



Behind the Wall

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Oregon State Senator Mike Ragsdale kept very much in colorful character recently while attending The Class of Legal Processes at O.S.P.

Ragsdale attended the class as an 'equal' and integral part of the thirty inmate/student discussion group, in an atmosphere he thought very stimulating.

"I don't much like politicians who talk and don't take time to listen," stated the Senator, "and you can't learn without listening."

Senator Ragsdale defines himself as a 'moderate Republican.' He has built his rather spectacular career in politics on a foundation of sensitivity to people.

While others learned from books and political science classes, Ragsdale learned from listening and applying what he heard.

"I began college," he said, "and things went well until I began to see that what was taught in the classroom was a far cry from what happened in a real life situation."

Shortly after this realization he left college for business and later politics. Senator Ragsdale, despite being one of the most dynamic of congressmen, has never finished his college education.

Discussion turned at length to politics rather than personal topics. Exchanges of thoughts and ideas focused mainly on economics and

natural resources issues.

"The issue is taxes," he stated. "The people spoke to us on election day, and we are not sure how to interpret what they are saying. This has caused Congress to enter a 'cooling off' period legislatively, and the result is that nothing earth shaking is likely to happen until the tax question is solved."

Ragsdale continued, "I don't think it's bad that Congress isn't doing anything. This slowdown in spending and governmental action may give us time to re-evaluate our priorities. We know that people are sick of government. We also know that 60% of the people are not able to afford to own their own home. Perhaps it's time we found answers rather than programs."

In the field of resources, the Senator commented on the reality of the oil crisis.

"The Arabs and later Mexico have such a stranglehold on us that we have become merely pawns in the game of international politics," Ragsdale stated. He feels the crisis is due to incredibly stupid management on the part of major oil companies, and to very short-sighted policies by the federal government.

Ragsdale said, "The real emergency is that most people refuse to believe there is a crisis. They cling to the tradition that gas pumps just never run dry. That's simply not true."

On a state-wide level, energy plan-

ning is pretty sketchy. There are sources of power being studied, but as yet no serious answer to a shortage of oil. Solar, geothermal and local hydro-electric plants are all being studied, both for benefits and for impact. But none are extensive enough to offset the oil shortage.

Let's end this story with a comment by Senator Ragsdale. Perhaps this comment reflects his concern for people better than I can otherwise hope to. The discussion had turned to the 'whys' and 'hows' of the tax question. "When I see interest rates, inflation, and taxes becoming so oppressive that people can no longer buy a home, it's time to re-evaluate our objective. It's people, the populace, that we need to look to. We need to pay more attention to what is going on around us. That is the answer. Until that happens things aren't going to get much better."

There is certainly no arguing political vision like that. Here is a man, I believe, with an eye to the people.



REP. RAGSDALE

by Tony Reid #40444
Muid Hakeem

The World Community of Islam in the West is a concept and a reality. The religion of Al-Islam is a way of life, an ideology, and social concept. Education may mean primarily the self-perpetuation of and accepted culture. A culture which is the life of a determined society.

Education is a continuation of the process of growing into a complete human being, which took place physically in the nine months before being born. But now it is the mind, not the body, which is growing and developing.

Education must represent the culture and ideology of a people and should preserve the same for future generations. Experience in living has taught us that unity of thought without unity of character is incomplete. Unless education seeks to build up good character in the student as well as instruct him in knowledge, it will never achieve its purpose of aiding the student in his growth to completeness as a human being.

In Al-Islam good deeds are of primary importance.

Throughout the 'Holy Qur'an' those who believe and do good is frequently used to describe the true believers. One of the basic aims of the mission of PROPHET MUHAMMAD (Peace Be Upon Him) is the purification of human life and the soul (mind). In this day of revival and renewal of true religion, our great leader, Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad is universally completing this work. It is a psychological and sociological fact that the basic character traits of man are developed in the early stages of life.

The schools and colleges can play a significant role in the formation of mans character. It is the function of education to shape the character of man and to shape the character of the student into the Islamic pattern.

As-Salaam-Alikum-Warahmatu LLAH.

"Friendship is a sheltering tree."
Coleridge

"Health is the first wealth."
Emerson

Cost given priority in justice issue

A bill (HB 2860) that would allow a witness before a grand jury to have an attorney present and to provide for recording the proceedings is currently before the Oregon House.

The grand jury is a group of citizens who hear information presented by the District Attorney's office and determine whether there is evidence that a crime has been committed and whether the person under suspicion should be brought to trial. The grand jurors consider cases ranging from murder to fraud, robbery, rape, forgery, etc. They are ordinary citizens with no training in law and they have no one to advise them except the District Attorney whose job it is to prosecute.

The witness has no attorney with him, does not know whether he should answer the DA's questions, how fully to explain. He can go into the grand jury as a witness against someone else and come out as a defendant.

The justice system now requires that a suspect have advice of an attorney before talking to the police and again throughout his trial, but leaves him defenseless before the grand jury. Although the prosecutor can have a recording of the grand jury proceedings made and can use it against the defendant, the defense attorney has no access to the recording.

