

State Welfare Cost Reported \$22 Per Capita

SALEM (UPI)—It's a long way from the poor farm of past decades to the socially conscious welfare programs of today—both in terms of service and money.

The one-year \$44 million budget approved last week by the State Welfare Commission represents a yearly expenditure of more than \$22 for every man, woman and child in Oregon.

The \$44 million includes \$21 million in federal funds, \$16.1 million in state money, and county expenditures of \$6.9 million.

Biggest single item is \$14 million for the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program. An additional \$1 million is budgeted for ADC medical payments.

The ADC program is the most famous, and most controversial of the welfare services.

The ADC caseload has exploded 183 per cent in the past 10 years, and more than 31,000 people are expected to receive it this year. It is available to any child under the age of 16—or 18, if in regular attendance at school—who has been deprived of parental support "by reason of the death, continued absence, incapacity or unemployment of a parent."

Critics claim ADC encourages illegitimacy.

Supporters admit there are some abuses, but argue that by keeping families together the program helps people who want to help themselves, and eliminates the need for other types of aid.

Other major programs for 1963-1964 include \$8.9 million for old age assistance, \$6.3 million for old age medical care, \$3.8 million for aid to dependents, \$3.5 million for general assistance, \$1.8 million for foster care, \$1.5 million for medical aid to dependents, and \$1.5 million for medical aid to the aged.

In the commission's summary of special services for children during March, a net gain of 110 cases was noted.

On March 1, 6,438 children were under care. On the last day of the month, 6,548 were receiving aid.

Of this number, 3,148—48 per cent—were living with their parents or other relatives. Another five per cent were living in institutions or elsewhere.

Children reported living in foster or adoptive homes totaled 8,087.

In an effort to get people off the ADC rolls—permanently—the commission has authorized payment of tuition for vocational training of adults.

The idea is to help recipients learn skills so they can get jobs and support their families.

Imagine a mother of several small children who has been deserted by her husband. She has no job skills, and needs all the ADC money to feed, house and clothe her family.

She may want to enroll in a training school to learn typing or shorthand, or some other skill.

But if she is unable to divert a portion of her ADC allotment for education she is trapped on the relief rolls.

It is to solve this dilemma that the new vocational training aid program was proposed. Under it expenses for training will be allowed "in selected cases."

Preference will be given to cases where the recipient has prospect of full-time employment after no more than one year of training.

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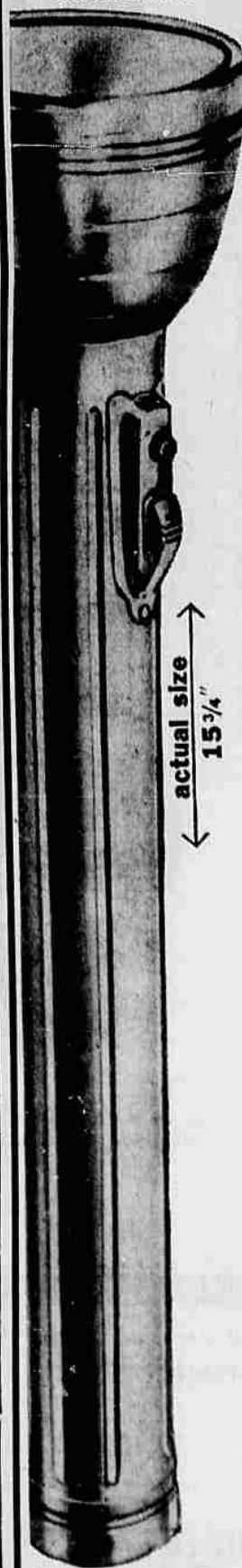
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