

Inquiring Photographer

What Would You Say to Legislators Who Want to Close Columbia Park Hospital?

(Asked at Columbia Park Hospital and Training Center, The Dalles)

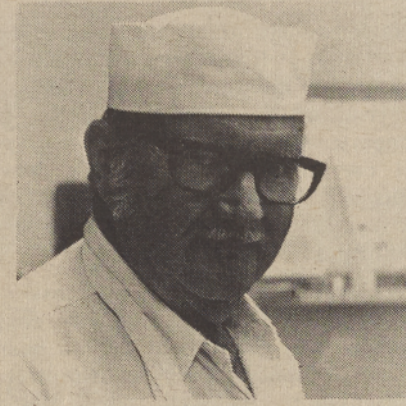


ETHELYN McCoy
Therapy Aide
Perceptual Motor Activities

I would tell them of my concern over the lack of community placement facilities for our residents. The facilities that do exist do not have any structured recreational or training programs which means the kids will end up with nothing to do but sit and vegetate. Most of the private facilities house elderly people who neither understand nor care to associate with mentally retarded persons.

RAY CAREY
Baker
Dietary Department

I would tell them it would be a shame to close the hospital. The residents have a good home here, they enjoy their lives, and they are treated with love and affection. I also would tell them that the residents don't want to leave here to go to community placements or to Fairview in Salem. Our kids are treated with patience and dignity and you can't put a dollar amount on that.



HAROLD CHILDERS
Carpenter
Maintenance Department

I would tell them what Columbia Park offers the mentally retarded. It's a home. Residents are treated as they would be in a home rather than in an institution. They are allowed to have pets and bicycles. And they respond to that kind of treatment. It gives them a sense of dignity and self-reliance. It works. I know it works. I've seen kids blossom under that kind of care.

DOROTHY GREEN
Registered Nurse
Director of Activities

I would tell them that this hospital should not be closed until there are adequate alternative placement facilities. Our residents are happier living with their peers and much better off here as opposed to private nursing or foster homes. I'm afraid most persons—including our legislators—think of the mentally retarded in terms of numbers rather than as human beings.



ARLENE WARREN
Psychiatric Aide
Heath Building

I would urge them to keep Columbia Park open because I don't believe there are adequate facilities in the community to place our residents if the hospital is closed. I've seen some of the private placement facilities and in my opinion they are not suitable for mentally retarded persons. They get good care here. I don't want to see them go to a place where they will just sit and vegetate.

ALVIN FRY
Psychiatric Aide
Pritchett Cottage

I would ask them this question: why? I think Columbia Park has done more for mentally retarded persons than any other state institution. Through training programs we have taught them self-help skills and given them a sense of dignity and worth. I'd ask legislators why they want to put an end to that effort. Is it a question of money? There must be other areas in which savings can be made.



LIFE WITH OTHERS

Gov. Reagan Opposes Public Employee Bargaining

Gov. Ronald Reagan's office has distributed an "in-house position paper" to top state government officials detailing the administration's reasons for opposing collective bargaining for all public employees, according to the California State Employees Association (CSEA).

The two-page statement entitled "Administration Position on Collective Bargaining" says its policy is to:

"1. Oppose any legislation calling for collective bargaining for public employees."

"2. Oppose any legislation giving public employees in state or local government the right to strike or the public employer the right to lock out."

"3. Oppose any legislation which denies the elected officials of state or local government final decision authority by mandating arbitration, fact-finding or through other means."

"4. Oppose any legislation which leads ultimately to 1, 2 or 3 above."

CSEA said the paper was distributed after Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti introduced legislation to provide collective bargaining for all public employees, including state workers. Reagan has repeatedly declared his opposition to such a system.

The position paper says collective bargaining cannot be accepted because

"in the public sector an official is elected and charged by the citizens with certain responsibilities."

"These responsibilities are generally mandated by law and cannot be delegated to others, nor can public service be discontinued by the public employer."

"What they're talking about here," says a collective bargaining specialist on the CSEA staff, "is the strained concept that a public official's authority is allegedly delegated to others just because an issue is negotiated and the decision isn't made unilaterally by that official."

"That lame bureaucratic excuse for denying government employees the same rights as all other Americans just doesn't hold water," he said.

The paper also says "a government employee accepts, as a condition of employment, the civil service of attaining (and maintaining) equity in favor of which he foregoes the right to strike, a formal bargaining process, binding arbitration, etc."

CSEA's bargaining specialist refuted that statement. "Proof that public employees do not accept these things can be found in the rapid growth of employee organizations and collective bargaining in the public sector."

"Every single time California public

employees have been given the ballot option," he said, "they have voted for collective bargaining representation."

OHIO

The firing of an Ohio state employee for political activity will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court by the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA).

Madonna Potter was fired from her job in the auditor's office for what the state has alleged to be illegal political activity during the 1970 campaign to elect a governor of Ohio.

She typed and stuffed envelopes for candidate Roger Cloud's unsuccessful campaign for governor. The fact that she worked as such activity "in her own home, on her own time, with her own typewriter" has been brought out in lower court hearings.

The case has been heard by the State Personnel Board of Review, the Champaign County Common Pleas Court and the Champaign County Court of Appeals. The Ohio Supreme Court refused in April to hear the case.

"This is just another clear-cut case where public employees are being treated as second-class citizens, and the pattern will continue until it is stopped in the courts," OCSEA Executive Secretary James Marshall said.

NEVADA

The State of Nevada Employees Association (SNEA) has called the 1973 session of that state's legislature "one of the best in history for state employees."

Topping the list of SNEA victories at the legislature are two bills dealing with pay.

The first provides state employees with a six per cent pay raise retroactive to January 1, 1973, and an additional increase of up to five per cent next January 1. Actual amount of that raise will be based upon the rise in the consumer price index.

The other pay bill adopted by the legislature establishes a longevity pay plan. Under the plan, employees with ten years of service whose performance reports are satisfactory or better will get semiannual bonuses of \$125. Additional semiannual bonuses of \$25 will be given for each year of service up to 15 years.

Passage of the longevity pay plan drew this comment from a member of SNEA's Board of Directors: "For many years we have attempted to get a longevity program through the legislature. In an attempt to make it more palatable to them we changed the name to career incentive pay. Now that they have passed it they changed the name back to longevity pay. The Lord works in mysterious ways."