

The Northwest's Best Weekly
A Black Owned Publication

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Common Cause

In September of 1970 concerned Americans were asked to join in the formation of a new, independent, nonpartisan organization headed by John W. Gardner, former secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The goal of Common Cause is to help in the rebuilding of this nation. The membership goal of 100,000 members for the first year was reached in 23 weeks and memberships continue to pour in.

Much needs to be done and there are few who are properly organized to do it. We must end the war now. We must bring about a drastic change in national priorities. We must renew our attack on poverty and discrimination. And we must build a new America.

Many people today recognize that national priorities must be changed, but they do not know how to go about changing them. They are shocked by the facts of poverty and pollution, but do not know what to do. Politics and government need to be revitalized. State governments are feeble; city government is archaic. The Congress of the US needs change. Political parties are not structured to be responsive to the will of their members.

Most parts of the governmental system have grown so rigid that they cannot respond to disaster. The are ill-designed for contemporary problems.

The solutions are not mysterious. Any capable city councilman, state legislator, or member of Congress can provide solutions but there has been no active, powerful organization to fight for solutions. Common Cause now provides that organization. Common Cause is building a true "citizen's lobby" concerned with the well-being of the nation.

Some of the issues with which Common Cause is concerned are: There is great urgency in ending the Vietnam War on a scheduled timetable. Problems of poverty and race must be among the first concerns. Common Cause will call for new solutions in housing, employment, education, health, consumer protection, environment, family planning, law enforcement and the administration of justice.

Common Cause is certain that none of those problems will be solved unless we accomplish a revitalization of government at all levels. America is not the nation it set out to be and we will never get back on course until we take some tough, realistic steps to revitalize our institutions. That will not be easy since institution do not enjoy the process of renewal.

In recent years we have seen too much complacency, self-interest, irrational hatred and fear. But many Americans would like to help rebuild this nation but do not know where to begin. With a large, active group of concerned citizens we can begin to remake America.

I think **still life**
I'll appoint a fact-finding group to find out whether the previous fact-finding group had, in fact, found the facts!



Carbon Monoxide the silent killer

Carbon monoxide continues to be one of the major toxic hazards. The frequency of carbon monoxide intoxication is related to the tasteless and odorless qualities of the gas and the usual preoccupation of the victim.

Carbon monoxide, the silent killer, causes more deaths than any other poisonous gas. It can kill within minutes, depending upon the concentration in the air. It is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It won't tickle your throat, make your eyes water, or in any other way make its presence known.

Since it cannot be detected by the senses, its danger is all the more insidious. Carbon monoxide, from motor vehicles alone, is the most frequent form of fatal poisoning in the country. Each of the more-than-91-million producers of carbon monoxide on our highways and streets today contains enough fatal gas to kill its occupants in a very few minutes.

Carbon monoxide is produced by the incomplete combustion of any solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel. It kills by depriving a person of oxygen. Carbon monoxide combines with the red cells of the blood 200 times as readily as oxygen, thus displacing the oxygen in the blood. If the concentration of carbon monoxide is sufficient, it will completely cut off the oxygen supply to the blood stream and result in death.

The effect of a given concentration of carbon monoxide will vary with a person's size, age, activity, and physical condition. Men are more susceptible than women because of their deeper breathing; children are more susceptible than adults because of their more rapid breathing. Old and infirm people and those suffering from anemia, heart disease, or poor circulation have a difficult time recovering from the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. Repeated exposure makes a person more susceptible to carbon monoxide poisoning and can result in permanent impairment of the circulatory and nervous systems.

Two principal factors contribute to the occurrence of carbon monoxide poisoning. Incomplete combustion, caused by failure of the fuel to combine with an adequate amount of oxygen, results in the generation of carbon monoxide (CO) instead of carbon dioxide as a byproduct. Inadequate ventilation of exhaust fumes to the outside will result in a concentration of carbon monoxide gas indoors, if the fuelburning equipment is not functioning properly. If an insufficient supply of fresh air is being supplied to the burner, the exhaust fumes will recirculate through the heater and generate carbon monoxide gas.

Automobiles with good exhaust systems are not dangerous while in motion. Danger is present when the vehicle has a leak in its manifold, muffler, exhaust pipe, or tailpipe, when it is parked or idling with the engine running, or when the engine is operated in a closed garage. It is then that carbon monoxide claims its victims.

Automobile exhaust systems should be checked regularly for blown-out gaskets, loose manifolds, leaking exhaust pipe connections, and worn-out mufflers. The obnoxious, acrid, and offensive odor, of course, is to be avoided. If the exhaust fumes are completely carried to the end of the tail pipe and away from the automobile. In slow-moving and closely-spaced traffic or while traveling through tunnels, keep the air intakes of your car closed to be sure that carbon monoxide from the exhausts of automobiles in front of you will not collect in significant amounts in your car. Although exhaust fumes and smoke can be seen and smelled, the carbon monoxide in the exhaust CANNOT.

Any combustion in a confined area - the burning of paper, coal, wood, gasoline, oil, charcoal, rags or any other organic material containing carbon - is a producer of carbon monoxide. The favorite season of this killer is the winter, when people are indoors for the most part. Deaths occur in cabins, camps and anywhere, for carbon monoxide does not take vacations.

PSU Student leave for Yugoslavia

PORTLAND, Oregon -- With the assistance of funds from the U.S. Office of Education, 21 Portland State University students leave late July for a newly established intensive program in the Serbo-Croatian language in Yugoslavia at Zadar on the Adriatic coast.

After completion of the six-week program, 13 participants will go on the Zagreb Institute, an overseas extension of PSU's Central European Studies Center. Now in its fifth year, this year-long academic program allows students to take concentrated study in the field of their choice at the University of Zagreb from October 4 to May 26.

