

# Rural Tribune Target of Budget Cut

The Rural Tribune will no longer be published if the Washington County Community Action Board of Directors approves its executive committee's recommendations. Instead of continuing the Rural Awareness Project, which publishes the Rural Tribune, money would go to 5 per cent increases in staff salaries and to fund 50 per cent of a full-time planner's salary.

The executive committee recommendations were made despite Community Action staff input, which directed the salary increases and one-half of the planner's salary to fund the Rural Tribune for six months. This six month period was to be granted to the Rural Tribune to create a self-sufficient bilingual

newspaper circulating statewide.

Other programs affected by the executive committee recommendations were the Bilingual/Bicultural Program and the Welfare Hotline. In each, program staff would be reduced from 2 to 1.5 positions. For the Welfare Hotline this would mean a reduction in its community education component. Bilingual and Bicultural Program would be reducing the number of translations it could do for Spanish-speaking people.

Compounding the problem of funding was the need to pare \$67,000 from next year's budget. The rather large deficit resulted from CETA cutbacks and additional program requests. Options presented by Community Action staff represented

past years strategies of cutting back all programs to balance the budget. The executive committee instead chose to eliminate an entire program and settled on RAP.

The following budget breakdown was presented to the executive committee to help them make their decision. The full Board of Directors is expected to act on this information, as well as any testimony pre-

sent to them from members of the audience. If you have any questions or recommendations, Wednesday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Hillsboro City Hall is the time and place which has been set aside.

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMENDED
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; PROGRAM SUPPORT</b> To supervise entire agency with budget of \$800,000. To maintain adequate fiscal control, reporting and audit. To provide receptionist, clerical & office equipment support to projects. (5.5 positions, support costs)	\$104,237	\$104,237
<b>PROGRAM PLANNING</b> To implement a multi-year planning process, To insure adequate & consistent funding of WCCAO programs, and to design & implement program evaluations. (1 position, support costs).	\$16,188	\$16,188
<b>RURAL AWARENESS PROJECT</b> To create an awareness of human issues and problems facing economically and/or socially disadvantaged people by publishing ten 8 page issues of the Rural Tribune, and providing assistance to 24 low-income groups in print media. (2 positions contract writers, printing, support costs)	\$48,342	-\$0-

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## The Rural Tribune

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# DOL Violation Re-opens ORO Case

The U. S. Department of Labor violated federal regulations in awarding an \$800,000 farmworker employment and training grant to the California Human Development Corporation, ruled U.S. District Court Judge Otto Skopil. The opinion handed down March 23 was based on testimony given during two days of hearings in Portland during February and March.

Skopil ordered the Department of Labor to reconsider a grant application made by Oregon Rural Opportunities, reopening competition for the farmworker funds, earmarked for operation of training programs to help farmworkers advance within the agricultural industry, or move into other areas of employment.

Skopil's decision was based on testimony given by Harry Kranz, acting director of the Labor Department's Office of Farmworker Programs. Kranz testified that because of "time pressures" relating to a restructuring of the department's processes, he selected CHDC as the grantee for Oregon on December 19, 1978—two days before the required 30-day minimum time set for consideration of grant applications had passed.

Because of Kranz' early decision, all input from the local community regarding ORO's performance was not able to be reviewed. This input included a letter of concern from former Governor Bob Straub and a request that a 90-day extension be given to ORO before a decision was made.

Skopil ruled that the Department's A-95 grant application process was violated, because such letters and comments must be taken

into consideration before any decision can be made. Skopil further mentioned that the 30-day period is only the minimum time required for grant considerations, and that Kranz unjustifiably acted as if it were the maximum time allowable.

The Judge ruled, however, against a requested injunction of the funds, and said that CHDC's present activities of setting up and administering farmworker employment and training programs should not be interrupted. The mandated review of applications and new decision does not guarantee that ORO will now be awarded the grant, and as Skopil stated, "Any further disruption of the farmworker program at this time would work hardships on the people for whom the program was created." Skopil said he believed the DOL can review the applications in good faith and in a timely manner.

Other accusations against the CHDC, Department of Labor, and their personnel were found to be without substantiation. Skopil denied ORO's other claims against the agencies, exonerating the CHDC, its director George Ortiz, and Robert

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## ORO Será Reconsiderada

Por Judy Schilling

El Departamento de Labor de U.S. violó sus propios reglamentos en otorgar una concesión de \$800,000 para empleo y entrenamiento de trabajadores del campo a la Corporación de Desarrollo Humano de California (CHDC) fué el fallo del Juez del Distrito Otto Skopil. La opinión fué presentada el 23 de marzo basada en un testimonio dado durante 2 días de audiencias en Portland durante el mes de Febrero y Marzo.

Skopil ordenó al Departamento de Labor que reconsiderara la solicitud para la concesión hecha por ORO quien antes tenía dicha concesión.

La decisión de Skopil fue basada en el testimonio de Harry Kranz quien actuando como director de las oficinas de Programas de Labradores testificó que dado a "presión de tiempo" relativo a un restructuramiento de los procesos del departamento, él seleccionó a CHDC como el recipiente para Oregon el 19 de diciembre de 1978, dos días antes del requisito mínimo de 30 días, puesto

para la consideración de solicitudes para concesiones. Por la razón de la decisión temprana de Kranz, las opiniones de la comunidad local acerca del cumplimiento y aplicación no pudieron ser consideradas en la decisión. Estas opiniones incluyeron una carta de concernimiento del gobernador anterior Bob Straub y una petición para una extensión de 90 días que fuesen dados a ORO antes que una decisión fuera hecha. El fallo de Skopil fué que el proceso de la solicitud para concesión A-95 fué violado porque tales cartas y comentarios deben ser considerados antes de hacer una decisión. Skopil además mencionó que el periodo de 30 días es el tiempo mínimo requerido para consideraciones para concesiones y que Kranz actuó injustamente como si fuese el tiempo máximo disponible.

El juez determinó, sin embargo, en contra de un mandato de los fondos y ordenó que las actividades actuales de CHDC para la formación y administración de programas de empleo y entrenamiento no sean

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Postal Customer, Local

# Inconsistent Policy Frustrates Utility Customers

By Annette Bromberg

How does PGE or Northwest Natural Gas react when a customer can't pay a utility bill? In many cases the service is cut off. According to the New York Times, between 1975 and 1977 more than 200 people in the nation died of causes related to utility stoppage. In Hillsboro, one 72-year old woman could not afford to pay her entire gas bill. She had written numerous letters to the gas company (she had no phone) requesting they not discontinue her service, and offered them partial payment of \$30 each time. In March, her gas was discontinued.

According to representatives from PGE and N.W. Natural Gas, both companies make it a policy to attempt to negotiate with customers in order to keep service going, even if a customer can't pay a total bill.

However, according to an emergency services advocate at Community Action, too often this is not the case. Since January 19 of this year, the advocate program saw more than 500 household representatives in utility related crises while administering crisis money, and often dealt with the utility companies. Said one advocate, "What the companies say they do, and what people believe they do is very different from what they really do. They say they will make arrangements, but in fact, they are either inconsistent in negotiations, or they simply don't negotiate at all."

