



From the Capitol

Congressman Ron Wyden

(Editor's Note: • This Congressman Wyden discusses his support for legislation to prevent economic discrimination against women and for the House Budget Committee's alternative energy budget.)

Q. Congressman Wyden, this week you agreed to co-sponsor a tax reform bill designed to improve the economic rights of women. Can you explain exactly how this bill will benefit women - and our economy as a whole?

A. Women in this country have long been discriminated against in public and private pension laws, in tax policy and in insurance and government regulation. The result has been women who cannot go to work because they can't get decent or affordable child care; widows who are left with no source of income because their husbands have written them out of their pension plans; women who are left with little to support them in their old age

because, as homemakers, they are ineligible for retirement benefits in their own right.

The beauty of the Women's Economic Equity Act is that in removing many of these discriminatory laws, it allows women to help themselves - and become productive members of the workforce. Among the many provisions of the proposed bill is one that would give tax credits to employers who hire women entering the workforce after divorce or the death of a spouse. There are also provisions which allow employers to provide child care as a tax-free fringe benefit similar to health insurance, permit homemakers to establish Individual Retirement Accounts in their own names even if they don't have their own income, and require a husband to have the written consent of his wife before he can exclude her from his pension plan.

The equity act is by no means the complete answer to all the economic problems of women. But it is a step in the right direction - and one that is particularly attractive at a time such as this when we must halt runaway federal spending if we hope to get our economy back on track. While the government may lose some tax revenue, nothing in the bill would require additional government spending or new government regulations. In fact, as more and more women enter or return to the workforce as a result of provisions of the bill, they will pay more into the Treasury in the form of taxes - as well as increasing the overall productivity, and thus, economic health, of this country.

Q. Congressman Wyden, you also came out this week in support of the House Budget Committee's recommended energy budget. Why do you feel this budget is preferable to the one proposed by the Administration?

A. Because it is more in line with the present and future energy needs of Oregon and America. I am very pleased that the committee was able to cut the recommended energy budget outlay by \$2 million more than the Administration requested. But I am especially pleased that the committee recommended channeling our energy money into energy conservation and renewable resources, such as the low-income weatherization program and the federal solar bank. I firmly believe that that's how we should be spending our energy dollars if we ever hope to free ourselves from the grip of the OPEC cartel. It is important that we support energy programs that are essential to a safe and low-cost energy future for Oregon and the rest of the America - and not waste hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars to help pay for the cleanup of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

Angela Davis associates racism, capitalism

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Angela Davis, former Black Panther Party member, FBI fugitive, and still powerful spokesperson for the rights of Blacks, came to Willamette University representing the "National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression" where she spoke out against racism, the KKK, and other paramilitary organizations out to destroy people of color.

"People in America are under the illusion that we are progressing smoothly in this country," she said, "But I was reading a few weeks ago that a young Black man (Michael Donald) was found hanging from a tree in the state I grew up in. We tend to associate lynching with a bygone era. That doesn't sound like progress to me.

"It sounds like historical regression to me and I'm afraid of what I see. There are brutal killings down in the supposedly land of Dixie...Atlanta, 23 Black kids have been killed and they have not found any clues. What do you think would happen if they started killing white kids? Those kids live in an area where there are paramilitary camps, where KKK recruits policemen, and where boy scouts are being trained

kill Blacks.

"In California, there was a KKK rally approved by the City Council, and then in Salt Lake City, Utah, two Black joggers were killed because they were in the company of a white woman. Does that sound like progress to you?"

Davis, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and instructor at San Francisco in the Political Science Department, feels that the only way to eliminate racism in America is to get rid of the capitalist system.

"There's no way you can eliminate racism under a capitalist system because it's based on profit and not human needs. Just because we don't have a socialist party running the country now, doesn't mean we have to wait to stop it. We are living in an era that's in the stage of transition and it's about to move to the next stage which is socialism," she said.

