

Migrant Labor Project opposes tenant law

A spokesperson for the ASUO-funded Migrant Labor Project said Wednesday the project cannot support SB 159 (the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act) until there is a clarification or an amendment that clarifies the status of migrant workers.

The Senate Local Government and Urban Affairs Committee is holding a hearing at 8 a.m. today for testimony from opponents of the bill.

Section 8 of the Landlord Tenant Act excludes landlords who provide housing to migrant agricultural workers from compliance with the tenant protection provisions of the bill.

Specifically excluded from the act are:

— Occupancy by an employee of a landlord whose right to occupancy is conditional upon employment in and about the premises.

— Occupancy under a rental agreement covering premises used by the occupant primarily for agricultural purposes.

Teresa Moreno, spokesperson for the project, stated that the civil rights of migrant agricultural workers are being violated. Because this group is made up of members of certain minorities there is definitely discrimination, she said.

Moreno said she is coordinating a group to

lobby against this bill. Her efforts have been concentrated in the campus community.

Moreno stated that she had talked to Steven Bennet, a Eugene attorney, to find out what could be done. She said Bennet told her she should not induce the Farm Bureau to lobby on the bill because this group is one of the most powerful lobbyists in the state legislature. By making the Landlord tenant act an issue about the migrant and agricultural workers this might very well happen.

Moreno said Bennet also told her that the migrant agricultural worker poses a special case. Farmers who employ migrant agricultural workers usually do not charge rent of the workers while employed on the farms. Usually though the wages are lower because the money for the houses has to come from somewhere. It usually comes out of the workers' wages.

"It is a fair bill, but the people that need it most are not benefiting," said Moreno. The exclusion of the migrant agricultural worker leaves them without any effective controls over their housing.

Moreno said that there are many bills which will affect the migrant agricultural workers. One of the main projects for the Migrant Labor Project will be lobbying for or against bills affecting the migrant agricultural workers.



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Hayward stands face renovation

PORTLAND (SPECIAL) — Rehabilitation of the grandstands at Hayward Field may soon be underway.

A staff recommendation calling for the restoration of the stands before the 1974 track season was approved Wednesday by the building committee of the State Board of Higher Education.

The state board indicated last July that repair of the stands would be required to meet state and local safety and sanitation requirements.

The plan for restoration of the grandstands calls for \$600,000 to be taken exclusively from gifts solicited through the University Development Fund to cover replacement of the grandstands; no state funds would be involved.

Jack Hunderup, vice chancellor for facilities planning, told the committee reconstruction would provide seating for approximately 22,000 to 30,000 spectators. He said special provisions would be made to allow use of the facility by the handicapped.

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