

Kafoury speaks

by Representative Stephen Kafoury,
Oregon House of Representatives

These last few weeks the Oregon House of Representatives has passed several bills that will directly benefit the residents of this area of urban Portland. Without a doubt, the most important was the package giving much needed property tax relief to all Oregonians and at the same time giving financial support to local school districts.

For ten years the taxpayers of this state have demanded property tax relief and the legislators have been unable to either come to an agreement among themselves, or as with the McCall tax plan and the sales tax, legislators couldn't create a plan that the voters liked. After going back to the drawing board, we have now come up with a plan that almost everybody should be willing to accept. Although the package was devised by the Democrats, a majority of both parties have agreed with it. First, the bills increase the level of state support for schools and give state support to kindergartens, which helps Portland greatly. Then, the low income property tax program which was passed last session has been extended to include renters as well as property owners, and depending on income they will receive from \$100 to \$490, while renters will get \$50 to \$245. The procedure for obtaining this relief, which was so cumbersome that many of those who need relief the most didn't receive it, has been simplified. A major loophole whereby wealthy people have been able to escape paying their fair share of taxes has been closed. This is accomplished by limiting the deduction of federal tax on Oregon tax returns to \$3,000. Corporation taxes have also been raised.

Two major pieces of consumer legislation recently came before us, and while I voted for both of them, only one passed. The first would have required large supermarkets to adopt unit pricing. This means that food items would be marked with the price per pound, ounce, pint or other unit of measure, in addition to the total price. A shopper could then compare values between different size and price items. The Republicans lined up against this proposal and beat it. However, consensus was reached on another bill to require open dating on food items. Now, the date of manufacture or date of the end of shelf life of most foods must be clearly marked on the package.

Two very controversial bills came out of the Alcohol and Drug Committee of which I am Co-Chairman. Presently, young people between the ages of 18 and 21 find themselves in between legal adulthood and legal childhood. This results in illogical situations where young men may shed their blood in battle, but cannot give blood to the Red Cross, and while they may help choose the President of the United States, they can't go to a tavern for a beer. After a compromise which allows 19 year olds, but not 18 year olds, to drink, the bill lowering the age of full legal adulthood from 21 to 18 passed the House. The other bill which was reported to the House Floor with a "do pass recommendation" for final vote next week would decriminalize small amounts of marijuana for personal possession, while continuing the penalty for selling or holding large amounts. Strangely, I have received almost no mail on this important subject.

Voice of the NAACP

by Ellis H. Casson, President
NAACP, Portland Branch

Sunday is "Father's Day" and it is not too late to ask, "What is a father?"

- A father is a father regardless of race, creed or color.

- A father is someone who comes into the house at the end of the day and is greeted by his wife with the question, "Do you want to hear what your children did today?"

- A father is the person who waits up all night until his daughter comes in from a date, and goes right to sleep as soon as his son goes out.

- A father is the person the children appeal to when their mother says they can't stay up at night. He is also the one the mother refers any problems to that she doesn't want to decide, with "Ask your father."

- A father is one who gives children the money to go to a drive-in, where they spend the evening complaining that he doesn't understand them.



- A father is the person whose name the car is registered in that his son wants to borrow every night.

He is the person who is called to school during the height of his work day to hear that his son or daughter was caught smoking in the washroom.

- A father is someone who doesn't trust any boy who takes his daughter for a drive.

He is also someone who can't fathom why they're not interested that he lived through a depression or

started with nothing.

- A father is a person whom his young daughter wants to marry if she can just get rid of her mother.

- A father can't understand what the big attraction is to pot and why the kids are turned off by hard drinks.

One of the main functions of a father is to see that his son gets a haircut.

- A father is the one blamed by his wife for (a) being too permissive; (b) too strict; (c) not caring enough; (d) taking their side against her.

- A father is the party whom his college son or daughter wires when they want money to go on a demonstration to protest everything the father has worked for.

- A father comes in all different colors, sizes and shapes. Believe it or not, he has strengths and hangups and pride and guilt just like everybody else.

So remember to take time out just to say "Thanks Dad".

See you next week.