"Clients are told by the utility company to come in as soon as they know they can't pay their bill, and the company will attempt to 'make arrangements.' However, we see a lot of discouraged people who have tried to 'make arrangements' with the utility companies, and have gotten nowhere. Then we call the company and ask for the same kind of partial payment agreement, on behalf of the same client, and they will agree to the negotiation. We have a much greater success rate than the client does. This inconsiderate and incon-

sistent compliance with their own guidelines is confusing and frustrating for anyone trying to deal with them."

The utility companies follow the policy of negotiating with customers according to their own discretion. Often the decision is based on past credit rating of the customer. However, low income people who most often need the consideration of negotiations are often the very ones who are overlooked because they have bad credit ratings. Said one ad-

vocate, "People sometimes think these customers don't care or want to pay off their bills, when in fact, they are making great efforts to pay them off. The utility companies don't agree to accept partial payments from these people, even though they claim it is their policy to do so."

## Rate Structure Draws Support

On April 18 at the State Capitol Building, public testimony was heard concerning four proposed utility-related legislative bills. Observers estimate there were about 200 concerned citizens present, with representatives from Oregon Fair Share, Community Action, and major industries in Oregon.

Three of the bills, termed "lifeline" bills, call for inverting the present rate structure of utility companies. They would, under the new bills, charge more per kilowatt for heavy users, including industry and business; light, residential users would be charged the least per kilo-

watt hour. The bills would also establish a "lifeline" base rate determined on the basis of season, type of heating facility, type of cooking facility, and so forth. If users were to stay within this base "lifeline" rate, the charge would be very low; however, if they were to use more than their allotted "lifeline" amount, they would be charged a higher rate per kilowatt. The present rating system charges more for using small amounts and less per kilowatt for heavy users.

The other utility bill discussed was HB 2661, which prohibits utility companies from shutting off service

in the winter, from November 1 through March 31. The proposed bill would insure that no utility could discontinue service when it "endangers the life or health" of the consumer. It also would direct the Public Utility Commission to establish guidelines to direct utilities to (1) inform a consumer of his or her right to a private hearing; (2) devise a debt payment schedule for consumers and (3) refer customers who can't afford to pay a bill to the proper social service agencies which can help them. Presently none of these provisions are required, instead being left largely up to the discretion of the utility company to carry out.

## Child Care Jeopardized Statewide

By Evan Kaeser

If the Atiyeh budget for the Children Services Division is approved, two day care centers in Washington County will have to close their doors on July 1, 1979.

The new budget adds to a debilitating ruling by the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare that has already ruled invalid contracts with the state for federal funds with the Child Care Coordinating Councils. At stake in Washington County is \$40,000 of \$60,000 in federal funds used to train day care staff in child care and nutrition.

The immediate effect is a radical restructuring of the Child Care Coordinating Council and Day Care Center staff childcare. Cutbacks will

mean the closure of Tiny Tots Day Care in Hillsboro and the Aloha Valley Development Center servicing Aloha.

Atiyeh's budget promises no reprieve, emphasizing as it does family day care over day care centers because of cost considerations. Though family day care is less expensive, the concept of a young child staying with a family rather than in the nursery school arrangement of the day care center is less appealing to many parents.

For those parents, the only choice left is to put the child in a private day care center—a choice whose cost is forbidding to many low income parents. The impact "is discriminatory against low income

women, especially minority women" says Tuality Day Care director Ruth Berger.

This is a continuation of a state policy failing to adequately take into account the costs of child care for low income families. In 1975 a parent with one child at 79 per cent of the state median income paid \$48 in parent fees. Today a similar family at the same 79 per cent of the state median income pays \$115 a month, or 240 per cent more.

For many single parent homes the option is now to stay home with the kids letting welfare pick up the tab. The encouragement to break out of the welfare bind is missing.

## County Could Lose 2 Centers

By Evan Kaeser

Two recent developments have dealt childcare centers throughout the state a severe financial blow. The resulting scramble for funds may affect thousands of children presently enrolled in Oregon day care centers.

The first is the controversial Senate Bill 5525 introduced to the Senate for budgetary allocations in January 1979. The thrust of this bill is the subsidization of extremely low income families who would otherwise be on welfare, increasing the numbers of children served, while maintaining present levels of funding.

The Atiyeh budget for the new plan is criticized for not taking into account cost of living raises. In the past three years the minimum wage

has risen from \$2.00 to \$2.90 per hour for a 45 per cent increase. During the same period state day care allocations have gone up a meager 22 per cent. Atiyeh's budget continues this trend, albeit more conservatively, with a 7 per cent per year financial hike.

The second development is the loss of federal Title 20 funds that make up 50 per cent of the State Child Care Coordinating Council's (4C) budget. Under Title 20, 4C received \$825,000 annually for the staffing of many community services and the training of hundreds of day-care workers.

The federal money came to the local Coordinating Councils through contracts with the State Children Services Division. The federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare has ruled the contracts the

Division had with the Councils invalid. As of July 1, 1979 funds will be withdrawn, seriously debilitating 4C which depends on the funds for overhead, staff and training programs.

Contracts may be renegotiated by individual experts and institutions such as universities and colleges. But it is expected that the new contractors will not have the same quality of referral service, toy libraries, and nutritional programs as in the past.

Meanwhile, 4C administrators are expecting that the loss will cut their programs to a bare minimum. There is some hope, though slim, that a federal stay of the ruling will be granted keeping the program alive for another year while alternative arrangements are made to satisfy federal requirements.

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Translations . . . . . Washington County Translators Bureau

Study says fields dangerous for youngsters

# Chemical Ban Hits Berry Growers

By Judy Schilling

*Each year more and more Americans are finding out that they have been exposed to potentially hazardous substances—at work, at home, in the air they breathe and the water they drink. We have become, one could say, trapped by our own technology—a technology whose products are causing cancer, birth defects, nervous disorders, lung diseases. And the most frightening part of all, remarked one scientist at the National Cancer Institute, is that everywhere you point a finger, you can almost always find a culprit. But between the time the finger is pointed and the culprit indicted, the damage has been done.*

*Agriculture is one of the nation's industries coming more and more under scrutiny for its growing dependence on chemical systems of fertilization and pest control. The development of "new and better" technology in the past three decades has helped to keep small farmers in the competitive ring of agricultural industry.*

*But now, each year it is becoming increasingly difficult for our nation's small farmers to eke out a living on the land. Statistics show that the number of these farms is diminishing, and that larger farms controlled by large corporations are taking their place. Only the corporations can afford to invest the millions of dollars needed to buy machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, and stay afloat through one or two bad seasons until a sizeable profit can be made. Production costs are going up; labor costs are rising, and growing numbers of state and federal restrictions on employment practices are starting to make farming less profitable, less enjoyable and less possible for the small farmer.*

## The Problem Comes Home

In Washington County March 29, Oregon berry growers were dealt a blow when they were told that the Department of Labor would not grant waivers allowing the growers to employ 10- and 11-year olds if they use any of the following chemicals in their fields after April 13: Kelthane (Dicofil), Captan, Maneb, Metiram (Polyram) or Chlorothalonil (Bravo).

The Department of Labor had contracted with an independent scientific regulatory consultant group, Clement Associates of Washington, D.C., who evaluated and examined studies and literature on these chemicals and determined that they are potentially carcinogenic (cancer causing) and may even be mutagenic (causing gene mutation).

The Clements report, issued in March, relies heavily on data pro-

vided by the National Cancer Institute who, in 1978, administered doses of the chemicals to rats and mice in controlled laboratory tests. Measured against a control group which received no chemicals, and comparing the incidence of tumors, the NCI concluded that Kelthane caused a very high incidence of liver tumors.

