

state/local

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# Maynock urges war on regulation

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**SEDRO-WOOLLEY** — A Reagan task force member warned Sedro-Woolley Rotarians last week that federal bureaucrats will continue to steal local decision-making rights unless private citizens begin to speak out against such encroachment.

Ron Maynock, a Mount Vernon building official, is one of two state representatives on a 95-member Reagan task force created in an effort to reduce federal regulations on housing and property development.

Maynock told his Sedro-Woolley audience last Thursday governmental controls should be retained at the lowest level of government possible.

He said rapidly expanding federal regulation agencies "spawn clones" at the state level that further reduce the rights of local citizens and their officials to decide where government control should begin and end.

Federal regulations in the housing and property development areas "are each seemingly necessary when examined on their own merits," said Maynock. But he charged: "The total effect of these regulations is stifling creativity and productivity."

As an example, Maynock said federal flood control efforts in Skagit County present the possibility of a "legal plunder" — government control of

private property through purchase, easement rights and restrictive zoning.

"I wouldn't have the audacity to go to my neighbor and ask him for money I haven't earned," said Maynock, but he contended that is essentially what occurs when the government makes a decision "that benefits one citizen at the expense of another."

Maynock noted efforts at flood control planning currently under way by a county commissioner-appointed group of volunteers.

The group has recommended construction of a Sauk River flood control dam or use of river channelization and dike diversion projects to handle flooding in this county.

In reference to the proposed dam, however, he noted that U.S. Rep. Al Swift "doesn't seem to think that can happen."

And where dike diversions and channelizations are concerned, he said, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opposes such projects in the upper Skagit area.

"In effect what they are telling me," he said, "is, 'We don't want to come up with an equitable solution — we want the valley to flood.'"

Maynock also referred to the Skagit River's inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System, a federal system designed to protect the natural flow of rivers.

While he termed the river protection

concept "excellent," he said, "federal methodology has been carried too far — has been carried to an extreme."

According to his research, Maynock said the U.S. Forest Service has the authority as lead management agency of the river protection system to purchase up to 320 acres per mile of riverfront property in the wild and scenic region.

He complained that a draft Forest Service management plan for the wild and scenic region was written without adequate local input. That draft plan is due to be circulated to the public in mid-October.

"I don't know anyone in this county," he said, "who saw the study. That is not the way the government is supposed to work."

Maynock said the Reagan task force has had "amazing success" with recommendations to the president to date, but he said citizens throughout the county "have got to get involved."

Decisions, he said, are being made by federal bureaucrats "without sufficient attention to the wishes of the governed."

"Keep abreast of the news," he urged his audience. "Listen, read and discuss. Let your representatives know you don't appreciate federal intervention at the local level.

"Contact your state legislator," he concluded. "Tell him the Department of Ecology has enough controls over this county — tell him we don't need the feds."



Ron Maynock

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