

Seniority, secrecy and congressional reform

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a statement prepared by Common Cause.)

A new Congress will convene next month and immediately proceed to make crucially important decisions - in secret.

No bills will be involved. Rather, the important decisions in the first days of the 93rd Congress will be the selection of Republican and Democratic party leaders who, throughout the following two years, will guide America's national legislature.

Unless reforms are made before these actions in January, citizens will have no idea how these leaders won their jobs; all the public will know is the outcome.

The importance of the leadership positions - only a handful in number - cannot be overemphasized. The Members of Congress who fill them have vast influence over public affairs. They control the activities of the Senate and House, determine the flow of legislation, control votes for and against proposals, influence committee assignments, and in many other ways deeply affect the output of Congress. Because of this, voters have a legitimate interest in the quality of Congressional leadership.

Considering this interest, it is appalling that:

1. Both political parties in Congress choose their leaders behind closed doors and refuse to divulge how mem-

bers vote in leadership contests; and

2. House Democrats appoint - not elect - their party Whip, a position which is the first step toward the top jobs of party leader and House speaker. (The Whip is, in effect, the assistant party leader; his job is to help marshal majority forces in support of party strategy.)

The procedures governing these contests are indicative of two fundamental problems - secrecy and seniority - that drain Congress of the vitality needed to be an equal branch of the federal government. The secrecy in which leadership choices are made reflects the widespread secrecy in which Congress conducts so much of its business. The up-the-ladder philosophy of House Democrats is an outgrowth of the seniority system that exalts longevity over ability, intelligence, energy - all the qualities that normally qualify a person for a leadership role.

Common Cause believes these practices must be changed, not only in the leadership contests but in all procedures of Congress. The leadership contests will be the first instances of the debilitating seniority and secrecy weaknesses to appear in the new Congress that convenes in January.

Common Cause is urging recorded public votes for Senate and House leadership positions and election of the House Democratic Whip.

Both parties are faced with several leadership vacancies in the 93rd Congress as a result of election defeats and the ill-fated plane trip of Rep. Hale Boggs (D-La.) in Alaska. Boggs, who was House Majority Leader in the last Congress, was on a campaign trip with Alaska's Rep. Nick Begich (D) when their plane disappeared Oct. 16. In the Senate, the defeat of Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) has opened the position of chairman of the Republican Conference, which is the caucus of all Republican Senators. The defeat of Sen. Gordon Allott (R-Colo.) has left vacant the job of chairman of the GOP Policy Committee.

In addition, there may be challenges to some party leaders who are returning. Such challenges are not uncommon at the beginning of a new congress.

News reports about leadership battles have focused on personalities rather than the more important issue of open procedures in selection of leaders.

Students register

Students new to Portland Community College for the winter term starting January 2 will register Tuesday through Thursday, January 2 through January 4, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday, January 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Returning students and new students who have pre-registered are currently registering at both the Sylvania and Cascade centers.

Counselors and career exploration tools are available to help students decide on the program best suited to their interests and abilities. To make an appointment with a counselor, call the PCC number 244-6111, and the operator will help you.

Santa's Lane opens

There are no elves but lots of workshops at The Salvation Army Men's Social Service Center. Recently rehabilitated toys and other contributed goods suitable for Christmas gifts. The results go on display the first week of December in the main ThriftStore at 139 S.E. Union.

A Christmas lane in The Salvation Army Thrift Store is a "first" for this area, according to Major Clinton Irby, Men's Social Service Center director. The gift center will be maintained until Christmas if stocks can be continued. "We felt there was a real need to provide 'recycled' gift items as a service to low income families who want to have the independence of buying their own things but haven't the money to get what they want brand new," Major Irby said.

Persons who have toys and other suitable gift items that they would like to donate may call The Salvation Army Men's Social Service Center for truck pick-up, 235-4192.

Labor Bureau sets hearing

Norman O. Nilsen, the State Labor Commissioner, has announced that he will hold a public hearing in Portland on Wednesday, December 20, on a proposal to adopt interpretive rules and policies for administering and enforcing the state Private Employment Agency Law.

The hearing will be in Room 36 of the State Office Building 1400 S.W. Fifth Avenue. Time will be 1:30 p.m.. Testimony can be made either orally at the hearing or submitted in writing in advance.

The proposed interpretive rules and policies are contained in a statement explaining what is proper and what is improper under the law which has been used since the law was revised in 1961 for the guidance of owners and operators of private employment agencies.

Copies may be obtained from A.W. (Bud) Gardner, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor, 115 Labor and Industries Building, Salem, Oregon 97310, telephone 378-3292.

The Oregon Private Employment Agency Laws apply to any business which conducts an office or a type of agency which acts, offers, promises or attempts to get employment for others or which provides for the registration of persons seeking to gain or retain employment or which participates in the giving of information about employment which charges for its services.

The laws also apply to any person, bureau, organization or school who offers to get employment for anyone who pays for its services or which charges tuition or charges for any services where the object of the person paying the money is getting a job.

