

In Brief

NLRB Rules Against Threats

An employer's statement that the names of employees who sign union authorization cards are not confidential, constitutes an unlawful threat to potential union employees, according to the National Labor Relations Board.

"It is difficult to imagine what other purposes (than reprisal) an employer might have in informing its employees that it can discover the names of card signers," the board said.

The threat was part of a series of anti-union speeches given to employees of an Orlando, Fla., technology plant after the International Union of Electrical Workers began an organizing campaign.

One speech included the statement that, "If the union gets enough cards, it will try to show them to the company to say that they have a majority of the employees signed up. If company management should look at them, we will well know who signed the cards and who did not."

The speech also stated that replacements would be hired if the workers went out on strike. The board said the remark constituted an impermissible threat to the right of employees to engage in protected organizing activity.

Budget Cuts May Double the Price of School Lunches

Despite Reagan administration claims that its proposed \$1.6-billion cut in the \$3.9-billion child nutrition budget will not effect children of "truly needy" families, mounting evidence shows that this will not be the case in actual practice.

In addition, many experts concede the price of school lunches will double under the proposed rules.

Because approximately six million middle-class students—those whose family of four earns more than \$15,630 a year—will be forced out of the program under Reagan's proposals, many schools will be unable to finance the programs or will be unwilling to continue the programs. Marshall Matz, past counsel to two congressional committees on nutrition, attributes this inability to problems schools would have administer-



Salem School District photo

ing the program to a minority of students while trying to comply with other federal standards for their lunch programs as a whole.

Under current law, the general subsidy for each lunch served in the 1981-82 school year (fiscal 1982) will be 39.5 cents per student per meal in cash and commodities. Under the administration's proposal, both cash and commodities assistance will be eliminated. As a result, Matz and others predict that the cost of school lunches will at least double.

The child nutrition program began in 1969 under the Nixon administration and, according to Matz, "has been an unsung bipartisan success story that has dramatically reduced malnutrition and increased human productivity."

Clerical Recruiting Aide Developed

A recruiting aide aimed at clerical work units has been put together by OPEU's Clerical Committee.

The 15 to 20 minute slide show depicts the tribulations of a clerical employe for a public agency and how she finds she needs the union to help her.

A carousel slide projector is the only piece of equipment needed. OPEU will send the slides and a carousel. A light wall is adequate for showing the slides if a screen is not handy.

For more information, or to borrow a projector in the Salem area, call Eleanor Meyers at 581-1505 or 1-800-452-2146.

"Get Behind the President"

Editor:

I read your article in The Oregon Public Employee titled "Combating Reagan's budget cuts."

This country has been living far beyond its means for a long time, and its about time we got a President with some balls. Someone has to run this country and get us back on our feet so we're not working until May of each year for the government. All these give-away programs have to stop.

Instead of writing those kinds of articles, you ought to find Mr. Donahue (AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer) a job.

Instead of bucking the President, we should try to understand what he is saying—that we have to start somewhere.

We ought to get behind him and get it started.

Edward Franzese
Ontario Police

Editor's note: Our article focusing on the President's planned budget cuts was written to make three points:

We agree that inflation must be reduced and that federal programs must be made more effective and efficient;

That pall mall cuts in many vital social programs is not the best way to achieve these goals; and

That should these drastic reductions in social programs take place, union membership will become increasingly desirable.

"Patient Abuse" Study Praised

Editor:

I read with interest of your survey of "patient abuse" at Eastern Oregon State Hospital. It would appear that your survey results pinpointed problems that generally are found in all state psychiatric facilities. It seems easy to blame the employes and the public usually accepts this without hearing the other side.

Ray Hourihan
Chief Safety Officer
Elmira Psychiatric Center
Elmira, NY

Cookbook Profits to Provide Gifts

A Christmas charity fund-raising drive by AFS employes, that ran into problems meeting costs for the 1980 Yule season, is well on its way of meeting its goal to provide food baskets during the 1981 holiday season.

Employes at the Astoria AFS office compiled a 135-page cookbook in the fall of 1980. But due to a number of delays, the book wasn't returned from the printer until November. Not until February were enough books sold to cover printing costs.

The book, which contains approximately 350 recipes, is a project of AFS employes' Volunteer Services. Copies can be obtained by mailing \$5 to P.O. Box 88, Astoria, Oregon 97103.

Some Positions Characterized as "Job Ghettos"



Most of the nation's 42-million working women are in low-status "job ghettos," says Joyce Miller, a member of the AFL-CIO executive board.

"Eighty percent of working women are in female job ghettos, marked by low pay, discrimination, little chance for advancement and poor benefits," she said at a February meeting of the Coalition of Labor Women.

Miller said that secretaries, clerks and such service workers as hotel maids, most of whom are non-union, generally face the poorest conditions. She said that improvements in job conditions and pay can be won through unions. "Of the total female work force, only about 6.5-million are union members . . . (eventhough) union members earn about 30 percent more than their non-union counterparts.

"The only answer for office workers is a union. And I think that within five years you will see a great influx into unions."

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