

Panel says companies paid to leave country

By MICHAEL KESTEN
Of the Emerald

As unemployment continues to plague the economy, American companies are being paid by the government to leave the country, a University audience was told Wednesday at a "Jobs and the Economy" panel discussion.

The panel was sponsored by the Lane County Labor Council. Congressman Jim Weaver, union official Denny Scott and Derek Shearer, economic adviser for

Tom Hayden's senatorial campaign spoke on labor issues and the economy.

Scott discussed the role that U.S.-based multinational corporations play in this country's job losses.

"From 1966 to 1973 the United States lost 1.1 million net jobs aboard," he said. "This figure is the most reliable one we have to date." He said that a breakdown of these figures showed a 62,000 job loss in the paper industry alone.

"The U.S. corporations could have successfully exported their products instead of moving manufacturing facilities abroad and creating jobs there," said Scott.

Explaining the incentives for U.S. corporations to invest abroad, Scott said "our tax laws encourage corporate expansion abroad. And our government underwrites any risks by foreign investment."

Weaver began his presentation by quoting Sen. Frank Church, saying, "The U.S. is paying companies to leave the country."

Weaver said a study he saw just before leaving Washington stated that 99 per cent of actual investment money, excluding the housing sector, in this country is the retained earnings of corporations.

"Consider the profound implications of this," said Weaver. "This means that corporation managers are not only telling us what to buy, through television advertisements and the like, but they're determining and making all investment decisions in the board rooms."

Weaver said industry must stop "making junk we don't need and get back to the fundamentals" and that "we need to clean-up corporations and break them up. We need to get back to free-enterprise and let the people make the choices instead of a few board members."

Shearer, the final speaker on the panel, is a former consultant to California Gov. Jerry Brown's Director of Employment Development.

Shearer discussed the possibility of states having their own banks so they would have more control of the tax money that is now invested in private banks. He also called for full disclosure of loan practices of private banks.

"We don't know if they (the private banks) take more money out of the state than they put into it. We have no way of knowing if they put money into nuclear energy which is capital intensive or solar energy which is job intensive," Shearer said.

Shearer mentioned the importance of the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, (HR 50), now in Congress. He said the bill would guarantee full employment and stands a good chance of becoming law if a Democratic president is elected in November.

Poor writing topic of conference

By LORA CUYKENDALL
Of the Emerald

Concern over declining SAT scores and the lack of writing ability among high school and college students have led an increasing number of parents and educators to ask the question, "Why can't Johnny write?"

Answering that question—and developing a coordinated program to improve the teaching of writing—will be the goal of a state-wide meeting on composition being held at the University today and Saturday.

The conference is sponsored by the ad hoc Committee on Competencies in English Com-

position, a group including representatives from the state's universities, community colleges and high schools. Its three sessions are open to anyone interested in teaching composition or learning about new developments in this field, according to Nathaniel Teich, director of composition at the University.

This morning's session will feature a discussion of the University of California / Bay Area Writing Project, a program of cooperative instruction involving the area's colleges and high schools. James Gray, director of the project, and co-directors Cap Lavin and Kim Davis will describe the organization of the project and outline the teaching practices it has developed. The session will run from 10 a.m. to noon in the EMU, room to be posted.

Specific teaching strategies and practices that have been useful in teaching composition will be detailed at an afternoon session beginning at 1:30 p.m. Teich says this session would be of particular interest to those planning a career in teaching composition.

A Saturday session, running from 10 a.m. to noon, will discuss broad plans for state-wide communication, planning and coordinated action.

Sponsors of the conference include the State Board of Higher Education, Oregon Community College Coordinating Committee, Oregon Council of Teachers of English, Oregon Language Arts Association, State Department of Education and the English departments of Oregon State University and the University of Oregon.

Suit urges government to ban plastic bottles

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Natural Resources Defense Council, charging that plastic beer and pop bottles may be unsafe, brought suit Wednesday in an effort to get the government to reverse its approval of the containers.

The one-paragraph complaint filed in the United States Court of Appeals here alleged that the

Food and Drug Administration illegally approved plastic bottles before it had obtained adequate safety data and before it had drafted an environmental impact statement.

The council said in a report that plastic bottles waste energy, increase litter, leach chemicals of unknown safety and produce dangerous hydrogen cyanide gas when improperly burned.

Jerome Heckman, general counsel for the Society of the Plastics Industry, said the council had failed to produce any data proving that the plastic bottles would create a health hazard.

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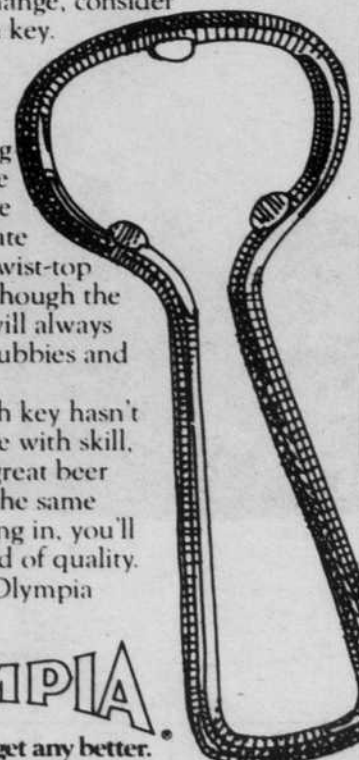
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