"The capitalist system uses racism as a tool to make us (people of color and working whites) fight each other and while we are fighting each other, we are unaware of who the real enemy is and who we should be fighting."

Davis continued after a standing ovation. "The capitalists had to

make poor white people feel that they had more in common with their system than Blacks. So, they created a racial tension that serves as a means to altering unity among white workers and Blacks. The old southern farmer of slavery was afraid that he was going to lose his profits so he created the fad of racism. White people were tricked."

It is of the opinion of Ms. Davis that Black people are not to be considered racist because it is not just a matter of hatred.

"The fundamental problem is that you can't call a Black racist because racism is a tool that can systematically destroy, or eliminate a race of people. When a Black says that he is tired of white people, that's all he or she can really say. When white people say that they are tired of Blacks, they go out and do something systematically," she said.

"But people are fighting back," she continued. "Blacks have always fought back. I even think that there are some well meaning whites who are fighting too. It's essential for whites who consider themselves progressive to start fighting racism publicly. Historically, there have always been white people helping out Blacks but this country has sup-

pressed it for years. They don't want the public to know. They would rather create tension. If there's no help from the white worker, we can hang it up."

Davis believes that the only way to effectively enlighten people to what is happening in the world around them is to pound the pavement.

"We must get back to the streets and let the system know what we want and deserve," she said. "The people without power must join hands, organize, and let the collective voices be heard. We have got to struggle for it. Don't let them convince you that you're powerless; if you do, you've lost the battle. You must remember that gains can be won. Those bus boycotts of the 1960s were successful because people organized, knocked on doors, protested, and got around to let people know what is going on in the community."

Davis urged all people in the State of Oregon to write the Governor in support of the "Racial Harassment Bill."

"You've got to make him travel up and down the State in support of that bill. You've got to keep the pressure on him to get the bill passed," she concluded.

DOT voids affirmation action goals

The U.S. Department of Transportation has become the first major agency to attack and rewrite an important federal regulation instituted to promote minority business.

At issue are the mandatory subsections of the agency's minority business enterprise (MBE) rule instituted April 31, 1980 to measure compliance with its federal contract goals. In its place, the agency has proposed a vague and easily avoidable "good faith effort" standard.

Under the proposed interim rule, the DOT said, "the basic judgement would have to be made in evaluating the adequacy of a contractor's efforts is whether they really represent a good, hard effort to meet MBE goals."

The agency is also bracing for a comprehensive review of its entire MBE policy to determine if it meets the White House's conservative regulatory view and objectives.

The Reagan Administration has also targeted for review and possible

change the federal government's equal employment opportunity policy, the basis of Affirmative Action programs.

Explaining in a notice published March 12 in the *Federal Register* why the minority business assistance rule landed on top of its "hit" list, the DOT said it was one of the "costly or controversial" regulations.

However, the agency did not say how it concluded it was not cost-effective. Further, the fact that the rule was beneficial to minorities and women did not seem to have been a factor in its decision.

The DOT turnabout was also in response to legal and other pressures from the Association of General Contractors, state highway departments and other opponents of the rule. The agency said there are seventeen lawsuits filed in various federal courts challenging the MBE rule. The existing rules "have been criticized as establishing an illegal quota system, conflicting with the principle of awarding contracts to

the lowest bidder," it said.

Justifying this unusual shortening of the comment closing date, the DOT said a longer comment period would likely postpone procurement actions.

If the proposed interim rule is implemented it would have a damaging effect on existing and prospective participants in the DOT MBE program, the minority trade association said.

The rule applies to all federally funded projects that come under Department of Transportation jurisdiction: highways, railroads, airports, seaports, etc.

Also bearing an adverse affect on minority business are the Reagan budget cuts:

- The Labor Department's Office of Contract Compliance is to lose 20 percent of its capacity to review contractor complaints.
- EEOC's staff will be cut by 10 percent this year, with more cuts to follow. Employee complaints will

not be handled by EEOC but by the agencies that employ them.

