

Judge denies ramp construction halt

By PAUL PINTARICH of The Oregonian staff
Final arguments in the I-505 freeway trial were heard in U.S. District Court Wednesday, with plaintiffs contending that Fremont Bridge off ramps now under construction will determine a corridor through Northwest Portland.

Attorney John McCarthy argued, "environmentally, the ramps and corridor stand completely alone. If ramp construction is not halted during the next couple of days, commitment to the route is already decided, making the National Environmental Protection Act ridiculous."

I'm sure we can order the bulldozers back in to fix what they've done." Named as defendants in the trial are the U.S. Department of Transportation, Oregon State Highway Division and the City of Portland.

Defense attorney Leonard I. Lindas argued Wednesday that I-405 and I-505 are two distinct projects. He said that, in 1960 when the Stadium Freeway was approved, the Highway Division was committed to bringing the off ramps down near NW 21st Avenue and Upshur Street.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs maintained that, despite the fact the off ramps were part of I-405, the Stadium Freeway, they should be included in environmental impact studies of I-505 now under way.

Request by plaintiffs for a temporary restraining order to stop the ramps, however, was turned down by U.S. Dist. Judge Alfred T. Goodwin. Goodwin said, "If the court rules in your favor,

Clark College offers 1/2 term'

VANCOUVER, Wash. — An experimental "1/2 Term" at Clark College will begin Nov. 8 in an effort to bolster the school's sagging 1971 fall enrollment.

"1/2 Term" will be a series of some 50 courses offered in a variety of ways, from half the normal curriculum of a full course with half the credit, to new classes beginning in mid-fall term and continuing through mid-winter term.

Most of the new classes will be in the evening, the school says, to offer many of the prospective fall term students who failed to enroll, a second chance.

It is believed a major portion of the decline of 544 students in fall term enrollment stems from youths reluctant to give up hard-to-find day-time jobs.

Lindas added that public hearings had been held in 1960 and again in 1963, with notice given that a west side freeway plan was to be developed.

Consideration argued "Plaintiffs feel the Environmental Protection Act, passed in 1970, applies to projects begun eight years ago. We don't feel this is so," Lindas said. "Since 1963 we have let 13 contracts, the last in 1971 for completion of the Fremont Bridge interchange involving some \$22 million. It's ridiculous that people have waited so long to say 'stop!'"

Plaintiffs' attorneys responded that even the I-405 hearings were suspect under 1959 regulations, contending that the Stadium Freeway hearings made no mention of routings through Northwest Portland.

They further argued that consideration of NW Thurman and Vaughn streets as a two-way "couplet" was evidence of predetermining the I-505 corridor.

"The cost of halting those ramps is not as great as would be the cost of environmental damage," McCarthy added.

Lindas replied, "environmental concern is not a one-way street. We must consider road users and their safety."

After arguments were concluded, Judge Goodwin allowed the defense 10 days in which to prepare written briefs before the matter is taken under advisement.

Extension agent gets promotion

HILLSBORO — Palmer Torvend, Washington County extension agent, has been named area supervisor for Northwest Oregon and will provide leadership for extension programs in Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington counties.

Lee Kolmer, director of the Oregon State University Extension Service, in announcing Torvend's promotion, said he would assume his new duties Nov. 15 and that his office would be located in Portland.

Torvend has served as a Washington County extension agent since joining the OSU Extension Service in 1939. In 1942 he was named chairman of the Washington County staff, a position he has held since then.

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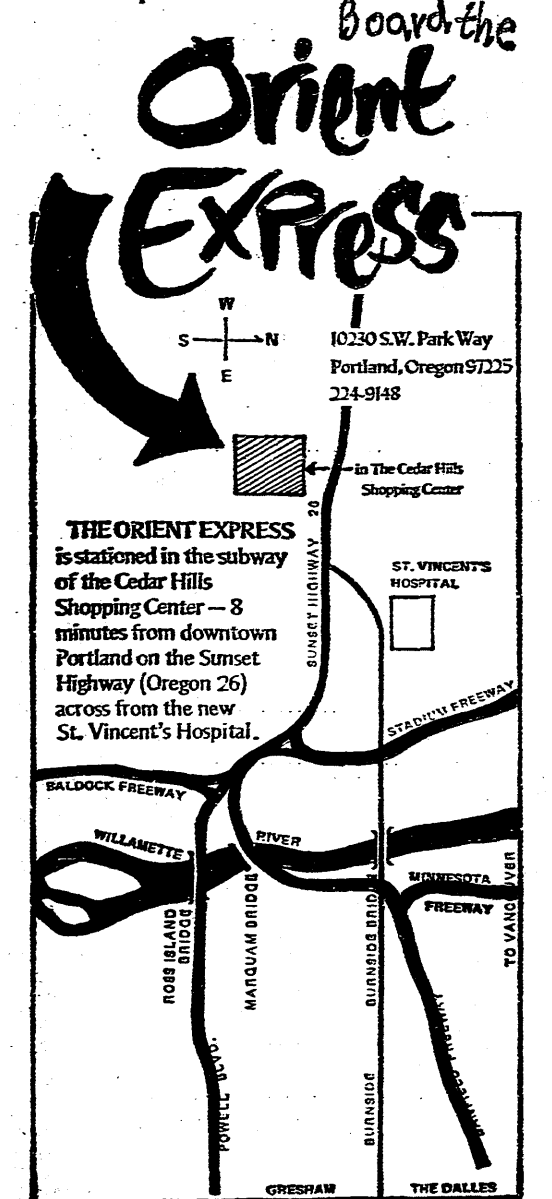
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