... A further report not yet released also links the chemicals to gene mutation, birth defects and sterility...

Earlier, the DOL had suggested that certain levels of Kelthane were permissible, but now, based on the NCI studies, it has been decided that the use of Kelthane itself is not permissible at all. "The National Cancer Institute is held in very high regard," Lynne Miller of Clements Associates told The Tribune, "and so we have recommended that this chemical (Kelthane) not be used at all."

In separate testing the fungicide Captan was also examined by the NCI in 1977. Tumors in the duodenum (part of the gastro-intestinal tract) were found in mice receiving this chemical. Because this type of tumor almost never occurs spontaneously, even a slight incidence is considered significant. The NCI concluded that because this rare tumor did occur in mice receiving Captan, that Captan was a cause of duodenal tumors.

A further report not yet released also links the chemicals to gene mutations, birth defects, and sterility, said Ms. Miller. And at present, the Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing Captan. But because EPA's process is slow, it may be some time before their studies are completed.

According to County Extension agents and local farmers, nearly all of Oregon's berry growers use Captan and Kelthane in their fields. Captan, a fungicide, is applied 2 or 3 times a season as a spray or dust on blossoms to control fruit rot. Kelthane, a mitecide, is applied to control spider mites. Washington County Extension Agent Arden Sheets says that he has been involved in using both these chemicals for 20 years and has seen no "side effects" from their use. Furthermore, he contends, no other chemicals are as effective as these, and without a reliable substitute berry production can be severely damaged.

## Labor Looks at Health

The Department of Labor's involvement in the chemical regulatory business began in 1974 when amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act were passed, banning the employment of children under the age of 12 in agriculture.

Three years later, at the urging of representatives and senators primarily from Washington, Oregon and Maine, the act was amended to allow waivers for the employment of children under 12 for certain short season crops. For Maine, this meant potatoes; in the Northwest, berries.

Restrictions were written into these amendments allowing the

Secretary of Labor to grant waivers only if certain working conditions were met—including submission of an objective report that chemicals used would not have any adverse effects on the health and well-being of the children.

Last summer when the Dept. of Labor went to implement the amendments and restrictions, it was discovered that there were no studies regarding the effect of the chemicals on those under 12—or, for that matter, on those under 18.

A bitter fight ensued between the farmers and the Department, as farmers had relied heavily on both the employment of the younger children, and the use of the chemicals in question. The Oregon Farm Bureau filed suit against the Secretary of Labor and its stance on the chemicals, which in August last year was dismissed when the Department

Farmers say the number of acres planted to berries is dropping because of the lack of pickers, and this ruling will only push more acres out of production.

issued a list of 8 pesticides that could be used, along with their re-entry times after application. But the season was over, so the new information did little to help last year's harvest.

It was then that the Department of Labor began more extensive studies on the chemical question. As Miriam Hartley, executive assistant to the undersecretary of Labor, told us, "We decided we now had to take the lead, after seeing that the EPA and USDA had no evidence to offer."

The result of their studies—made effective April 13 by publication in the Federal Register—bans the use of the 4 chemicals mentioned if waivers to use young pickers are to be granted.

## No Pickers, No Acres?

Strawberries are one of the few agricultural crops which have not been successfully harvested by machine—and the work, though strenuous, can be performed by children under 12.

Farmers rely most heavily on the

family units that come as a group to the fields to pick together. Banning the younger children, said the farmers, in essence bans the whole family. Someone would have to stay home and babysit. Mothers wouldn't come. And farmers claim that it is when children are 10 and 11 that they learn to be good pickers. And they will pick for a few years beyond that, because it is increasingly profitable for them. "If you wait until a kid is twelve to teach them how to pick," said one grower, "he won't stay with it. By the time they are fourteen, they have other things to do and berry picking seems like too much work for the money if they haven't already learned to pick profitably."

Farmers say that the number of acres planted to berries is dropping because of the lack of pickers, and this recent ruling will only push more and more acres out of production. One Banks grower, Larry Kelly, cut his berry acres from 130 to 50, and says he finds no incentive to plant more acres to berries. "When we can't get workers we have to reduce our acreage," he told us. "At this rate," he said, "there won't be any strawberries left in a few years."

The decline has been tremendous—ten years ago statewide some 10-11,000 acres were planted in strawberries. Last year, little more

than half were left. Although most growers are reporting that to date it looks like it will be a good year for berries, the competition with berries imported from California and Mexico is increasing. And the grower is not able to set the price—he gets what he can from the processors. While his labor and production costs rise, his profit margin is shrinking. "Just to make a living is a real struggle," said Kelly. "It's hard to even talk about profits..."

And all too often it has been chemicals which have made the difference between a profitable or an unprofitable season. One other grower told us, "And it's kind of hard to change 20 years of farming practices overnight." One Cornelius grower who hasn't yet applied any chemicals told us they were applying for a waiver, and then would have to wait and see what happens with the berries. If it happens that they "need" to apply chemicals, with or without the waiver they will use the chemicals to save the crop and hope that they can get pickers.

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**Bilingual Bill Passes Senate**

A bill providing for bilingual services for non-English speaking clients of Adult and Family Services has passed the Oregon Senate and is now in House Aging and Minority Affairs Committee. The bill mandates AFS to provide bilingual materials and translators at all branch offices which have 25 or more client households speaking the same non-English language. Input can be given to the committee concerning this bill by writing House Aging and Minority Affairs Committee, State Capitol Building, Room 453A, Salem, 97310. To find out the next scheduled meeting, call the legislative toll-free number, 1-800-452-0290.

**CETA Funds for Vets**

Multnomah-Washington County CETA Consortium has received an additional \$84,000 to provide training and employment for unemployed veterans in the HIRE II Program (Help Through Industry and Retraining and Employment). Under HIRE II, eligible veterans receive on-the-job training which provides them the opportunity to be trained for a specific job while actually performing duties required of that occupation.

To date, the Consortium has placed 50 veterans in on-the-job training, and through June 30 plans to develop OJT positions for an additional 21 veterans. The veterans are being trained in such areas as auto body repair, sales, machine work, and computer operations.

Veterans and private employers who are interested in HIRE II can obtain additional information by calling 256-4750 in Multnomah County or 640-1781 in Washington County.

**Update:**

Re: "Governor's Rep Meets With Hispanics" (February, 1979)

To the Editor:

I just read the February edition of The Rural Tribune and noticed an error in your column. You mention that there exists a bilingual education program in Hillsboro. There is no bilingual education program there at this time though an Equal Educational Opportunity Committee has been set up to consider that possibility among many other issues. I am a member of that committee.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Solano

**¿Necesita Ayuda Para Combustible?**

Si aún está usted afectado por el frío del invierno, o sea si aún está usted pagando los cobros para la calefacción del invierno y ha sido desconectado o se lo van a desconectar, Community Action todavía tiene una pequeña cantidad de fondos disponibles para ayudar a la gente para superar esta crisis. Llame a Community Action al 648-6646 para ayuda en los cobros de utilidades.

**Free Weatherization Program**

Washington County Community Action is looking for persons who need help weatherizing their homes. This service is available to elderly, disabled, and low income residents of the county. All materials and labor are provided free of charge to those who qualify.

