. But Harry advocates blind restrictions on trade. That invites immediate retaliation, threatening Oregon's \$1.5 billion trade surplus -- including farm exports.

My opponent promised to release his income taxes. That promise mattered because he is bankrolling his campaign from his own personal fortune. He should have kept his word. Tonight he may offer you excuses. That's his way. But for me, breaking a public promise is something for which there are no excuses.

There are many other very real differences in this race -- differences in our public

records and in our beliefs; they all come down to a few basic principles.

Credibility. Judgment. Achievement. Leadership. Those are the core differences between us. You'll hear more about them today. I ask you to listen with an open mind, and listen closely.

CLOSING REMARKS

Thank you, Blue Mountain Community College, for hosting today's debate -- and to the panelists, moderator and audience.

For many of you in the audience, I'm sure this campaign -- and today's debate -- has been, at times, one of confusion -- the claims and counter-claims often obscuring the real differences and real issues.

But beyond the sound and the fury, you face a real choice. I would like to close tonight not by talking about my opponents, or even responding to their remarks, but by sharing with you what I'm about.

For me, public service is an honor -- and a trust. For me, it means -- above all else -- to be true to your convictions.

I grew up in the timber and farming town of Redmond. My mother was a waitress making \$35 a week. It's from that beginning I draw my convictions:

- That working families need and deserve to be heard and helped;**
- That social security and Medicare aren't luxuries, but a lifeline;**
- That a quality education must be for all of us.**

So when Ronald Reagan preached the gospel of voodoo economics, I could have joined the crowd and fell in line. I fought him -- tooth and nail.

When the Pentagon wanted to spend billions on Star Wars -- I led the fight to end it.

And when the working people of Oregon needed help -- from building a new Bonneville Lock, to boosting our wheat exports -- I helped make it happen.

Those are battles I'm proud of -- and there are more that lie ahead: defending choice for women; changing our national priorities; rebuilding our economy; saving our timber jobs; protecting our environment.

On these issues, and many others, the people of Oregon need leadership. Someone whose convictions they share. Whose judgment, experience and commitment they can trust.

Promising change is easy. My fight is about something else: making a difference.

Thank you.