Two weeks ago a sub-committee of the House Judiciary Committee had favorable testimony on the bill from Jim Hennings, Multnomah County Public Defender; attorneys Elden Rosenthal and Des Connally; and Clayton Patrick, Oregon Trial Lawyers. Opposing the bill were the District Attorney's Association and

the Attorney General's office. The concept is endorsed by the American Bar Association and the American Law Institute.

Connally recommended amendments to the bill that would provide recording of the grand jury proceedings and providing that recording to the defense attorney.

Concurrent with the House Consideration of the bill is an action by three defense attorneys Jeffrey Rogers, Richard Rogers and Des Connally on behalf of their clients, asking the Oregon Supreme Court to order recording of Multnomah County grand jury proceedings. Arguments will be made before the Supreme Court on May 10th.

The members of the sub-committee appeared to favor the bill during the hearing. Representative Tom Mason (D-Portland) asked what good is it to have an attorney at the trial after the defendant has "spilled his guts and nailed his coffin shut?" Representative Mark Gardner (D-Hillsboro) said the accused should have advice of counsel before incriminating himself.

By the time the vote came this week, the sub-committee had changed its mind — the major concern was that of money.

Concerned about the cost of providing attorneys for the indigent, Representative Norm Smith (R-Tigard) said in most cases the grand jury hearing is "a perfunctory way of issuing an indictment." He thought an attorney should only be allowed for witnesses who are accused of a crime. He wondered if witnesses are aware that they don't have to testify, but that once they begin they must continue? He

thought many witnesses might not know they were incriminating themselves.

Representative Mason said the grand jury has a force of compulsion — it can force people to appear to testify. He thought that since a witness is forced to appear, he should have a right to have an attorney present.

Representative Mark Gardner was concerned about the District Attorney's use of the grand jury as an investigative tool. The DA can build a case by forcing people to testify and they do not know they can refuse.

Joyce Cohen (D-Lake Oswego) wondered if allowing an attorney in the room would prolong and complicate the procedure.

Ted Burgas (R-Astoria) who had earlier expressed his long-time concern over abuses of the grand jury by the prosecutor, said the committee should not expand a legal process that is already too long. He related that he had breakfast with Oregon Supreme Court Justice Herbert Schwab who had told him "we must beware of drowning ourselves in due process."

The sub-committee voted unanimously to pass the bill on to the full Judiciary Committee, removing the section allowing the assistance of an attorney and substituting, in concept, having someone tell the witness that he doesn't have to incriminate himself.

They decided that having a tape recording of the grand jury proceedings would be a small cost, so voted to require that a recording be made and be available to the defense attorney prior to the trial.

Melvin Lester, and Lena Robinson; St. Johns #1 — Rose Albert, Edward Bunch, and James Taylor; Linnton #1 — Mary Golden and Fred Chatfield; Linnton #2 — Darlene Monroe and Doug Polk; Northwest #1 — Clark Hayden and Mark Story; Northwest #2 — Frances Sheldon and Michael Stoops. In addition, Community Representative nominees are: #1 — Art Anderson and Bill Bartleson; #3 — Marilyn Endicott and Joe Satchell.

North Community Action Council, Inc. is a non-profit limited purpose agency providing services to low-income residents of North and Northwest Portland, under the auspices of the Community Services Administration.

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Q. Is it true that Weight Watchers' members are allowed to eat spaghetti?
(signed) HOPING.

A. Yes. (Within limits.)

Q. What's this I hear about your new exercise plan?
(signed) CURIOUS.

A. It's PEPSTEP.™ The new Personal Exercise Plan. It's terrific!

Q. One of the reasons I wanted to join Weight Watchers was the fact that you didn't make people exercise. Now you're starting exercise classes? Boo!
(signed) LAZY.

A. We're not starting exercise classes! PEPSTEP is an exciting new plan that is not done at the meetings. And it's optional. Skip it if you want to.

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The Authority

★ ★ ★

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Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

CARPENTERS HALL
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Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 9:30 a.m.

MARANATHA CHURCH
1222 N.E. Skidmore
Sat. 9:30 a.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Join before May 14 and weekly dues will be \$3.50* for as long as you maintain membership. New member and rejoin weekly rate — \$4.00 beginning May 14th. Registration fee unchanged at \$5.00.

* Offer good only in Franchise #083.

For information call COLLECT Portland (503) 297-1021,
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North Portland holds community election

North Community Action Council will hold its community election for its Board of Directors on April 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Balloting will be conducted in the North Branch AFS (Welfare) Office, the West Portland AFS (Welfare) Office, Pay'N Takit on North Chautauqua, Linnton Feed and Seed, and the NCAC Office. In addition, voting will take place during the

regular luncheons sponsored by Loaves and Fishes. Residents of North and Northwest Portland are encouraged to vote in their neighborhood polling places.

Board member nominees for representatives of the poor are as follows: Kenton #1 — Betty Guynn and Jim Michels; Overlook #1 — Deborah Bagley and Patsy Fox; Portsmouth #1 — George Peterson,

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• Oak Grove

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