The program is subsidized by a grant administered by WCCAO. Work crews provide a variety of services including the installation of weatherstripping, semi-permanent storm windows, mending roofs, repairing or replacing windows, insulating hot water heaters. Attic insulation is available to homeowners. Also, firewood for heating is delivered on an emergency basis, free of charge to those who qualify.

Weatherization is a year-round activity, providing comfort and fuel savings both in summer and in winter. To apply for the program, call the Energy Program at 648-4800 or write them at 416 S.W. Cedar, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

**Head Start Recruiting for Fall Openings**

Washington County Head Start, a developmental education program for four and five-year olds and their families, is still accepting applications for this fall.

Present centers are in Cornelius and on Cornell Road near Aloha. Each family also receives regular home visits to share knowledge of the child and to learn new skills to help the child be better prepared for the public school experience. Head Start also works with the families to meet the enrolled child's health and dental needs.

For more information or an application form please call Pilar at 648-6646.

**Hotline for Rape Victims**

Crisis Center, Inc., a rape victim advocate program for Washington County, is operating a 24-hour Crisis Hotline. The number is 640-5311, and advocates at the hotline will provide free, confidential emotional support and referral.

**Línea Disponible Para Víctimas Violadas**

El Centro de Crisis, Inc., un programa defensor de víctimas violadas está operando las 24 horas del día. El no. es 640-5311 y está en favor de que la línea provea ayuda gratis, confidencial y emocional.

**Funds Available for Summer Youth Projects**

Washington County Community Action is accepting proposals for funding summer recreation projects which will benefit low-income 8-13 year olds. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal should contact Nancy R. Gann at 648-6646.

**Programa de Aclimatación Gratis**

Community Action está buscando personas que necesiten ayuda en aclimatar sus hogares. Este servicio está disponible a los ancianos, deshabilitados y a todos los necesitados de bajos recursos económicos en este condado. Todo el material y la mano de obra es gratis para aquellos que califiquen.

El programa está subsidiado por una concesión o donación administrada por WCCAO. La cuadrilla de trabajadores proveen una variedad de servicios incluyendo instalación de insulación o cierres herméticos semi-permanentes, para proteger los techos y las ventanas y forrar los conductos de los calentadores, reparando ventanas, insulación a los calentadores. También se provee leña o madera para quemar en casos de emergencia gratis a todos aquellos que califiquen.

La aclimatación para su casa está por todo un año de actividad, proveyendo comodidad y conservación de energía tanto en el verano como en el invierno. Para solicitar el programa llame a Community Action Programa de Energía, teléfono 640-3800 o escriba al programa, 245 S.E. 2nd, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

**New Emergency Services Specialist at WCCAO**

Norma Gonzales is the new bilingual emergency services person taking the place of Berna Griego at Community Action. The Emergency Services Program wishes Norma a hearty welcome to WCCAO, and wants Berna to know that her dedication to the community will long be remembered.

Norma's office is at WCCAO, 245 S.E. 2nd in Hillsboro. She can be reached by phone, 648-6646, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Volunteer for BEWARE!**

The Washington County Domestic Violence Project, Battering Ended With Advocacy, Research and Education (BEWARE), is now seeking volunteer support in areas of advocacy, fund-raising, transportation, translation, tax-deductible donations, child care and other areas.

To find out more about these volunteer positions contact BEWARE Volunteer Coordinator Tamara Flemming at 640-5352. This number is also a 24-hour help, referral and message line.

**Need Fuel Help?**

If you are still affected by the winter cold, i.e. still paying off heating bills from the winter, and are being disconnected or have been disconnected, Community Action still has a small amount of funds available to help people through this crisis. Call Community Action at 648-6646 for utility bill help.

**APERTURA DE LA OFICINA DE TRABAJADORES DEL CAMPO**

Cerca de 90 personas ya se han registrado en el Programa de Empleo y Entrenamiento de los Trabajadores del Campo en Oregon, según lo dijo el administrador Cándido Morales. Con seis oficinas abiertas y dos más que seguirán, el programa está marchando hacia el aumento de clientes campesinos que se espera.

El programa de empleo y entrenamiento intenta proveer de los servicios y el entrenamiento necesarios para los campesinos que desean buscar oportunidades alternativas de trabajo al trabajo temporal de campo, lo mismo que mejorar sus habilidades para capacitarlos a tomar ventajas y oportunidades de trabajo en la agricultura.

Para ser aceptado en el programa el campesino debe: 1) ser miembro de una familia que está económicamente en desventaja; 2) haber sido empleado en la agricultura en una base temporal; 3) durante los 18 meses precedentes haber ganado el 50 por ciento de sus entradas trabajando en la agricultura; 4) ser un ciudadano de los E.U. o un extranjero residente permanente.

Las oportunidades que se ofrecen incluyen entrenamiento con clases, experiencia de trabajo y entrenamiento en el trabajo. Las clases también se darán cuando se necesite de inglés como segunda lengua, y el entrenamiento vocacional será provisto a través de un centro de capacitación. Este centro tentativamente está planeado para el área de Beaverton-Tigard y puede incluir montaje electrónico, mecánica de construcción industrial, maquinistas, envíos y recibos.

Los servicios adicionales que ofrece el programa son los servicios de apoyo relacionados con las necesidades de salud, nutrición, cuidado de niños, alojamiento y necesidades de emergencia.

La lista de las oficinas está más abajo. Además una sucursal para el verano abierta en el área de Eugene, y las oficinas permanentes se están estableciendo también ahora en Nyssa y Hermiston.

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION:**

P. O. Box 23923  
11654 S.W. Pacific Hwy., Suite 12  
Tigard, Ore. 97223  
Phone: 620-9317

**CORNELIUS:**

110 N. Adair, Cornelius, 97113  
Phone: 357-0782

**WOODBURN:**

469 N. Front, Woodburn, 97071  
Phone: 982-5100

**KLAMATH FALLS:**

919 E. Main, Klamath Falls, 97601  
Phone: 884-1536

**HERMISTON:**

P. O. Box 569  
115 Hermiston Ave., Hermiston 97838

**MEDFORD:**

4543 S. Pacific Hwy., Phoenix, 97501

## Gleaning and Community Garden Assistance

With the coming of spring, Community Action's Gardening Assistance and Crop Gleaning programs are in full swing.

Gardening Assistance, under the Community Foods and Nutrition Program, is open to low income persons who need assistance with rototilling, planting and care of the garden. People who need help and are willing to share garden produce are matched up with people who are willing to do the work. Low income people may also borrow a rototiller if they agree to till a low income family's plot who are unable to do so.

Crop gleaning applications are now being taken for the 1979 gleaning season. The project is open to low income families, senior citizens, and physically handicapped people. Gleaning is the gathering of crops left in the field after harvest by able-bodied persons who share the produce with senior and physically handicapped persons. The project, coordinated by Washington County Community Action's Community Foods and Nutrition Program, has been very successful in the county, gaining state and national attention. Last year 239 families participated in Washington County alone.

Persons who are interested in or have questions about either project should call 648-6646 and ask for Sandy or Teddy. There are no charges or costs to participants in either of these programs.

## Co-op Annual Meeting

Hope Co-op's third annual membership meeting will be held Sunday May 6 at the United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, across from the co-op in Forest Grove. The event will be celebrated with a spaghetti potluck dinner cooked by members; others attending are asked to bring salads, desserts, or beverages. The meeting agenda includes election of new Board members, reports on changes the co-op has gone through the past year, and small group discussions for members to get together and share ideas and concerns. Child care will be provided.

