

Around Oregon

Oil Exploring Should Be Urged

BAKER (UPI) — State Rep. Roger Martin, R-Lake Oswego, said Tuesday the state should be encouraging oil exploration rather than discouraging it.

Martin, chairman of the Legislative Interim Committee on Natural Resources, made the statement in response to a question from George Morgan in the fourth in a series of meetings the committee is holding in Eastern Oregon.

The question was posed in connection with an increasingly controversial oil exploration well being drilled by Texaco Co., in Crook County. Environmentalist groups have been urging a halt to the drilling until more environmental research is completed.

Morgan asked what the committee's position was on mineral and oil explorations, and Martin said, "I'm in complete agreement with the need for oil exploration." Martin said he was speaking for himself and that was not a committee consensus.