

# Workers put views about work, Measure 8 on video

"Oregon is a beautiful place to work and live. Our schools, parks, and services are second to none. And, we're proud of our public employees. They are on the front lines to keep Oregon safe and protect our way of life.

"But an initiative to cut public employees' pay by 6% and retirement benefits by as much as 20% is on the Oregon ballot in November."

With those words on a 14-minute OPEU video, public employees from a variety of Oregon unions use their own words to describe the work they do every day.

"I'm floating on air for a week when someone comes in to the Salem Public Library and says 'The book you gave my son to read he has

✓ **This video is available to members who want to bring together a group of non-public employees (family members, friends, and neighbors) to deliver a personal message explaining why Measure 8 is bad for all Oregonians. Contact your Organizer for video and House Party materials.**  
 ✓ **If every public employee convinces five other voters to oppose Measure 8, we will win.**

not put down; he read the book the whole weekend and now he wants more just like it," said Oregon AFSCME member and youth and children's librarian **Susan Dunn**.

The video also contains interviews with library patrons who say how important the library is to them.

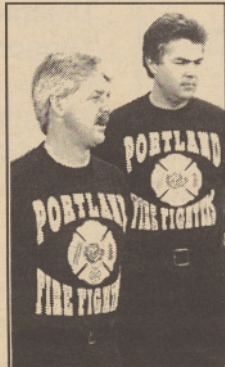
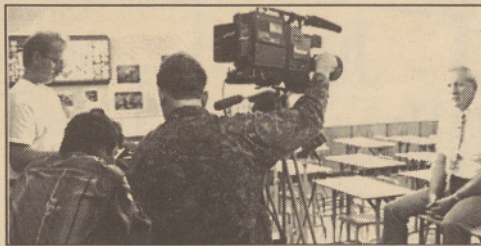
OPEU/SEIU Local 503 represents workers in the State Parks like naturalist **Michael Niss** who was leading a nature walk the day that the OPEU video team showed up.

"I am helping the environment by opening up people's eyes and ears and senses to what's here and helping them appreciate it," he said at Portland's Tryon Creek State Park.

For **Juanita Reyna**, biology teacher **John Bohrlander** of Salem's McNary High School, was the inspiration to help her become the first person in her family to graduate from high school, and to go on to college to train to become a nurse.

Bohrlander is concerned about the effect Measure 8 will have on people entering public employment.

"We don't see our better students going into education at this time,"



Clockwise from upper left, John Bohrlander waits for crew to set up; Steve Baska enters his patrol car; Michael Niss answers a nature question; Tom Seubert, left, and Tim Brusse describe the fires.

he says on the video. "It feels a little frustrating to know that the overall trend is to devalue the contribution of the public employee."

**VIDEO DESIGNED FOR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS** - The video is designed for Union members to show their friends and neighbors — who are not necessarily public workers — the kind of work that they and public workers like themselves do, and why Ballot Measure 8 is unfair and ought to be defeated in November.

OPEU member and The Dalles police officer **Steve Baska** speaks to that point when he says on the tape, "If this initiative passes, it would not be a strong signal we're appreciated by the community."

The Dalles businessman **Howard Davison** lets Baska know how he feels: "Years ago they didn't give public workers a raise like everyone else got. They told them, we'll give you this instead; now they want to take it away and that's not right."

**CITIZENS, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TALK FROM THE HEART** - Firefighters, like every other public worker, would be hurt if Ballot Measure 8 passes. Portland firefighters talk about their work.

"I took one of the residents over my back, literally threw her over my shoulder, she was unconscious, and took her down five flights of stairs, and gave her to a firefighter on the ground and went right back up," said Portland Firefighters Association member **Tim Brusse** about the

Marshall Union Manor Home fire where 22 residents were rescued earlier this year.

**Sutton Hillman-Gouche'r** said that when firefighters rescued her children from her burning home. "They were dead. They weren't breathing. They were blue. Their eyes were wide open and they were not alive. And, to see them come back alive, there isn't any way you can repay that. None."

When Multnomah County community health nurse and Oregon Nurses Association member **Kathy Prall** works with a new mother following a high-risk pregnancy she says, "If I can help her care for this infant, if I can give her the positive reinforcement that she needs to show her she

can be a good mother, the infant will have an opportunity to grow and develop and have a more positive life than would otherwise be the case."

Prall doesn't believe that the passage of Ballot Measure 8 will help her do her job.

## **NO GUARANTEE ABOUT MONEY "SAVED"**

"The initiative has no guarantees that the money that is saved, taken from the 6% from employees, is going to be spent helping my clients with their special needs," she said. "I think this measure is so confusing and so complicated that nobody really knows how it is going to affect the people."

**VOTERS ASKED TO VOTE "NO"** - Toward the end of the video, voters are asked not to pass Measure 8.

"It's public employees this time," says Dunn, explaining how Measure 8's proponents won't stop with attacks on public workers. "Next time it'll be somebody else. It might not be happening to you now, but it might someday."

Businessman **Davison** echoes that theme: "If the State of Oregon is going to do that, what are they going to do next. Who knows?"

The video closes with Portland Public Schools Superintendent **Jack Bierworth** saying, "I would be ashamed if the people approved it. It's a level of mean-spiritedness that I would be embarrassed about. There are other ways of doing things and this is not the right way."

## Interim Financial Report

### Temporary Dues Assessment to Defeat the Tiernan Initiative and all Attacks on Public Employee Pay and Retirement Benefits.

As of July 25, 1994

Income .....	\$151,004
Dues Assessment Received	
Expenses	
COPS .....	\$223,204
Citizens for Oregon Pension Security	
No on Measure 8 Campaign	
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	\$2,527
Gard-Strang Public Relations .....	\$8,500
Video Production .....	\$5,000
<b>Total Expenses Incurred .....</b>	<b>\$239,231</b>