

Letters

Training act must work

To the Editor: As co-chairs of the Joint Interim Task Force on Job Training and Economic Development, a legislative committee established to conduct oversight hearings on the Job Training Partnership Act in Oregon, we are concerned that your recent articles failed to identify the role of the Legislature in determining its success ("New job-training program working" and "Job training programs rated successful," March 19).

The task force has tried to resolve conflicts in the executive branch's implementation of the act. For example, it was only after the task force held hearings that the Adult and Family Services Division altered the way it considered incomes of youth enrolled in the training. Previously, the division had been reducing or even eliminating family grants when such incomes were considered.

As far as problems stemming from division rules that require all its recipients to conduct six months of work search before enrolling in the training program, the Legislature attempted to prevent such senseless policies with HB2983 during the 1983 session. That bill passed both houses without receiving one negative vote, but the governor vetoed the bill, claiming that since he had jurisdiction over both the act and the division, there would be no conflicts. Unfortunately, conflicts still exist.

The governor has not succeeded in ensuring that private industry be involved in the statewide administration of the Job Training Partnership Act. Private industry participation may be the single most important factor in determining its success, but half of the private industry seats on the statewide coordinating council have been vacant for several months. Furthermore, a number of other gubernatorial appointees have never attended or rarely attend the monthly council meetings.

We are concerned that the training act's impressive statistics may be the result of policies that encourage local agencies to offer services only to those who are most likely to succeed. How many of those placed through the act would have gotten jobs without it? And how many of the unemployed, who would benefit from its services, have been frozen out?

The Joint Interim Task Force, at the direc-

tion of the Emergency Board, which must approve all training act expenditures, is attempting to address such questions as the role of women, linkages between job training and economic development and the provision of support services. There will be a public hearing on the issue in the state Capitol, Wednesday, April 4.

MARGIE HENDRIKSEN,
State Senator,
DICK SPRINGER,
State Representative,
S-420 State Capitol,
Salem.

Trip will help Oregon

To the Editor: I can remember way back when my mother would tell me the story of the Atiyeh family while we viewed the beautiful rugs in its store window.

Now, to read and see the pictures in The Oregonian of Gov. Vic Atiyeh visiting his ancestral home, I want to say, before someone begins to worry who paid for this or that, how glad I am he took this trip home and is sharing it with us Oregonians who think he is a fine person and a good governor. I'm sure it will help our state too.

E. PASCUA,
4539 S.W. Viewpoint Terrace.

Forced inside

To the Editor: We have just had the rare honor of having a few nice spring days here in Portland. I was thinking of enjoying them, but how could I when my backyard was filled with smoke? Backyard burning has to be stopped if any of us would like to enjoy a nice spring day. If people must burn, why can't they at least wait until an overcast day to do so?

Besides the point that some of us have sensitive lungs and would benefit from the warm, clean air, how could anyone burn on a beautiful day? Seeing smoke clouds all around the city fouling our clean air is nauseating, but to be forced to stay in your house because your own yard is so smoky you can't even see is insane.

JEFF WALLACE,
135 N.E. 140th Ave.