

Home rehabilitation program brings harrasment

Mrs. Ella Boyer was forced to obtain and pay an attorney to save her "rehabilitated" house. Mrs. Boyer received a \$3,500 grant through the Portland Development Commission for rehabilitation of her home in the Woodlawn district.

successful bidder. Although specific allotments of funds are made for housing repair, contractors are required to bid on the jobs. Mrs. Boyer refused to sign the release for payment of the contractor - so he threatened to place a lien on her house. Mrs. Boyer's complaints about the work are as follows: the electrical wiring is done improperly, with the

electrical junction box hanging loose from the wall, and the tubes carrying the electrical wires across the basement ceiling hang loose. The back porch door does not always open and the lock is defective. The new kitchen sink is placed improperly so that water runs in around the edges and drips on the floor. The bathtub, which was removed to place the

linoleum on the bathroom floor, was improperly installed and leaks on the floor. The toilet leaks. The hand rail on the basement steps is loose and dangerous. In the basement, the plasterboard is defective and does not fit properly, leaving gaps of 2 inches and more. Three basement windows were to have been sealed with cement - only two were done.

The electric switch controlling the stair and hall lights was replaced but does not work. The hardware on the garage doors was to have been replaced but was not. Mrs. Boyer complained. She went to PDC and to HUD and got no satisfaction. When she talked to Ray Wilson, Rehabilitation Supervisor for PDC, she was told that when he approved the

work his decision was final; that she had no recourse but to accept it. Mrs. Boyer received very little help from the agency designated by HUD to oversee the home rehabilitation, PDC. She had to hire a

private attorney to protect her property from seizure - money that could have been well spent on adding paint and minor repairs to her home. Eugene Jackson, Business Manager of the Albina Contractors Association, who inspected the property this week said he could not see that \$3500 worth of work had been done. He called the work shabby at best. Jackson and ACA have two goals in receiving and investigating complaints against contractors doing rehabilitation work in the Model Cities area. The first is to see that citizens receive the quality of work to which they are entitled and that they have a voice in deciding what improvements will be done. In this regard, ACA will police the work done by its member contractors and insure quality work. The second motive is to acquire an equitable share of the work for minority contractors. At the present time a small percentage of the rehabilitation work done in the Albina area is done by minority contractors, and little is done by contractors using minority workers.



Mrs. Ella Boyer was forced to hire an attorney to protect her home against a lien threatened by building contractor Walt's Construction and Cabinet Works.

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Local clergy arrested in Fresno

Pickets for the United Farm Workers Union, AFL-CIO, were beaten by Sheriff's near Fresno Tuesday. Three hundred persons were arrested, including 85 priests and nuns. Three persons from Portland were arrested - Fathers Jack Morris and Bill Davis and Sister Bernice Snell. The beatings and arrests took place at the Guimarra farms, the nation's largest grower of table grapes.



Portland supporters of the United Farm Workers Union hold a rally in support of grape and lettuce boycott.

Cesar Chavez, UFW leader, called the strike of 29 grape growers in the Central Valley of California whose contracts with the union expired on July 29. Strikes are also in progress against eleven additional growers whose contracts have expired or who have no contracts. Thousands of farmworkers are picketing the fields and holding mass meetings. The expired contracts were won three years ago by extensive strikes and a nationwide boycott of table grapes. Control negotiations broke down over union hiring hall practices, pesticide control, labor camps and union recognition. The union has been concerned with sanitary and safe working conditions as well as the health hazards caused by pesticide use. Chavez said "We are fighting to keep what we got after five

years of struggle and they were trying to take away what we had." Chavez said conditions in the labor camps are worse than they were three years ago. He asked for rules protecting workers from pesticides. The union, which is mainly composed of Chicanos, Philipinos and Blacks, has become a social movement and is often compared to the civil rights movement of the 1960's. A deeply religious man, Chavez is greatly influenced by the non-violent philosophy of Ghandi and Dr. Martin Luther King.

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Helen Edmonds gives address

Portland State University's informal summer commencement is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 9 in the Park Blocks in front of Smith Memorial Center. An informal reception will immediately follow the outdoor ceremonies in the same location. Dr. Helen Edmonds, former alternate delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, distinguished historian and author, will deliver the commencement address, which she has entitled "Come Down to Kew In Lillie-time; It Isn't Far From London". Dr. Edmonds, who is presently a Distinguished Professor of History at North Carolina Central University in Durham, will teach a special class in PSU's Summer Session, Understanding the UN, August 13-24. This is Dr. Edmond's sixth consecutive year as a summer instructor at PSU. Approximately 545 students are expected to receive degrees, according to the office of admissions and records. In case of inclement weather, the ceremonies will be held in the Smith Center Ballroom. Admission tickets are required for the summer ceremonies. The public is invited to attend.