A \$42,000 grant for both programs pays the round-trip transportation and a modest room costs for selected participants. Students pay only passport fees, personal expenses and tuition.

Five of the Zadar students will return to PSU for fall classes. Five other students will join the 13 from Zadar for the fall term at the Zegreb Institute. Victor, Dahl, PSU faculty member who served as resident director of the 1970-71 Zagreb Institute, will also serve as resident director for both the Zadar program and the 1971-72 Zagreb Institute.

Students leaving soon for both the Zadar and Zagreb programs include: James Balch, Michael Brennan, Susan Heck, James Mann, James Mason, Jennifer Nielsen, Kenneth Schler, Susan Winkel, Susan Yarabinec (all of Portland); David Laws, Echo, Orel, Beverly McLean Medford, Orel; Milton Pappas, Woodsdale, N.Y.; and Bruce Spahnower, Troutdale, Ore.

In the News National Federation of Independent Business



PLANS for a new federal agency to deal with drug addiction have been reported by Rep. Robert Steele, R-Conn., who has taken a special interest in the narcotics problem. After investigating addiction in Vietnam, Steele said soldiers being sent there run a greater risk from heroin than from enemy bullets.

Crisis Meeting

Interested community groups and persons are urged to attend a crisis meeting on Thursday, August 5, to decide on tactics to restore the funds cut from the Multnomah County Hospital budget. The meeting, sponsored by THE COALITION, will be at 8 PM in the dining room of Centenary - Wilbur Methodist Church (S. E. 9th and Ash).

PSU-PACE

The U.S. Office of Education has awarded Portland State University a preliminary grant of \$73,551 to plan a community-involved program to deal with the education needs of the Greater Portland area.

The federal funds are for the first-year planning phase to create the Portland Area Complex for Education (PACE). William A. Jenkins, dean of Portland State's School of Education, said federal funds are earmarked to support the full development of PACE, expected to take three years.

Are we paying more for Drugs than we should?

The nation's drug bills are mounting. Americans spent \$3.8 billion on prescriptions in 1968, as our collective drug bill nearly quadrupled in less than a decade, according to a study by the Health Insurance Association of America.

For the average American family, this meant the ordering of about 14 to 16 prescriptions in 1968, posing some interesting economic as well as health questions. On the health side, many experts feel, individuals often overindulge in vitamins, sleeping pills and pain-relievers without checking with their doctors as to need.

HEARING

The Portland Board of Education has scheduled a public hearing to deal with rules of procedure for operating bargaining elections for teachers in the Portland District. The hearing is to be held at 4 p.m. Thursday (July 25) in the board room at the district administration building (631 N.E. Clackamas Street).

Under the state statutes dealing with teacher-board consultations, a teacher organization may petition for a bargaining election to be held within 30 days after school begins. The organization winning such an election then acts as the exclusive agent of the teachers in consultations regarding salaries and related economic matters.

Current bargaining agent for Portland teachers is the Portland Association of Teachers.

Independent retailers want to "go to bat for themselves" when the rules of the merchandising game are being violated. This is the gist of the independents' view on "loss leader" and below-cost sales. The National Federation of Independent Business hastens to explain:

A retailer can be forced out of business by cutthroat, underpricing by a competitor across the street even though a Federal law says that "sales at unreasonably low prices for the purpose of destroying competition" are illegal.

Under present law, the victim's only recourse is to try to get the Justice Department to file a complaint. But even a conviction is no compensation for financial losses or disaster suffered by the victim. A majority of the nation's independent business people feel, therefore, that the victim should be able to act in his own behalf to obtain a court injunction and to sue for damages anyone (competitor or supplier) who violates this section of the Robinson-Patman Act.

A poll just completed by the Federation bears this out. Nationally, 57 percent of the businessmen polled endorse legislation by Senator John Sparkman of Alabama which would allow the victim of ruinous sales practices--below cost or "loss leader" sales--to seek an injunction and sue for triple damages. Thirty-one percent responded negatively, while 12 percent could not decide how they stand on the question.

Oregon independents look at the Sparkman measure like this: 58 percent support it, 31 percent express opposition, and 11 percent are undecided.

Discount pricing, loss-leader teacher education; early childhood education; the teaching of reading; and urban problems associated with education.

PACE, under Jenkins' direction, represents the fifth federally-funded program at Portland State concerned with urban education problems. It will be developed under the fiscal and administrative supervision of the School of Education in cooperation with the Portland Public Schools.

Among other public agencies to be enlisted in the first year's planning phase will be the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, the Oregon Department of Public Instruction, the Portland Model Cities, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and Portland Community College.

From the private sector, cooperation will be sought from a number of Portland-based corporations as well as the Union Apprenticeship Training Program, the Portland Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers and the Portland Association of Teachers.

"It has been said that Portland is one of the few large cities where planning and investment might save the schools and the city from urban deterioration," Jenkins wrote in his proposal for the PACE grant.

"It is the goal of the Portland Complex to act as a coordinating catalyst which will offer a stabilizing structure and bring together the many groups working on educational and training problems in this area."

A growing number of associations, unions and groups such as senior citizens' or retired persons' clubs offer drugs at lower cost. If you qualify, investigate through the organization involved.

Comparison-shop. In case of prescription drugs as well as non-prescription medications, prices are competitive. In some cases, a canvass of neighborhood pharmacies will yield prices that differ widely. Ask the pharmacist about the cost before leaving the prescription.

Ask to have the name of the drug typed on the prescription label on the bottle--so that you can identify it later. It may someday save you a visit to the physician or the cost of a refill--if he wants you to continue using the drug.

However, health experts say, many Americans pay higher prices for drugs than they need to. There are ways to pare down the price of drugs, but not their quality, and the Health Insurance Institute passes along these hints:

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