

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

King Neighborhood Facility