Not subject to the law are educational associations with some teacher-placement activities, nonprofit organizations working for civic purposes and vocational guidance agencies.

A public hearing has been set for December 21 by the Oregon Wage and Hour Commission on proposed revisions of the Commission's Consolidated Work Order, according to Norman O. Nilsen, the State Labor Commissioner and executive officer to the Commission.

The hearing, which was originally set for December 6 and was set over because of unavoidable conflicts, will be held at 10 a.m. in Room 36 of the State Office Building in Portland, 1400 S.W. Fifth Avenue.

The proposed revisions mostly deal with providing equal coverage regarding working conditions for all employers as authorized by the last session of the Legislature. Previously, coverage was permitted only to women and minors of both sexes under 18 years of age.

Also proposed is that all persons over 16 years of age be allowed to work as door-to-door canvassers. At present, such work is denied to females under 18 and males under 16.

The provisions involving working conditions concern safe and sanitary work area, adequate lighting, adequate ventilation, adequate washrooms, adequate toilet facilities, adequate rest rooms, adequate dressing rooms, adequacy of what lunch rooms may be provided, adequate tables and work benches, suitable seating.

Nilsen said the Commission welcomes testimony either orally at the hearing or submitted in writing either at the hearing or previously. Communications may be directed to Wage and Hour Division, Oregon Bureau of Labor, 115 Labor and Industries Building, Salem, Oregon 97310, telephone 378-3292.

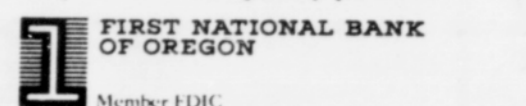
Cash and Maxey Barber Shop

4603 N. Williams

Lady Barber on duty

Finally, a painless way to save. Now there's a painless, almost fool-proof way to save. Save-O-Matic. It works very simply. You tell us how much you'd like to save each month, and we'll transfer it from your First National checking account to your savings account.

Automatically. You'll never miss the money. Hardly even realize you're saving it. Until, of course, you look at your savings account. It's a pleasant surprise. And completely painless!



PORTLAND CLEANING WORKS
NORTH & N.E. PORTLAND

ONE DAY SERVICE

KNIT BLOCKING OUR SPECIALTY

MINOR REPAIRS—NO CHARGE
PICK-UP & DELIVERY

282-8361
3954 N. Williams Ave.

"You've Tried The Rest, Now Try The Best"
N. Alexander, Proprietor

Need Glasses Fast?

SEE SEMLER'S

All Lenses Ground to your Doctor's Prescription

USE SEMLER EASY CREDIT

Dr. Semler Advises...

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

SEMLER Optical
STREET LEVEL - SEMLER BLDG
S.W. Third and Morrison
Other Offices in SALEM & EUGENE • Phone 227-7200

Portland Community College

Education Programs in your community

Classes start January 2

Career Development
Adult Basic Education
College transfer courses
Hobbies and recreation
Special events

Call 244-6111 for a schedule of classes or to enroll.

Portland Community College
12000 Southwest 49th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97219

THE FAMILY LAWYER

Dog-Caused Collision

Motorists kill dogs at an alarming rate. But dogs can be deadly to motorists, too. One year's study of a single thruway revealed that more than 200 accidents had been caused by dogs dashing in front of cars.

What are the legal consequences of such an accident? If a dog causes injury to a motorist, may the owner of the dog be held liable in court?

Consider this case:
A motorist, suddenly confronted by a dog in the street, swerved to the right, struck the dog, lost control of his car, and crashed into a fire hydrant.

Injured, he claimed damages from the owner of the dog under the state's "strict liability" law.



North Portland Special Patrolmen Inc.

1771 N. E. Dekum
Portland, Oregon 97211
Phone 289-5536

Occupant:

This letter announces the opening of the NORTH PORTLAND SPECIAL PATROLMEN, INC., a private, locally-run and operated security force specializing in security protection for homes and businesses, neighborhood patrol, and escort services.

Our office and staff are here to serve the City of Portland in any way we can. The Portland Police Department is one of the finest in the Northwest, lacking only the necessary manpower to cover the growing city of Portland. You may not know it, but there are approximately 11,000 burglaries a year in this city, and we are organizing all our resources to prevent a growing percentage of these, as well as any special security needs you might have.

We hope you will give us a chance to be of service to you, as we have the very best of officers to serve you - hand picked and trained by the most qualified people in modern law enforcement techniques. And we are bonded and insured for your protection.

We are very proud of our organization, and we want a chance to show you what we have to offer as the first multi-racial company of this kind in the Northwest. If you would like further information, or are interested in our services, please fill out the information sheet below, and our field representative will call on you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
T. J. OLIVE,
President

NATHAN J. PROBY,
Field Representative

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

I am interested in _____
Day Patrol For My Home
Night Patrol For My Home
Business Security
Other _____

North Portland Special Patrolmen, Inc.
1771 NE Dekum Street
289-5536

© 1972 American Bar Association