## Especialista Nueva en los Servicios de Emergencia de WCCAO

Norma Gonzáles es la nueva persona bilingüe de servicios de emergencia que reemplaza a Berna Griego en Community Action. El programa de servicios de emergencia le desea a Norma una muy cordial bienvenida a WCCAO, y desea hacerle saber a Berna que su dedicación a la comunidad será recordada por mucho tiempo.

La oficina de Norma está en WCCAO, 245 S.E. 2nd en Hillsboro. Ella está disponible por teléfono al número 648-6646, de lunes a viernes, de 9 a 5 p.m.

## Técnica para Buscar Empleo Enseñada en los Talleres de CETA

Una facilidad única que ofrece una gran variedad de servicios que están disponibles para los participantes de Multnomah-Washington CETA Consortium por medio de sus Centros de Recursos Localizados en Hillsboro y Park Rose.

Los Centros de Recursos que están abiertos a participantes viviendo en los condados de Washington y Multnomah fuera de la ciudad de Portland, proveen actividades tales como talleres sobre expedición de vocación y carrera así como ayuda individual. Todas las actividades son dirigidas a ayudar a la gente a superar sus oportunidades para empleo.

Cada mes cientos de individuos son referidos a los Centros por consejeros del programa de CETA. Los participantes pueden participar en talleres que son ofrecidos todo el tiempo sobre tales temas como avalúo de habilidades, entrevistas, escritura de resúmenes y técnica de cómo buscar empleo. Las responsabilidades de los talleres son compartidas por los miembros del personal de CETA quienes tienen pericia en áreas específicas.

Hay información disponible para participantes en el mercado de la labor, educación, carrera y vocación, entrenamiento y lista de empleos. Para los que deseen superar sus habilidades para mejorar las oportunidades de empleo, máquinas de escribir están disponibles, como también una máquina sumadora de 10 teclas.

Los centros de recursos son utilizados por la juventud y por participantes de servicio adulto y público de empleo de CETA localizadas en 111 S.E. Washington en Hillsboro y 4110 N.E. 122nd en Portland.

## Toll Free Number for Legislative Questions

The Oregon State Legislature has a toll-free number to provide a variety of information on bills acted upon during this legislative session.

The toll-free number, 1-800-452-0290 is in service from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Information that can be provided includes: history and present status of bills; schedules of committee hearings; summaries of bills; names of members of each committee; legislators' phone numbers and addresses and other related information.

In order to expedite any research done on a particular bill, it is advised to have the current House or Senate Bill number when calling.

## Can You Help? Have You Stopped Getting Food Stamps?

Have Your Food Stamps Been Cut? Please call the Welfare Hotline at 648-0513. Your Info Can Help Collect the Needed Data to Make Changes!

## ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR CHERRY GROVE CENTER

- May 18-20: YWCA FARM WEEKEND for adults only. A blend of recreational and educational activities.
- May 25-27: WEEKEND AT CHERRY GROVE CENTER open to adults and children, sponsored by Cherry Grove Center. Work and play activities to get acquainted with the Center.
- June 8-10: PLEASURE III WORKSHOP coordinated by Ray Siderius and Simon Minasche, for adults only. Activities in Yoga, massage, bioenergetics, healing, Gestalt and more.

## SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Many camperships are available to low income families for all of the following camp sessions. For more information call 985-7316.
- DAY CAMP for ages 8-12: Four sessions are scheduled for June 18-22, June 25-29, July 2-6, and July 9-13.
- RESIDENT CAMP for ages 8-12: Two sessions are scheduled for July 16-20 and July 23-27.
- BICYCLE CAMP for ages 13-16: Two sessions are scheduled for August 6-10 and August 13-18.

## Head Start Aceptando Solicitudes

Head Start del Condado de Washington, un programa de desarrollo educativo para los niños de 4 a 5 años de edad y de sus familias, está todavía aceptando solicitudes para el próximo otoño. Los centros activos están localizados en Cornelius y en Cornell Rd., cerca de Aloha. Cada familia está recibiendo visitas regulares en sus casas para compartir conocimiento de los niños y aprender nuevas habilidades para ayudar a los niños a estar mejor preparados para una experiencia en las escuelas públicas. Head Start también trabaja con las familias para encontrar las necesidades de salud y dentales de los niños y ayudar a resolverlas. Para más información o para hacer una solicitud por favor llame a Pilar Kleier al teléfono 648-6646.

## Residential Options for People Who are Mentally Retarded

The Association for Retarded Citizens and Community Living for Handicapped Children invite you to attend a presentation on residential options for people who are mentally retarded.

Topics include residential programs, support services provided and an explanation of Washington County planning/zoning codes affecting residential facilities.

The presentation will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, May 9 at the Hillsboro Library, 775 S.E. 10th. Admission is free but advance notice is requested to assure adequate seating and refreshment.

Contact the Association at 649-6110 or 649-7184, or write them at 4440 S.W. 185th, Aloha, Or. 97005.

## UFW Boycotts Bananas

The United Farm Workers kicked off its boycott against Chiquita bananas with an informational picket line of 400 people at a Safeway supermarket in San Francisco last month.

The picket was led by UFW president Cesar Chavez; representatives of many San Francisco labor unions also attended. Over half the picketers were strikers from the Salinas lettuce growing area about 100 miles south

## New Publication Series Founded By Bilingual Magazine

Nicolas Kanellos, editor of Revista Chicano-Riqueña, a bilingual literary magazine now in its seventh year of publication, announces the founding of a new publications series, Arte Publico Press. The Press is designed to publish and distribute literary works by Nuyoricano, Chicano and other ethnic and minority writers. Arte Publico pledges an open door policy in considering manuscripts for publication, but is especially looking for work that is at the forefront of creative expression.

Arte Publico Press is already publishing the first three books of poetry: "La Bodega Sold Dreams," by Miguel Pinero; "On Call," by Miguel Algarin; and "The Carreta Made a U-Turn," by Tato Laviera. The books retail for \$5.00.

Miguel Pinero is the playwright-poet who received the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play of the 1973-74 season. Miguel Algarin is the author of three books of poetry, translator of Nobel Prize poet Pablo Neruda, and co-author with Miguel Pinero of the Nuyricano Poets Anthology. Tato Laviera is a talented writer-composer who besides having his plays produced, has also had his songs recorded by internationally known salsa artists.

To kick off the new publications project, the writers and publisher-editor Kanellos will conduct a nationwide tour of poetry readings this summer. Orders for the books may be sent to Arte Publico Press, c/o Revista Chicano Riqueña, 3400 Broadway, Gary, Indiana 46408.

of San Francisco. There are now some 1000 farm workers on strike in the Salinas Valley, and as the spring lettuce harvest begins this month the strike will grow.

The UFW is renewing its boycott efforts, this time against bananas, in an attempt to push SunHarvest into signing a new UFW contract. Both SunHarvest, the largest U.S. lettuce growers, and Chiquita Bananas are subsidiaries of United Brands.