Black say impeach Nixon

The Western Regional Conference of Black Elected Officials, meeting in Los Angeles, called for the impeachment of President Nixon - if he fails to appear before Congressional Committees to clear up the Watergate situation. The resolution passed by the Western officials came before the revelation that the President had had the entire White House "bugged" and that the tapes were available. Three subpoenas were sent to the President after he said he would not make the tapes available to either the Ervin Committee or Special Investigator Archibald Cox. The Western Officials' resolution urged President Nixon to "follow the examples of Presidents Lincoln, Wilson and others before him" in agreeing to appear before Congress to answer questions. If he refused, the resolution urged, Congress should begin the "commencement of impeachment proceedings as the only remaining recourse to restoration of faith in the Presidency". About 300 persons attended the one-day session at International Hotel in Los Angeles where freshman assemblyman Julian Dixon of California was named chairman of the California Conference of Black Elected Officials. State Senator George Brown of Denver was elected chairman of the Western Conference of Black Elected Officials.

Renters eligible for new tax relief

"Renters should be aware that they too are now eligible to apply for property tax refunds," says Charles H. Mack, director of Oregon's Department of Revenue. "For the first time renters are included in a tax relief program," Mack adds, "but they must show receipts of money they paid in rent during this calendar year of 1973 when they file applications for refunds after January 1, 1974." The tax relief program passed during the closing days of the 1973 legislative session, permits renters with an annual income of less than \$15,000 to claim a refund of \$50 to \$245, depending on their income and the amount of their rent. Homeowners earning less than \$15,000 will be eligible for \$100 to \$490 depending on the amount of their taxes and the amount of their income. "We are concerned," said Mack, "that some renters who move during the year may have difficulty providing the required evidence without knowing the need at the time of moving. We are alerting them now to one of their responsibility and requirements." Renters must attach a copy of a rent certificate to their tax refund application that shows net rent paid during 1973. Landlords are required by the new law to provide this form at tenant request. The Department of Revenue will make this form available to landlords later this summer. Mack says, "If you are moving now, before these new forms are available, or have already moved, you should go back to your former landlord and request a receipt or statement with the following information: (1) Landlord's name and address; (2) Landlord's social security number; (3) Duration of the rental period during the 1973 calendar year; (4) The amount of rent; (5) The landlord's signature; (6) As the tenant, your name, social security number, and current address. The Department of Revenue will accept this as a valid rent certificate." Homeowners and renters claiming a refund must file a claim with the Department of Revenue between January 1, 1974, and April 15, 1974.

ACLU objects

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon expressed alarm Wednesday over the administration of "lie detector" tests to all employees of the Oregon Real Estate Division in an investigation of real estate examination cheating. Stevie Remington, Executive Director, noted that an Oregon law states: "No person, or agent or representative of such person shall require as a condition for employment or continuation of employment any person or employee to take a polygraph test or any form of lie detector test." - and that violation of this law carries potential penalties of one year in jail and a fine of \$50. Ms. Remington said that Deputy Attorney General James Durham and Real Estate Commissioner Fred Layman assured her that employees were explicitly informed that they were under no requirement to take the test. "But who can believe that they felt truly free to refuse?" she asked. "It is only natural for employees to conclude that a refusal would direct suspicion to him or her. In addition, we have grave doubts that employees were fully aware that there (Please turn to page 4 col. 6)

Closed meetings illegal

A new Oregon law requires that all public agencies admit the public and the press to their board meetings. It has been common practice of Model Cities, the School Board and others to have closed "Executive Meetings" in which major decisions or recommendations were made. Many of the major decisions or discussion of reasons for those decisions, were made in private prior to the public meetings of the board.

