

# SHOPLIFTING IS STEALING. . .

# NEW PENALTIES FOR SHOPLIFTERS

Oregon Law provides a civil penalty of at least \$100 plus criminal prosecution.

The 1979 Oregon Legislature enacted a new civil procedure and penalties statute which enables retail merchants to recover monetary penalties from shoplifters and parents of minor shoplifters.

The law allows the merchant to recover:

1. Actual Damages. In the amount of the retail value of the stolen items if they are not recovered. In the amount of damages to the items if recovered.

2. A Penalty. In the amount of the retail value of

the stolen merchandise, whether or not recovered, up to a maximum of \$500 (\$250 for parents).

3. An Additional Penalty. In the amount of not less than \$100 nor more than \$250.

This law became effective Oct. 3, 1979. It does not replace the criminal statute which designates most shoplifting as class-A misdemeanors, punishable by fines of up to \$1,000 and imprisonment for not longer than one year.

Shoplifters now risk both civil and criminal action. Both laws are now in force in Oregon.

Shoplifting is an \$80 million-a-year crime in Oregon and shoplifters cause prices to go up by stealing items that eventually are paid for by the customers.

COURTESY OF

*Portland Police Bureau Crime Prevention Division*

B. R. Baker  
Chief of Police

Charles Jordan  
Commissioner of  
Public Safety

*Albina Ministerial Alliance*

*The Portland Observer*