WCCAO BUDGET.....Continued from p. 1

	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED		
<b>OPTION</b>			<b>COMMUNITY FOOD &amp; NUTRITION</b>	\$15,441
Drop the print media assistance to 24 low-income groups. (1.5 positions, support costs)	\$41,126	-\$0-	To assure that at least 550 low-income persons receive at least 55,000 lbs. of excess crops valued at \$20,000 from at least 50 donors. To assure that crop gleaning becomes a self-sufficient project by the end of the 1980 harvest. (2.5 positions, support costs).	\$15,441
<b>OPTION</b>			<b>VISTA, JESUIT &amp; COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PROJECT</b>	
To provide 6 months seed money for the purpose of creating a self sufficient bi-lingual newspaper serving Oregon.	\$24,171	-\$0-	To develop and continue 12 VISTA projects serving low-income persons. To provide a minimum of 40 hours per month from community volunteers. (50 percent position, support costs)	\$5,972
<b>BI-LINGUAL/BI-CULTURAL</b>			<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES &amp; SHELTER HOUSE</b>	\$3,722
To provide at least 450 oral & written Spanish/English translations. To advocate with local agencies to hire Bi-lingual staff or translators, to assist in the development of programs to meet the needs of the Bi-cultural community as identified in the CETA study of needs. (2 positions, support costs, support costs for CETA Special Projects).	\$30,065		To provide emergency shelter for at least 432 low-income persons. To respond to at least 1800 client problems this year & to make available \$10,000 in emergency loans to assist 240 low-income families. (5 positions, support costs)	\$3722
<b>OPTION</b>			<b>PYRAMID SKILLS EXCHANGE</b>	\$333
Reduce translations to 200 in cases where persons must have it for access to basic services. (1.5 positions, support costs, support costs for CETA Special Projects)	\$25,464	\$25,464	Project is being taken over by community volunteers. These funds will allow for mailouts to members & updating of the resource directory. (support costs)	\$333
<b>WELFARE HOTLINE</b>			<b>HOUSING ADVOCACY</b>	\$946
To provide technical assistance related to welfare, food stamps, Social Security & SSI to at least 1,680 clients. To advocate for positive changes in the policies, regulation & legislation related to AFS programs. To increase the awareness and understanding of at least 500 local persons about the welfare system. (2 positions, support costs)	\$27,701		To provide technical assistance to at least 50 low-income renters to increase their understanding of landlord/tenant issues, and their skills to respond to them; to facilitate the organization of at least two groups of 10 persons each into coalitions who will collectively tackle at least 2 commonly shared problems. (1 position, support costs)	\$946
<b>OPTION</b>			<b>Total Funds Requested</b>	\$257,527
Eliminate the community awareness objective (1.5 positions, support costs).	\$22,102	\$22,102	<b>Total Funds Available</b>	\$194,538
			<b>Deficit</b>	\$62,989

Chemical Ban...

continued from page 3

Who's Responsible for What?

Most farmers feel that the Department of Labor doesn't have any business in the "pesticide problem." Congress has mandated the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration to investigate, issue bans, warnings and registrations needed to regulate the industry, and as Extension agent Sheets asks, "We have accepted these agencies over the years, why not just listen to them?" And why not?

Because the DOL has jurisdiction over workers under 12, they must take all factors into consideration regarding their employment conditions including health and safety. And just because they believe the fields may be unsafe for those under 12, does not necessarily mean that they are safe for those over the age of 12. Ms. Hartley from the DOL agrees that saying there is danger only to those under the age of 12 "doesn't really make sense." And she believes that EPA and FDA testing has been insufficient, and should include people of all ages in their testing. And, she says, "You can't rely on past standards in testing; there is much evidence now that the amounts and dosages of these chemicals being used are higher than ever. And a great problem is that it may take 20 years or longer for the effects of the chemicals to show up."

Although the DOL found itself in an arena somewhat unfamiliar to them, nevertheless they are pursuing the chemical question with determination. Whether or not it's "their business" is a moot question. Their findings may only be the top of an environmental iceberg that may soon become everybody's business,

and could eventually force growers to change their methods before everyone is banned from their fields.

Trying to solve the pesticide/worker problem in other agricultural crops has often led to mechanization. At present about 95 per cent of the black raspberries, 65-70 per cent of the red raspberries and 50 per cent of the blackberries grown here are being machine harvested. The Rural Tribune reported last summer on recent advances in mechanization of the strawberry harvester, still being tested at the Agricultural Experiment Station in Aurora, Oregon. Within time it may be perfected, but it will require large investments, making it impractical for small acreages.

How the Department of Labor is going to enforce the ban this year is hard to determine. One Cornelius grower who was "inspected" during harvest by DOL investigators two years ago told us that the investigators came on his property unannounced and began questioning the young workers about their date of birth. That grower was found to have 11 under-age pickers and after a year long court battle, paid \$900 in fines. It could have been worse, he told us, for each infraction could have merited a \$1000 fine. Yet that grower said that even signed slips from the parents alleviating them from responsibility did not hold up in his favor. "Even if they give us phony birth certificates," he said, "we could end up paying fines." In effect, this makes all young pickers slightly "suspect," and their employment, if discovered, very unprofitable.

Perhaps the most important point being made by everyone involved is that for the berry farmers times are changing. Someone has to take a good hard look at their future—a future which is vitally linked to the future of the community as a whole. Support and guidance should be given to help them make the transition they are being forced to make. It is a role that has many players and each must take part.

Farmers have relied heavily on OSU's extension service in the past for their recommendations and knowledge of new techniques as they develop. All too often, the new techniques mean little more than new chemicals. There have been really no alternative to this "service" offered freely to the farmers. And now, in this crucial moment, the Extension Service could take a new role. Instead of pushing for the status quo, the Extension Service could be in the forefront of change and adaptation.

But reasonable time frames for change must be provided, and thus far most new regulations have landed on the farmers like bombshells, always bringing bad news and little else. Congress needs to extensively investigate the role of chemical manufacturers and their profit motive, and advocate for the health and safety of everyone in the industry by providing support for safe alternatives. The benefits from everyone's involvement will trickle down, as long as the health of the workers and the health of the industry are not played against each other. Instead of getting lost in short-term answers, the real approach to take is one that demands long-term solutions.

Asistencia para el Jardín

Con la primavera venidera, la asistencia para jardines y los programas de espigar de cosechas de WCCAO se encuentran plenamente en apogeo.

La asistencia de jardinería que está bajo el programa de comidas y nutrición, es abierto para personas de bajos recursos, quienes necesitan ayuda para labrar, plantar o cuidar el jardín. El personal de WCCAO les proporciona a las personas que necesitan ayuda y están dispuestos a compartir la cosecha del jardín, con gente que esté dispuesta a hacer el trabajo. La gente de bajos recursos también puede alquilar la máquina de labrar si está de acuerdo en labrar un pedazo de tierra a algunas familias que no puedan hacerlo.

Las solicitudes para el espiguelo de cosechas son aceptadas para la cosecha de 1979. El proyecto es abierto a familias de bajos recursos, ciudadanos ancianos, y gente que esté físicamente deshabilitada. El espigar es recoger cosechas (que se quedan en las labores después de la temporada normal) por personas quienes comparten las cosechas con personas deshabilitadas y ancianas. El proyecto ha tenido mucho éxito en el condado, ganando atención estatal y nacional. El año pasado 613 personas, (239 familias) participaron.

Las personas interesadas o que tengan preguntas acerca de espigar o del proyecto de asistencia para el jardín, deben llamar al 648-6646 y pregunten por Sandy o Teddy. No hay costo alguno por la participación en cualquiera de estos programas.

