

From behind the wall

by Larry Baker, 35021
O.S.P. Correspondent

PAY UP OR GET OUT

When many of the nation's newspapers are headlining the stories of the "Black-out in New York City", "U.S. Helicopter Shot Down in Korea", and our newspapers in Oregon are heavy printing "Olds Convicted" and "Two Oklahoma Escaped Convicts Fight Extradition", our local Salem newspapers are having fun in large print and front paging "IRS AUDITING STATE EMPLOYEES."

When this little bit of information hit the news, it didn't just die overnight like many of the other back fence gossip does that arises in a small town issue. So this reporter thought it would be something interesting to pass on to our readers of the Portland Observer and hope that their response and comments will be as great as it has been in the past.

In the Salem Capital Journal on Thursday, July 14, 1977, "Numerous state employees are being summoned this week to the Salem office of the Internal Revenue Service, apparently for special audits because they have lived in state-owned houses at low rent." The Salem Statesman goes on to report "Last November the state had ignored a 1973 law requiring it to charge fair market value for the houses it provided to state workers. About 450 employees were involved, and in some cases rent had not been changed in ten years." These newspapers go on to state that those being called in for auditing were some of the superintendents of our state institutions such as Dr. Dean Brooks, Oregon State Hospital, and George Sullivan, warden of the Oregon Correctional Institution (O.C.I.).

(As of this writing I have not been able to corner our superintendent for his comment or information concerning the state-owned house he lives in.) But on the reservation of the Oregon State Penitentiary there are five or six family dwellings of two and three bedroom houses that staff members of this prison live in and raise their families. The average monthly rent is about \$110 per month. According to the fair marketing rent in 1972 appraisal, some of these houses should have been rented for as high as a couple hundred dollars and an appraisal done last month showed some houses should rent for over \$300.

Now here's a comment which may shock the average taxpayer who in some way owns these buildings. So what if these houses are rented to these state employees for low rent! Number One, who else would rent them? How many taxpayers would want to live with their homes in the shadow of a state prison? For many, many years those of us who have practically been raised here within these walls have enjoyed viewing from our cells the laughter and sights of young children running about these employee's homes, and some of the inmates who work around these homes don't feel so stereotyped after a while by the association of becoming acquainted with these employee's families who have lived in them for a few years.

Most of these employees who live here are on 24-hour call and would find it hard to do so under any other conditions. Any inmate in this prison would hate to suffer some type of illness or even an emergency release, then have to wait hours for

whoever is in charge to get here to sign for it.

Let this reporter's comments go even a bit farther. There should be more houses built on these state-owned lands surrounding this prison to accommodate employees. When the big excuse for why blacks will not come to work here is because the housing is too high in Salem or owners just won't rent to them will not be valid anymore. And charging low rent for a decent house would be just the thing needed to attract qualified black employees.

Once upon a time, there used to be a building right at the entrance to this prison (now known as the Women's Work Release House) that had rooms for guards to stay who lived as far as Portland and Eugene. We had a few black guards around this "joint" at that time. One of the main reasons why they are no longer here is because of having no place to live or stay that was decent for the cost in the Salem area.

In this reporter's opinion maybe a few of the taxpaying landlords of Oregon should approach the governor, the legislature, and even the IRS to have them look at this subject from a humane standpoint, instead of the dollars and cents view so regularly done. The Portland Observer and this reporter welcome your point of view on the subject.

by Peter Austin, Jr. #39023

Freedom and Justice For All!

The racism here at O.S.P. has gotten completely out of hand. "I keep writing

articles but get no response." The KKK is also very active here, I will not elaborate on this one point because we all know they are everywhere in Oregon. I personally received a (5) year date sat on (10). The parole board went all the way south in my case. The only reason they gave me was, since I have never done any serious time before it is time to do time. These two members I came before the chairman and an assistant held court on me. I was retried and convicted of my past mistakes, which may I add payed for, and re-sentenced. "The joke was on me." I will have to laugh later because at this present time I can't find the humor! The metric system is being used daily, "so they say", but only for whites. The Black population is growing daily. I have watched perhaps (10) Black inmates leave and (25) Blacks take their place. The parole board has really gone out on a limb this time and I wonder how they can get back. I am not a law student but I do know this whole thing is illegal. I am also appealing my date set and would like to be governed by the same system that applies to whites. I can't understand these two completely different systems, one for whites, and one for Blacks. For all of my past mistakes, I must pay twice, once to society and second to the racist parole board. So the question is, "What does a Black man do when he breaks a law in Oregon?"