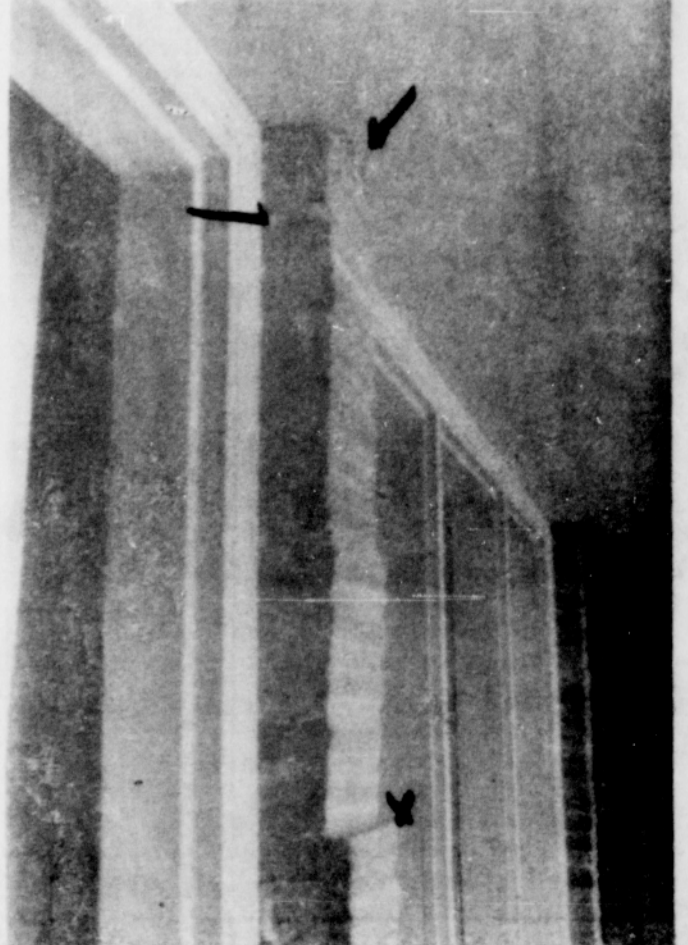
Boards of public agencies can hold private meetings only for specific reasons - for discussions of union central negotiations, personnel hearings, and certain legal questions. These closed meetings must be called by a two-thirds vote of the board and the public must be informed that the meeting is taking place, and minutes must be produced on demand. The purpose of this law is to allow the citizens of Ore-

gon to be informed about the deliberations and decisions of public bodies. The law, which became effective on June 27, 1973, is as follows: Section 1. The Oregon form of government requires an informed public aware of the deliberations and decisions of governing bodies and the information upon which such decisions were made. It is the intent of this Act that decisions of governing bodies be arrived at openly. Section 3. (1) All meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be open to the public and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by this Act. (2) No quorum of a governing body shall meet in private for the purpose of deciding on or deliberating toward a decision on any matter except as otherwise provided by this Act. (3) A governing body shall not hold a meeting at any place where discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, age or national origin is practiced. Section 4. The governing body of a public body shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to interested persons, of the time and place for holding regular meetings. If an executive session only will be held, the notice shall be given to the members of the governing body, and to the general public, stating the specific (Please turn to pg. 2, col. 5)

Oregon initiates child health program

Mediecheck, a new program of the Oregon Department of Human Resources, will be introduced to East Multnomah welfare families on August 1st. Mediecheck is a program of health screening intended to provide early identification of health problems among welfare children with a subsequent referral to a proper source of treatment. The new program funded by this year's legislature will also provide periodic reviews of the child's health status throughout the important years of his growth from birth through age 20. Andrew F. Juras, administrator for the Oregon Public Welfare Division, said "This is the first time welfare children have been at-

forded a preventive health program." He stated "The emphasis, due to lack of funds, has always been on crisis medical treatment after a child became ill." Juras expressed enthusiasm for the new program and praised the 1973 Legislature for funding this much needed medical benefit for welfare children. Mediecheck, known nationally as Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment, will get underway in Oregon with introduction in East Multnomah County area on August 1. Dr. James B. Landis, Medical Director for the Oregon Public Welfare Division, has targeted January 1, 1974 for the program to be implemented statewide.



Loose bricks on the front porch of the Lindley home, rehabilitated by HUD, are propped in place with sticks (arrow). Bricks are out of line and loose (x).

The Lindley's have a number of complaints about their new home. The bricks on the front porch are loose - some of them protruding - and are held in place by some sticks between them and the ceiling. The bathroom window is loose, letting in a cold wind. The bathtub and bathroom sink have a rough surface. Some of the light switches don't work. The most serious problems are the sewage that backs up in the basement and the rust flakes in the water. The Lindley's have called and written Mr. Plummer and HUD. They have not been turned down - promises have been made - but the work has not been done. The Lindley's new home has not provided them comfort and beauty - it has brought sewage and rusty water. They are still waiting for help from this federally funded program.

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Drought is bring starvation to the people of the Sehel Region of West Africa. (Please see story on page 6, column 3.)

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