TIPS ON NEGOTIATING  
WITH UTILITY COMPANIES

1)—Contact the utility company as soon as you know you can't make a payment. They are usually more willing to negotiate with someone who contacts them early, instead of waiting until the last moment.  
2)—When you get a bill you can't pay, figure out how much you can pay. Then call the utility company and tell them you want to make arrangements with them for negotiating, and make them an offer. Don't ask them how much you have to pay to keep the service connected. Don't ask them what you can do. Tell them that you

would like to make a partial payment of a particular amount. It helps if you indicate that you do have some resources to make a partial payment.  
3)—If you have no money to make even a partial payment, investigate from Community Action, Welfare, or other social service agencies into any crisis program funds that might be available to you, or if they can help you to negotiate. If you can't find any agencies which can help you, call the utility company and ask them if they know where you can go for help.

Alternatives for Women

The Federation of Egalitarian Communities is extending an invitation to women of all ages to join them in "building alternatives to the nuclear family." Six rural communes across North America offer opportunities to learn and practice skills.

Income is earned through cottage industries including rope hammocks, tinnery, pottery, magazine production. They are a diverse group of people involved in a feminist-oriented and cooperative system of self reliance. Write to them at Federation of Egalitarian Communities, Twin Oaks, Louisa, Va. 23093.

ORO CASE REOPENED.....continued from p. 1

Lunz, federal liason between ORO and the DOL.

Lunz may have stated to others his opinion that ORO would not be refunded, said Skopil, but Lunz had no part in the review process for the grants. Skopil also said he found no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of CHDC or Ortiz. And ORO's contention that the DOL considered secret charges against them without giving them the opportunity to respond—based on the fact that Kranz requested an audit of ORO from the U.S. Inspector General — was denied. Skopil said that as acting director of the farmworkers programs, it was Kranz' responsibility to request such an audit.

Although Skopil set no deadline,

most expect a decision to be rendered by mid-May. The unsuccessful party this time around can petition for reconsideration. A new round of hearings could start, and the funds could be transferred back and forth, at least two more times.

Meanwhile, CHDC is continuing to set up its offices around the state. By the end of April all areas to be served will be providing training services.

For the farmworkers, this has been a period of confusion, and an interruption of their employment and training. Once the final decision on funding has been made, the real challenge will be to stabilize a program that can meet its goals for the year despite the lost time.

ORO RECONSIDERADA.....cont. desde la p. 1

interrumpidas. La revisión mandada de solicitudes y nueva decisión no garantice que ORO recibirá una concesión, y como declaró Skopil, "Cualquier descripción del programa de trabajadores del campo en este tiempo causaría opresión a la gente por la cual el programa fue creado," Skopil dijo que el creía que DOL puede revisar las aplicaciones con buena fe y de una manera puntual.

Otras acusaciones contra el CHDC, DOL y su personal fueron encontradas sin justificación. Skopil negó las otras demandas de ORO contra ellos, exonerando a CHDC, su director Jorge Ortiz, y Robert Lunz, la coordinación federal entre ORO y DOL. Skopil dijo que, "Lunz pudo haber dicho a otros su opinión que ORO no sería reembolsado," pero Lunz no tomó parte en el proceso de revisión para las concesiones. Skopil además dijo que él no encontró ninguna evidencia de algún agravio por parte de CHDC u Ortiz, y que la afirmación de ORO tocante a que el DOL consideró cargos secretos

en su contra sin darles oportunidad a responder—basado en el hecho de que Kranz pidió una audiencia de ORO por el Inspector General de los E. U.—fue negado. Skopil dijo que actuando como director de la Oficina de Programas del Trabajador del Campo, es la responsabilidad de Kranz pedir tal audiencia.

Una decisión final del departamento de Labor se espera pronto. Cualquier partido que no tiene éxito esta vez, puede pedir una reconsideración. Una nueva ronda de audiencias puede empezar, y los fondos pueden ser trasladados del uno al otro por lo menos dos veces más.

Mientras tanto, CHDC continúa en establecer oficinas por todo el estado. Al fin del mes toda área que sea servida estará reclutando clientes y empezará el entrenamiento. Una vez que la decisión final sobre los fondos sea hecha, el reto real será estabilizar un programa que pueda llevar a cabo sus metas a pesar del tiempo perdido.

Cuts Prompt Food Stamp Rally

By Hope Friedland

Oregonians representing every county in the state gathered on the steps of the Capitol Building in Salem at noon Thursday, April 19 to protest food stamp cutbacks enacted this month. Senior citizens, toddlers, handicapped and wheelchair-bound persons representing many cultures rallied for more than an hour.

The rally was sponsored by Community Action's Food and Nutrition Programs, senior citizens' groups, welfare advocates, and concerned individuals, recipients and non-recipients alike.

When the U.S. Congress passed the Food Stamp Act of 1977 it was with the support of 320 Representatives and Senators, including all of Oregon's elected officials. Only 91 votes were cast opposing this legislation, which is now bringing about massive changes detrimental to the nation's poor and ill-fed people.

As passed, the act was to go into effect March 1, 1979. In Oregon, the changes were not implemented until this month, after the Adult and Family Services staff received additional training intended to help create a smooth transition.

Prior to April, many questions went unanswered and much anxiety was felt concerning the possible effects the new legislation would have. In mid-March the food stamp program sent a form notice to all recipients stating that their benefits might be reduced, terminated or increased. The evasiveness of the notice kept recipients relatively confident. The program also scheduled free public training sessions regarding the new changes, but too little and ineffective outreach caused the sessions to be poorly attended.

Now food stamp recipients, advocate groups, and administrators and workers in the program itself have the real answers. And unlike the speculated loss of approximately \$10 per month per food stamp household as predicted by food stamp administrators, recipients are having allotments slashed by 25 to 50 per cent! And many food stamp recipients do not understand why.

The major reason for the severe lowering of benefits is the severe reduction in allowable child care, medical and shelter deductions that can be calculated and subtracted when determining a household's food stamp income. The amount of food stamps a person can get is determined by the "income" a person supposedly has after the food stamp office lets them take certain deductions which they call "allowable expenses"—i.e., so much deducted for shelter, medical, child care, etc. Most other real expenses people have —

food, clothes, laundry, etc.— are not deductible. Even though the money has been spent, Food Stamps acts as if it is still there, a part of your expendable income. And the amounts that are "deductible" are catastrophically low.

For example, if a senior citizen or disabled person pays \$100 per month medical expenses, under the old regulations they could deduct the entire amount when calculating their benefits. But now, the new regulations allow only a deduction of up to \$65 per month, even if the medical expenses are \$500 or more.

A single mother paying \$150 per month child care and \$250 per month rent would only be able to deduct a maximum of \$80 for combined shelter and child care costs, whereas under the old regulations the full amount of child care was deducted and a separate deduction was allowed for shelter.

In effect, this means that poor people with the highest expenses (such as the elderly with high medical expenses) who have the least cash to spend, are really hurt the most—because food stamps calculates their "income" as if they had more money than they really do. For those hardest hurt, the result now is no money, and no food stamps.

Presently, food stamp recipients receive approximately 30 cents per meal per day, which according to the government's Thrifty Food Plan is supposed to provide an adequate diet.

