

WELFARE "Open Wider, Please" New PCC Slogan

By WILLIAM DEIZ

The Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives - a Republican - recently announced the appointment of a task force to take a "hard-nosed look" at the welfare situation in the state. Robert Smith of Burns says there are currently 100-thousand welfare recipients in



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Oregon and he fears the number will continue to grow to the point that Oregon may become a "welfare state" by the end of the 70's.

In a speech to the General Association of Contractors meeting in Portland, Smith outlined various abuses of the welfare system by certain recipients, but he failed to point out that most studies show welfare in Oregon serves a real need for nearly ALL of the recipients; and not, as he would imply, is it a luxury.

Just what Smith means by a "welfare state" he didn't say, but his implication is that the numbers of recipients alone have a lot to do with his definition; and that the reason for the increasing numbers is a particular attitude - or lack of character - on the part of those who receive this aid.

The Speaker feels if the welfare philosophy were changed to that of the "hand-up" rather than the "hand-out" everything might be cozy once again.

Nowhere in his speech (which I must assume was carefully prepared) did the Speaker mention that Oregon's unemployment rate is currently among the highest in the nation; that training programs to benefit the "hard-core unemployables" - meaning for the most part the poor, the urban, and the black - are not keeping up with the need; that major firms - such as Tektronix near Portland - are laying off workers left and right; that like it or not we are in an economic slump...and that when the economy is ailing, so is the welfare picture.

The trouble with welfare is that too many people want to think the worst about those who, because of circumstances, must apply for its benefits. Songs like "Welfare Cadillac" sell thousands of copies while feeding the myth of the welfare "con artist" who has found an easy and safe con game.

In the meantime, agencies like the Salvation Army, FISH, OEO, HUB-CAP, etc. are slowing sinking in the mire of an economic slump. The Blanchet house fed a near-record number of hungry people at Thanksgiving dinner, and officials say they expect even more for tomorrow's Christmas meal.

Businessmen tell us the current slump should end, that because of "easier money" production should pick up early in 1971 and therefore more people will have jobs.

In the meantime overtime hours (meaning extra pay) have been pared on many jobs in the state, a lot of people just plain aren't working at any job - and their plight has more to do with the economy than with any "shiftless attitude" on their part.

Hopefully the legislative task force WILL take a "hard-nosed look" to see what is wrong with welfare in Oregon. They may find, like Richard Geisert who is a member of the Inter-Agency Welfare Crisis Committee in the Portland area, that the real problem is that too much of the aid is drained off by the welfare bureaucracy before it reaches those for whom it is intended;

"Now, if you'll just open a bit wider, please," is the often-repeated phrase at Portland Community College dental hygienist classes in the Failing Building.

A whole group of dental hygiene technology students are operating in a public service program designed to bring teeth-cleaning and fluoridation treatment to selected children and youth, at low cost.

The students gain invaluable experience, under the close supervision of highly-skilled and qualified instructors, and the patients get important dental care not otherwise easily available to them.

The new public service program is an outgrowth of PCC's first year in the new Dental Hygiene Technology program,

after several years of training dental assistants, who do chair-side work, and dental technicians, who make bridgework and dental plates.

Many of the children served in the new PCC program come from public housing and from referrals by public health agencies, on a minimal fee. The program is open to the public, including adults, at a regular fee of \$4.00.

The program operates Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. til 8 p.m., in Failing Hall, Room 1A, at 049 S.W. Porter Street, except during school holidays.

Dr. Lawrence S. Ellis is Coordinator of the program for PCC. Information about the program is available by calling 244-6111, X 313.



DR. JAMES B. DEMING, PCC instructor in dental hygiene, demonstrates for student hygienist Carolyn Burns, of (915 Bullock) Lake Oswego, the careful technique required for proper cleaning of teeth. The patient is Terrisa Schuck, from the Marcus Whitman School in Portland. PCC's new Dental Hygiene Technology program is servicing selected children in a community service teeth-cleaning and fluoridation program. (PCC photo by Paul Blixt)

Man Refuses Draft; No Blacks On Board

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A brief filed in U.S. Supreme Court is contending that people not represented on draft boards should not have to obey orders of such boards.

The brief was filed on Nov. 10 in the case of Walter Collins, a black draft resister from New Orleans.

Collins is under a five-year sentence for refusing to be drafted because his board had no black members and the board chairman didn't even live in the county.

His brief was filed by Robert A. Sedler, law professor at the University of Kentucky, in response to statements to the court by the U.S. Department of Justice.

'De Facto' Board
The department had told the justices that it doesn't matter if the government fails to comply with the law. Solicitor Gen. Erwin Griswold argued that Collin's board is a "de facto" board, although made up in such a way as to violate the Selective Service Act.

that most people DO view welfare as a temporary condition to be avoided if possible and to be endured only until something better - like a job - comes along.

It is too bad that the abuses of a few must constantly be trumped out at the expense of the many to paint a picture of welfare that is not only distorted but, in the end, harmful.

As Geisert says "It's hard to picture a welfare family of four which receives about \$192.00 a month in aid, living in luxury."

"It is important that this court resolve the question once and for all," Sedler told the judges. "The government demands that young men comply with the Selective Service Act and threatens them with imprisonment when they do not.

Excuses
"But when the government itself is shown to be in violation of the law, it invokes concepts such as 'de facto political authority' to excuse its violation. There should be one law for the governors and the governed, binding both alike.

"A draft board not constituted in accordance with the statute and regulations is a 'lawless board' without the power to classify at all or to issue valid orders to report for induction." Sedler asks: "Why should Negroes be expected to serve in the armed forces when Negroes are not considered 'worthy enough' to serve on local boards?"

White Boards
"Why is it that Negroes are expected to accept decisions concerning their very life that are made by whites, but whites are not expected to accept decisions concerning their lives that are made by Negroes - which presumably is the reason why Negroes are not allowed to serve on local boards, even in an area that is two-thirds Negro in population?"

"May there perhaps be some correlation between the absence of Negroes on local boards and the fact that Negro combat deaths in Vietnam are proportionately double those of whites?"

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