

Kinsey support home preservation plan

Representative Lloyd Kinsey Republican from Multnomah County, today announced his support of the proposed Home Preservation Plan and outline its effect in Multnomah County. "The new proposal would provide substantial home owner tax relief without the need of additional major taxes," Kinsey stated, and in Multnomah County this mean that the home owner tax relief would increase from \$7,944,192 to \$14,630,191, or a net increase of \$6,685,999.

"If passed," Kinsey said, "the Home Preservation Plan would exempt from property taxes the first \$1,500 of assessed value of each owner-occupied residence in the state, thus exempting \$561 million worth of property; would put a freeze on property taxes the Oregonians 65 years of age

or older, providing \$2.4 million in tax relief for the elderly in the next two years; and would encourage home improvements by allowing \$500 annual income tax deduction from money spent on home improvements, again saving \$4 million in tax during the next two years.

"The three-fold plan," Kinsey reported, "will provide over \$33 million in tax relief statewide, and the greatest impact," he said, "will be felt in the lower income family area where property tax is becoming an almost unbearable burden."

"The plan has already been supported by the Republicans in both the House and the Senate, so the final success of the proposal will depend upon the Democratic legislators," he remarked.

Indian apprentice head to study PCC

Apprentice programs and vocational education methods at Portland Community College will be the subject for study by three Indian apprenticeship administrators on a visit to the College.

The three are Principals of Central Training Institutes in various parts of India, each directing a program to train apprentice and vocational instructors.

All are in this country under a program of the Agency for International Development, in cooperation with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U. S. Department of Labor.

They will spend 26 weeks in America, visiting a selected small number of leading training institutions, with intensive study at some.

The Indian visitors are Shyama Shankar Choudhury, of Darnagar; Gouranga Nath Mallik, of Ludhiana; and Ganaprasad D. Vishwakarma, Guindy.

each is himself a highly-trained technical-vocational instructor as well as a skilled administrator.

ED Hamal, PCC coordinator of Apprenticeship, will be host for the three Indian visitors during their time at the College Thursday, February 25.

Food stamps

We would like to focus our attention for a few moments on the problems of hunger and malnutrition; and in particular, the Food Stamp Program.

The Food Stamp Program, while designed to aid the Farmer and placed under the Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is the most effective and efficient program now available to increase the nourishment level of the poor. In Multnomah County alone, more than two million dollars worth of Food Stamps are issued every month. However even with this enormous amount, people are still going hungry. Why?

The major problem is the administration of the Food Stamp Program; specifically, the procedures used in the distribution of the Food Stamps. Perhaps this was not always a problem, but during the last twelve months, the number of households receiving Food Stamps in the Multnomah County has nearly tripled, the unemployment rate has risen drastically, and the corresponding pressure on the Food Stamp Administration has resulted in inefficient operation and unsatisfactory service.

Here are some examples:

1. 10 to 15 day wait for Certification Interview
2. Restrictive Certification procedures (Proof of address, Social Security Card, proof of cooking facilities, proof of rent costs, proof of income, etc.)
3. Only one Food Stamp Center open all month in Multnomah County.)
4. More than 1/3 of all recipients recertified every month. (4,298 Recertifications out of 12,747 households in November, 1970.)
5. Different interpretation of policy for each clerk. (Ask two Clerks the same question, get two different answers.)
6. Welfare Assistance workers ignorant of food stamp policies and procedures.
7. Lack of Food Stamps or money prevents families from maintaining a higher nutritional level. (Even with nutrition and purchasing training, some people simply cannot provide an adequate diet for their families.)
8. Financial guidelines so low as to prevent persons in real need from receiving help they need but cannot get.
9. Purchase requirements are so high that some potential recipients can't save enough money to purchase the minimum amount.
10. Increases in a recipient's Public Assistance Grant such as a special diet, also increase the cost of food stamps.

The list could go one and on. Each recipient could list their own particular gripe. However, the 10 we have listed does cover what we feel are the major problems. There are solutions. They do not require any changes in Federal Law. The new Food Stamp Bill, recently passed by Congress and signed by the President just one week ago, contains the necessary provisions to allow the State and County Food Stamp Administrations to streamline their operations and provide better services to the low-income segment of our population.

Here are our recommendations:

1. Immediate implementation of the new Food Stamp Bill with liberal interpretations of the provisions written into the State Agreement. Food Stamps, rather than abundant foods, is the better way to meet the food needs of the poor.
2. Train Welfare Assistance Workers in Food Stamp Policies and procedures, have them act on Certification and Re-Certification of all Public Assistance Food Stamp recipients, and have welfare Caseworkers assist in Outreach and Nutrition education efforts. (More than 2/3 of all Food Stamp recipients are on Public Assistance.) This would take a significant load off the Food Stamp Administration staff).
3. Personal Affidavit of residence, number in family, and income enough to receive aid. (The poor doesn't usually have the extensive documentation of



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residence, income, etc. sometimes required to receive aid.)

4. Food Stamps distributed at banks. (Enables recipients who usually have transportation and child care problems to more easily obtain stamps once Certified.)

5. Food Stamps mailed to recipients with purchase requirement withheld from check. (Public Assistance cases only. Very helpful for disabled, elderly, shut-ins, and persons not near a bank or other distribution center.)

6. Train and hire at, for instance, \$1 per year, a Certifier at the various helping agencies to handle Certification of persons needing immediate help.

7. Provide outreach services to persons desiring help in nutrition and food purchasing and preparation skills.

8. Variable purchase of Food Stamps from 0% to 100% of nutrition standards depending on how much the recipient could afford that particular month.

9. Certification (for non-public assistance cases) based on estimated income and for at least a 6 month period with a status quo statement signed upon purchase of food stamps every month. Social Security certified for 12 months.

10. Food Stamp purchase price based on food allotment of public assistance grant (for public assistance cases only).

11. Provide for a nutritionally adequate diet revised annually to reflect cost of living changes. \$28 per month for Pregnant female in Portland, \$38.45 Maternal Care low cost budget for adequate diet.)

12. Work with the Department of Health, Education, & Welfare to establish higher eligibility guidelines that would reflect more realistically the levels of need for help.

13. Provide free Food Stamps for those who have immediate need and no money.

14. Provide training for each interviewer and check in all facets of Food Stamp Policy and procedure.

15. Relaxation of regular usage interpretation. Now miss twice in a row or 3 in 6 months, need to be recertified.

16. Purchase through the mails. (Mail purchase card and money order, receive Food Stamps in mail. Food Stamps are insured in the mails by the Federal Government).

These sixteen specific recommendations, we feel could make definite improvements, both from the Administrative and Recipients' point of view.

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CAMP FIRE GIRLS are everywhere these days selling chocolate covered mints and peanut clusters. (From left) Bluebird Otie Ghan, 8, of the Busy Busy Bluebirds, and Sharon Neal, 12, from the MAKI KIGU (for Martin Luther King, Jr.) group offer Camp Fire candy choices to Mrs. Gertrude Rae, program director for the Urban League of Greater Portland. Candy sale will continue through Feb. 17. Proceeds go to support camping program. Mrs. Caroline Nelson is the Camp Fire district director working in the inner city.