The only hope of restoring some of the benefits lost through the 1977 Food Stamp Act is through public pressure put on Senators and Representatives to sponsor legislation to liberalize deductions that food stamp households can take. In New York state Congressman P. Reyser has already begun working on an amendment which will liberalize medical and shelter deductions for senior citizens and the disabled.

Governor Atiyeh, Oregon Senator Fred Heard, and Representative Jim Crest addressed the group in Salem, explaining Reyser's proposed amendments. Heard urged all Oregonians to flood their congressional delegates and President Carter with letters supporting the amendments. Governor Atiyeh pledged his office's support in finding ways at the state level of coping with the cutbacks.

People concerned with the effects of these new policies should write to Oregon Senators Mark Hatfield and Robert Packwood, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and Representatives Duncan, Ullman, Weaver and AuCoin at the House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515.

# Organizing Helps Tenants Negotiate

By Scott Schlegel

For low income renters, organization as tenants—with power in numbers—is the best way to afford fair treatment from landlords or apartment managers. And as always, knowledge is power.

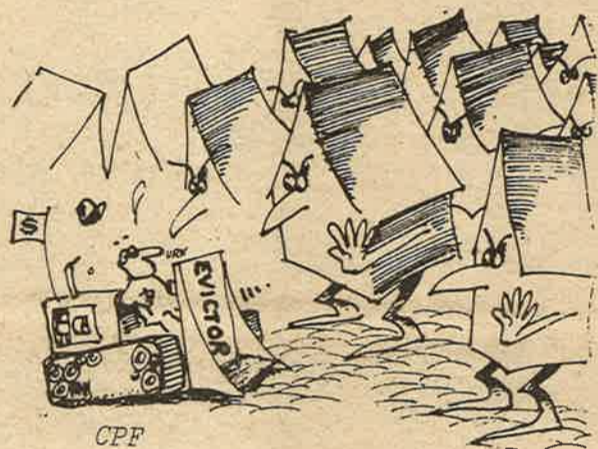
By organizing, tenants demonstrate to their landlord concern for themselves and belief in "the power of the people", which most Americans long-ago dismissed as nothing more than a liberal ideal. That ideal is a reality and has been proven in cities across the U.S. in what has been coined "The National Housing Movement".

It should come as no surprise to most readers that one of the primary factors contributing to displacement (a term for people in areas where older, formerly low-income housing is being restored,

raising property values and driving out low-income people) and unaffordable rent for low-income tenants is inflation.

An editorial in this month's *Shelterforce* magazine, a publication concerned with a National Housing Movement, explains how the federal government has left the job of better housing for the nation's poor to lobbyists, public interest groups, labor organizations, and community action groups. The new federal budget for fiscal year 1980 gives high priority to military than to social program spending, and the Federal Reserve Board has recently taken actions which will limit the availability of mortgage loans and increase the cost of loans available.

★★★★



CPF

## VISTA Volunteer comes to County as Tenants' Advocate

"Tenants' Advocate" is the title of Scott Schlegel, a VISTA Volunteer from Reading, PA., who is working with the Washington County Community Action Organization.

The goal of his one year project is to establish an organization of tenants in communities throughout the county, by encouraging tenants to organize.

"I've been meeting with the Portland Tenants' Union, and they serve tenants in the Portland area very well. I believe a similar organization in this county would go far toward helping tenants, particularly the low-income, obtain better treatment from landlords and apartment managers," Schlegel said.

Although according to state law he cannot give legal advice, Schlegel is familiar with the Oregon State Landlord/Tenant laws and will assist tenants interested in organizing around various issues.

So far, Schlegel said, he has dealt with enough tenants to know that there are some very serious situations in Washington

County, in which landlords are taking advantage of tenants. He points out that not all situations are ones involving low-income renters.

"Many landlords aren't familiar at all with the Oregon state laws," said Schlegel, "and there are also landlords who are familiar with them and yet they are being taken advantage of by tenants. I will advocate for landlords in certain situations, but those are usually rare."

Although Scott is new to the Hillsboro area, he has had previous community organizing experience as a college student-tenant, and as editor of his college newspaper at Alfred University in up-state New York. Since his arrival he has set up an office where people with tenant/landlord problems may drop in for information and assistance. He also has a phone number, listed under Washington County Community Action, as Tenants' Advocate. The number is 648-7723 and the office is located upstairs at 276 E. Main Street, Hillsboro.

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### Why Organize?

No one can predict how effective lobbying will be. The most sure-fire way to get fair treatment from landlords or apartment managers is to organize as tenants. The Portland Tenants' Union has been helping tenants do this for several years, with a great deal of success.

There are various organizational tactics tenants have used to get better treatment from landlords. In fact, there are so many effective tactics that there isn't enough space to list them all here. Among them are such acts as: groups of tenants under the same landlord withholding rent together, so that landlords will listen to their demands; picketing the landlord's house, or holding demonstrations represented by local media officials. Health, building and fire inspectors can also be helpful in determining the safety of your dwelling—and if it is unsafe, the landlord is required by law to make it safe.

Small victories for the tenant are great and help restore the tenant's faith in his/herself and in the judicial process. But small victories like getting a leaking faucet fixed, your roof patched, or a room painted, may only temporarily patch your relationship with your landlord. The best insurance for long term dependable relationships with landlords is organization among tenants. One tenant may be labeled a trouble maker and dealt with as such, instilling fear in other tenants. There are many ways landlords may manipulate tenants. That is where a tenants' advocate can help, as someone who is aware of landlords' sometimes devious behavior.

The Washington County Tenants' Advocate has information on various legal and non-violent tactics tenants may use once they organize, but organization is the key. Without it, landlords almost always have the upper hand.

Tenants who do not live in apartment complexes or in situations where organization would be sensible or possible must rely on the law and upon small claims court. Small claims court is a very easy and inexpensive (\$25, or free if your income qualifies) way of settling claims of less than \$500. The Tenants' Advocate also has information on how to use small claims court. This is the most common means through which low and middle-income tenants deal with landlord problems. While most judges' verdicts are usually fair, in many cases the way Oregon State Laws are written is said to favor the landlord. This may be true but all laws are subject to interpretation by judges, which helps to bridge the gap.

Some tenants, particularly senior citizens, are physically unable to plead their case in small claims court. Others lack the ambition or expertise to represent themselves. In this case the tenant must either muster the energy to make it to court (no one is going to stand up for your rights for you), or in the case of seniors, get someone else to go to court for you. Many times the state will provide a lawyer for you if your income qualifies, and you won't have to appear in court in person.

### How to Organize

If you and/or other tenants in your community or apartment complex want to organize, a good first step is to contact the Tenants' Advocate. He can help you determine the best issues to organize around and how to organize around them, what tactics to use, and so on.

Before you contact the Tenants' Advocate, try to speak to other people in your apartment complex or community about organizing. Your chances of establishing a successful tenants' organization are far better if you and your group are united around common issues, and have each other's mutual support. If you do not, your landlord or apartment manager will simply divide and conquer you.

If you live in a duplex or another dwelling where it doesn't appear as though an organization of two tenants will carry much weight with a landlord, think twice, and contact the Tenants' Advocate. Sometimes two tenants in a duplex withholding rent will be enough to convince a landlord that a tenants' rights should be respected.

Tenants who occupy single apartments which are not grouped together in one massive unit, and who may be in the position of having to deal with large management corporations may obtain a list of other properties owned by that corporation to find out where other tenants live who may be faced with similar problems. An organization may be formed this way.



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