First of all make sure it's not in Oregon. Second, turn yourself in before you are shot by mistake, then you might get a slight break. Third, when you go to court, no matter what the case might be, grab your ankles and bend over so you can kiss your butt goodbye! "Check it out." It's all the truth.



A young man demonstrates his cooking skills.

4 - H plans fall program

Planning is now proceeding for the 4-H fall program. Among the classes and projects to be offered are homecraft, outdoor skills, arts and crafts, sports and mechanical skills.

"4-H seeks and encourages the participation of all youth, regardless of race, color or creed and working together makes it happen," said Ira Mumford, 4-H extension agent at King Neighborhood Facility.

Mumford is assisted by staff members: Betty Hardy, Patty Baum, Ted Alexander, Lewis Harris, Myrna Holt, Joyce Payne, Emalyn Harris, and Norma Thorsen, community advisors.

4-H members will participate in the

1977 Multnomah County fair, from July 29th to August 7th at the Portland Exposition Center. Events at the fair include exhibits, animal projects, home economics, creative arts, plant science, natural and marine science, archery, conservation and mechanical crafts. The fair is the annual highlight of the 4-H program.

Creative arts will be emphasized at this year's fair and will include painting, macramé, weaving, leathercraft and photography. Outdoor cookery highlights; food preparation, and practical methods of food preservation will be included. Trophies and ribbons are awarded at the fair.



Erna B. Posten (left) receives the oath of office as a Member of the U.S. Civil Service Commission from D.C. Superior Court Judge William Thompson, as Mrs. Whitney Yering holds the Bible during recent swearing-in ceremonies. Commissioner Posten formerly served as President and Member of the New York State Civil Service Commission before being appointed to the Federal post in Washington, D.C. by President Jimmy Carter.

Hiroshima demonstration planned

A non-violent direct action group called the Trojan Decommissioning Alliance announced at a press conference today plans to occupy the Trojan Nuclear Plant site in Ranier, Oregon. The occupation will take place on August 6, Hiroshima Day, and will coincide with other non-violent anti-nuclear demonstrations planned around the nation on that day.

Alliance spokesperson Norman Solomon stated that the Alliance supports the "aims and spirit of the occupations of the Seabrook site in New Hampshire." The Seabrook nuclear plant site was the object of an occupation on April 30 of this year, which resulted in the arrest of over 1,400 people.

"We are committed to the principles and practice of non-violence," said Solomon, who cited the tradition of such activists as Gandhi and Martin Luther King. "All of our actions will be in harmony with a spirit of non-violence and respect for all persons, including those who may oppose us," he stated.

The group plans to provide a series of workshops on non-violent direct action techniques and philosophy for those participants in the demonstration "who may choose to put themselves in a position of arrest."

In a companion "Declaration of Nuclear Resistance," the Alliance demanded "an immediate and permanent halt to the construction, operation, and export of nuclear power plants." The Declaration charged that nuclear power is "dangerous to all living creatures and their natural environment." Solomon asserted that Trojan's present plans to store expanded amounts of spent fuel waste right at the plant site was a "prime example of the nuclear industry's arrogant disregard for the public safety." "A public disappointment by this kind of arrogance will turn

increasingly to non-violent direct action to make its concerns heard," he predicted.

The group's declaration also charged that a "malignant relationship" exists between the weapons industry and nuclear power plants, which supply materials used in construction of nuclear weapons.

The Alliance also charged that nuclear power plants "have proven to be an economic catastrophe," and that the alleged need for nuclear energy is "based on faulty and inflated projections of consumption derived from a profit system that is hostile to conservation." "With minimal advances in conservation, architecture, and recycling procedures," said Solomon, "the alleged 'need' for nuclear energy disappears."

The Declaration asserted that "natural energy technology" which would focus on such sources as sun, wind, tides, and geothermal activity "is labor intensive and will create more jobs - permanent and safe - than the atomic industry could ever promise."

The Alliance called for public ownership of the energy supply. "Private monopoly must give way to public control," Solomon said. He emphasized that any such public ownership should be "decentralized," to maximize control by the local community.

"We have full confidence," said Solomon, "that when the true dangers and expense of nuclear power are made known to the American people, this nation will reject out of hand this tragic experiment in nuclear suicide." For those persons or groups interested in participating in whatever way they feel necessary, please contact the Trojan Decommissioning Alliance at 223-5777.

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