CAUCUS TIME

by Jettie B. Wilds, Jr., Chairman
Oregon Black Caucus

The Multnomah County Commission is paying lip service to the policy of the hiring of friends or relatives by department heads and other county officials. Commissioner Clark states: "But at this point I do not see it as a major issue nor one of enormous concern. I don't think the hiring of cronies or relatives has permeated the county to any degree that is damaging."

Without knowing what

Commissioner Clark considers damaging and without the benefit of his definition of damage, it's difficult to refute his assessment. I do find it necessary, however, to note that the county personnel officer estimates that from 16 per cent to 23 per cent of county employees are relatives. When we add friends to that group the impact is even more stunning. When we couple that with Ms. Shirley Erickson, veteran

deputy director of the Multnomah County Civil Service Commission, saying that about 25 per cent of the county personnel who are subject to civil service exams are hired and on the job before taking the examination; we must assume that the Watergate situation is the Commissioner's yardstick for assessing damage. Ms. Erickson goes on to say that the persons getting the jobs, land them because they are referred by someone who is already a county employee or official.

This is not news to Black folks but sometimes we allow our resolve to be weakened by the constant references made by some that one must not violate the Civil Service Commission merit system. Certainly, one must play by whatever rules are agreed upon but the rules must allow for equitability and be adhered to by all. If there were Black Commissioners, then the foul system would at least be equal. We must not of course allow for foulness of any kind.

Civil Service Commission regulations are broad enough to be used as an inclusive or exclusive device. In other words, it can be used to bring in M. James Gleason's relatives or to keep out those who aren't his relatives. Commissioner Gleason acknowledges that some of his relatives have gotten jobs with the county because they knew him and had the advantage of knowing when there were job openings and when Civil Service tests for given jobs were scheduled. There is an enormous credit-ability gap concerning the seriousness of a county policy to control crony hiring when Commission Chairman Gleason says, "Sure I favor hiring from within families and on the basis of family recommendations. I encourage other county officials to do it."

I call attention to the fact that we sometimes forget who the system belongs to. We also tend to think that we just aren't good enough to compete. I'm not saying that we are all capable of doing every job satisfactorily and should get every job we apply for. I am saying that the 'system' has traditionally and historically kept us out and the reasons aren't always because we are or have been unfit. So, the next time there's a qualification barrier established by the folks who run the 'system', look for the rest of the iceberg. Incidentally, Civil Service Commission systems have the same opportunities for foul play at all levels of government.



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PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Classes in North Portland begin week of June 18

This is a partial listing only

Class	Day	Time	Location	Sessions	Price
Intro. to Community Video (6/19-7/10)	M	7:00	Cas PB6	4	\$ 6.00
Intro. to Community Video (7/17-8/7)	Tu	6:30	Cas PB6	4	\$ 6.00
Oregon for Curious (preregistration required) (one class, 3 Sunday tours)	M	7:00	Cas SU4	4	\$13.00
Photo for Fun	Tu	7:00	Cas PB9	6	\$ 9.00
River Running	Tu	7:00	Cas PB16	6	\$13.00
Weight Training & Body Conditioning	TuTh	7:30	Cas Gym	8	\$12.00
Wilderness Survival Skills	M	7:00	Cas SU Caf	3	\$15.00
Painting Acrylics	TuTh	7:30	Cas TH B1	4	\$ 8.00
Bicycle Repair (6/19-7/3)	Tu	7:30	Cas Tech	3	\$ 3.00
Bicycle Repair (7/17-31)	Tu	7:30	Cas Tech	3	\$ 3.00
Outdoor Cookery	Tu	7:00	Cas SU Caf	4	\$ 6.50
Swimsuits (6/20-7/11)	W	7:00	Cas CH4	3	\$ 4.50
Lingerie (7/18-8/1)	W	7:00	Cas CH4	3	\$ 4.50
Briefhand, Beg.	W	7:30	Cas PB16	10	\$10.00
Typing, Progressive	Tu	7:30	Cas PB14	6	\$ 7.50

For a complete list of available classes call 244-6111



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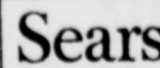
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