

communiqué'

Tuition tax credit bill proves Reagan hasn't left 'Majority'

By Thomas A. Rhodes
Of The Print

Come on Ron, I was only joking! When I wrote in the second issue of the year that Reagan believed tax incentives could solve the nation's problems, and that he should use tax incentives as opposed to financial aid for students, I was only joking. You know, jesting, joshing, being satirical?

Unfortunately, the joke Reagan has played on public education is the biggest joke of them all. Its punch-line is the "tuition tax credit" bill, a bill that would, if passed, give tax credits to parents who send their kids to private schools and colleges.

On the exterior, this may seem like a good bill, designed to help people get the best education possible. Unfortunately, this bill (the first part of The Family Protection Act, a "Moral Majority"-backed bill) will only aid the rich in getting richer, while the poor and middle-class get poorer. The bill, introduced by Oregon's own Senator Bob Packwood, is also unconstitutional, and will be destined for many court bat-

ties.

The main problem with the bill is that it will help parents send their kids off to private schools. This isn't necessarily bad, except when you realize that nearly 85 percent of the private schools and colleges around the country are subsidized by religious organizations. This will give a hand to the private schools, where none should be given.

Public schools are currently required to serve everyone while a private school serves no one's needs but its own. They do not have to enroll handicapped students, conservatives, liberals, hard-to-educate people, or anyone they wish not to enroll. If they so desire, private schools could legally enroll only white Protestant males who believe in the destruction of Israel, or anything else they desire. Their defense? "We're not subsidized by the government, so we only have to meet fire and health codes."

So, while programs such as CETA and Legal Services Corporation get cut on a daily basis, the U.S. government is

preparing to bestow capital in the form of tax credits to those who desire a private education, where an equal education for all is not guaranteed.

No one is sure how many students will switch from public to private schools, but some opponents of the bill project an incredible 5 percent will abandon public schools for private schools (which can give a better education, no question about it). Unfortunately, enrollment at public schools is declining and the National Education Association feels teachers cannot support a bill that might shrink the student population even more. With federal funding for public schools continually decreasing, federal support for private schools (which is against its own principles), public schools, as we know them, could flounder. This will put teachers out of work.

Proponents of the bill predict almost no switchovers, on the grounds that the credits aren't large enough to encourage the actual change. Then why is this bill going through Congress? If the credits aren't large enough

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for the middle-class and poor to change their educational standards, then the only people it will serve are those who already have the assets to attend private colleges. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

It seems that the "Moral Majority" wants government to stay out of the school system—yet control the minds of its pupils—by protecting the family from governmental by restricting the rights of anyone who doesn't agree. I was hoping that Reagan had realized with the "Majority" was up to and had split ties with them. I thought that he did. I was wrong. He hasn't abandoned them, he just doesn't associate with them on a personal level.

The tuition tax credit coupled with the soon-to-be

decapitated Legal Services Corporation (LSC) convinces me that Reagan supports the "Majority's" programs and views whole-heartedly. The "Family Protection Act" also suggests that the LSC be restricted.

I know, he's our president, but I voted in the election, so I'm going to bitch. These two bills are perhaps the worst things that the man has endorsed in his first three months as the top dog in the country.

The worst thing about this is that the tuition tax credit bill was proposed, in part, by Bob Packwood. I am hoping that this does not signal Packwood's joining of the Fundamentalist political organization. I thought that he was above that sort of emotion-based, single-issue organization.

ASG wastes money on speaker

By R.W. Greene
Of The Print

Kerry L. Johnson, Ph.D., was introduced before one of his presentations on campus last Wednesday as a consultant to, among other corporations, Honeywell, IBM and the Ford Motor Company. One hopes that when he speaks to these august bodies he addresses them with less condescension than he did CCC students.

As a speaker, Johnson definitely left something to be desired. He continually illustrated his talk on stress with anecdotes which came close to irrelevant. One particularly stressful day, Johnson recalled, he went into a restaurant and ordered "eggs over easy and some kind words." The waitress brought his eggs and Johnson asked again about the kind words. "Don't eat them eggs," said the waitress and walked away. It is a very old

joke, and has little to do with stress reduction.

If the issue was merely the mediocrity of a speaker at the College, it wouldn't be so bad. But Johnson laced his talk with half-truths and simplistic explanations so blatant as to make one wonder just where he got that Ph.D. Sugar, for instance, does not "cause" diabetes, as Johnson would have you believe. To label a person an insomniac because it takes him more than a half-hour to fall asleep is not only an extreme generalization, but medically incorrect. To categorize the entire population into "Type A" and "Type B" is probably beyond the ken of even the most dedicated sociologist.

It was hard, however, to disagree with Johnson's solutions to the problem of excess stress.

Sources in the ASG said that

Johnson was paid about \$300 to cover traveling expenses from California. However commendable ASG's motives may be in bringing such a speaker to the College, there was nothing Johnson said that couldn't be learned by spending a half-hour in the library. Of course, in the library you would have missed his relaxation exercises—which a number of people in attendance said they found useful—his humor, and the opportunity to buy his cassette tape series for \$45.

feedback

Free ice cream wins skeptic

To The Editor:

After reading the articles in "The Print" on the candidates running for ASG positions, I had a vague idea of their intentions and involvement. Being a Clackamas Community College student, I felt I should use my right and opportunity to vote.

So, I entered the Community Center, having an idea of whom might do a better job.

My feelings of skepticism were overcome when someone informed me of "free" ice cream after voting. I chuckled, what a gimmick, a good idea! Maybe they could use it on the budget levy. Also, a nice way to say

thank you for taking the time to vote.

Thank you, ASG!

Margaret Bierma
CCC Student

Denny Smith has got to go

To The Editor:

For the last three years I have majored in Health Care Administration at Oregon State University and have become painfully aware of the health problems of our senior citizens.

In the April 16th "Oregon Journal," I saw two articles side by side that made me very upset. The first was "Smith Pushes Reaganomics," and described newly elected Congressman Denny Smith as supporting the drastic spending cuts proposed by Reagan.

The second article read,

"Wyden: Cuts Unfair to Aged," and described newly elected Congressman Ron Wyden, an expert in problems of our seniors, as explaining how Reagan's cuts could force "thousands of Oregon's senior citizens...from their homes and into nursing homes."

What are people like Ronald Reagan and Denny Smith trying to do to our country? I want to see the federal budget balanced as much as anyone—but these cuts are not being used to balance the budget.

Denny Smith also said in the article that Reagan is "not simply worried about getting re-elected." Well, I hope Smith isn't worried about being re-elected because if he thinks Oregon voters will support this cruelty, he is sadly mistaken.

Sincerely,
Douglas Nielson

Clackamas Community College

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