

In Brief

"Union Busting" Activity Felt in Public Sector

Increased incidence of "union busting" activity is not limited to the private sector. The Public Employees Department of the AFL-CIO reports the following instances of public revenues being used in anti-union activity:

In Washington State, the chief of the state patrol has issued guidelines directing supervisory personnel to lead opposition in union election campaigns.

School boards in Jacksonville and Pasco County, Florida, have spent an estimated \$1-million during the past four years to defeat unions. Both school boards have been found guilty of violating the state public employe bargaining law, but no penalties have been imposed.

In Maryland, a county executive has been found guilty of violating labor laws by renegeing on a contract, but is being allowed to continue to fight the case with tax dollars.

Auchter Orders Safety Booklets Destroyed

Cotton Dust:
Worker Health Alert



Charging that the cover photo was slanted against employers, Assistant Labor Secretary Thorne G. Auchter has ordered the recall and destruction of over 100,000 booklets on health hazards associated with cotton dust.

The photo, shown above, is of Louis Harrell, a cotton worker for 44 years who died of "brown lung," a disease which results from breathing cotton dust.

Auchter has also ordered OSHA to withhold distribution of agency films and slide shows about worker's health and safety rights, cotton dust and acrylonitrile (a vinyl compound) all on the grounds that they are pro-labor.

Where to Call with Insurance Questions

OPEU members with questions concerning insurance may call the BUBB board or the insurance company directly, according to Cindy Parrish, BUBB Insurance Administrator.

BUBB	800-452-7813 373-1174 (Salem)
Capitol Health Care	928-1682 (Albany) 364-4868 (Salem)
CNA	800-452-1633 223-4012 (Portland)
HMO, Inc.	800-452-7278 243-7585 (Portland) 370-8856 (Salem)
Kaiser Foundation	224-3400 (Portland) 371-3400 (Salem)
Klamath Medical Service Bureau	884-7756
Oregon Dental Service	228-6554 (Portland)
Physicians Assoc. of Clackamas County	659-4212
SelectCare	485-1850 (Eugene)

Members with questions concerning Great-West Life and Disability or Oregon Prepaid Legal Insurance should call 800-452-2146.

Childbearing on the Decline?

The steady decline in the rate of first births among American women during the past two decades, has been popularly explained away as women just delaying childbearing until later in life.

But a professor at Carnegie-Mellon University has predicted that there will be a dramatic increase in the proportion of American women who will never bear children.

David Bloom, of the university's school of urban and public affairs, projects that 30 percent of the white women and 20 percent of the minority women who were about 24 years old in 1978 will never have children. Through most of this century this figure has been about 10 percent in the United States, according to Bloom.

Bloom says his projections are

based on the number of first births between 1950 and 1978. That number dropped steadily from 966 per 1,000 women aged 24 in 1950 to 712 per 1,000 women in 1978.



THE OREGON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

A publication of the Oregon Public Employees Union

VOLUME XXIII, No. 4
MAY 1981

The Oregon Public Employee is published monthly (except August) by the Oregon Public Employees Union, a public employe labor organization. Editorial and advertising offices are located at 1127 25th Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97301. Second class postage paid at Salem.

Subscriptions: \$5 per year. USPS 411-480

POSTMASTER: If undelivered, please send form 3579 to OPEU, P.O. Box 12159, Salem, Oregon 97309.

OREGON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNION

P.O. Box 12159
Salem, Oregon 97309
Telephone: 581-1505

Portland members call: 223-1569
Elsewhere: 800-452-2146

SALEM BRANCH OFFICE 1870 Hawthorne, NE Eldred Realty Bldg., Suite 103 Salem, Oregon 97303 Telephone: 588-9230	PORTLAND BRANCH OFFICE 2300 SW Sixth Avenue Portland, Oregon 97201 Telephone: 224-1870
--	--

EUGENE BRANCH OFFICE
1748 W. 18th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97402
Telephone: 342-1055

MEDFORD BRANCH OFFICE 1133 S. Riverside, Suite 7 Medford, Oregon 97501 Medford members call: 779-4324 Elsewhere: 800-452-7965	PENDLETON BRANCH OFFICE 424 SW 6th P.O. Box 1659 Pendleton, Oregon 97801 Telephone: 276-4983
---	---

Proposed Rules Called Setback for Civil Rights

Adoption of guidelines in President Reagan's transition team report on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) "would probably set the civil rights movement back 25 or 30 years," said Daniel Leach, vice chairman of EEOC.

The report recommends reconsidering the entire "affirmative action" approach to fighting discrimination, which has forced employers to remedy past discrimination by agreeing to goals or quotas for hiring or promoting women or minorities.

At the center of the recommended changes is that, in the future, those pressing charges against employers would have to prove intent to discriminate.

The report portrays affirmative action as a form of racism, or reverse discrimination, because it looks at job applicants or workers as members of groups rather than as individuals.

Leach says the report is filled with inaccuracies and displays a high level of ignorance of case law developed over the years in the area of discrimination.

State Bargaining Statutes Upheld Over Local Laws

The state Employment Relations Board (ERB) can review local collective bargaining ordinances for compliance with state statutes in deciding unfair labor practice complaints, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled on March 30.

The decision upheld ERB's ruling that the city of La Grande committed an unfair labor practice by refusing to bargain with the International Association of Firefighters.

The City sought to negotiate under its ordinances rather than under different provisions in the State's public employe bargaining law. The City argued that ERB has no power to review local ordinances for compliance with the state law, but the court disagreed.

The Appeals Court said ERB can base its decisions on a review of local ordinances, because courts have ruled that local governments can't operate under bargaining provisions that conflict with state law.