- The Office Civil Rights in Health and Human Services, which enforces civil rights in colleges, schools and health facilities receiving federal funds, will have a 10 percent reduction.
- Small Business Administration loans will be reduced and interest raised.
- HUD's Indian Housing program will be terminated.
- Rehabilitation of public housing units will be drastically reduced.
- The HUD rehabilitation loan fund will be terminated.
- The Economic Development Administration will be eliminated.
- Subsidized mortgage financing (Section 8) for low-income housing will be eliminated.
- Number of subsidized housing units to be built will be reduced.
- HUD planning assistance and neighborhood self-help development programs will be eliminated.
- Physical disaster loans (home and business) will be reduced.

PCC teaches job search technique

An employment specialist will teach "how to be one of the creative minority of 20 percent of the population who finds and gets 80 percent of the good jobs" in a Portland Community College jobs search workshop Wednesday, April 22, from 7-9:30 p.m., at Grant High School. Cost is \$3.

Dave Anderson, a vocational rehabilitation counselor for Cascade Rehabilitation Counseling, 2130 S.W. 5th Avenue, will teach the workshop which covers finding job strengths and then moving into a creative job search.

"This class is not a catalog of jobs available, but a workshop in

how to go about finding the job of your choice," Anderson said.

If a person wants to find jobs which are not advertised as open, Anderson suggests the individual learn "how to circumvent the usual methods of job search -- mailing out the old resumes and reading the newspaper ads."

Anderson said he suggests a three step approach of deciding what it is a person wants to do, where they want to do it, and then going to the person who makes the decision about jobs and bringing their plan to them.

"In the workshop I'll cover ways to get your foot in the door of

businesses," Anderson said. He also will ask participants to do a quick autobiographical sketch and to work on a personal interest inventory of self-exploration to see what they would most like to do...

Anderson said the job market for college graduates now is good in engineering, management, accounting and data processing fields. For non-graduates, Anderson said jobs opening in electronics, mechanical repair work and mechanical maintenance are good.

For reservations or information call the PCC Stadium Center community services office.

PLASTERING
Erickson's Plastering
Specialties. Plastering of
all kinds.
284-8463

Interested in current books
about Civil Rights? Visit:

JOHN REED BOOKSTORE
in the Dekum Building
519 S.W. 3rd Avenue
Sixth Floor

Or call: 227-2902

WEST COAST IS THE PLACE FOR CUSTOM FRAMING SINCE 1928

We have all the current trends in Interior Framing - Rick Oaks, Contemporary Metals, Oriental Patterns, Natural Woods, Gold Leaf Traditional. Our Expert Sales Consultants are available to assist you with all your framing requirements.

WEST COAST PICTURE CORP.
5805 N.E. Skidmore 282-7295 Hours: 8-5 Monday-Saturday
VISA MASTERCHARGE



NEW! THE 25 HOUR CONTACT LENS IS HERE

After years of waiting, the extended-wear contact lens is on the market. And we have it. In stock, ready for you.

Work, play, sleep. Do it all in the 25-Hour Lens.

At the Contact Lens Clinic of Portland our only business is contact lenses.

Contact Lens Clinic of Portland

Portland Medical Center
224-5367

Dr. James H. Vale, Optometrist
Visa and Mastercard Welcome

Dr. Philip Stockstad, Optometrist
Financing Available on Approved Credit

The Great Wall of China is the sole man-made structure that might be visible from the moon.

The largest crabs in the world live off the coast of Japan. They stand 3 feet high and often weigh as much as 30 lbs.

Pacific Power Citizen of the Week



One of the community's most highly respected ministers is Reverend Thomas L. Strayhand, pastor of Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Strayhand is a graduate of Paine College of Augusta, Georgia and Gammon Theological Seminary of Atlanta. He is also a retired military chaplain.

Rev. Strayhand's service to the church includes being Chairman of the Board of Finance, member of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of Missions, and Dean of Leadership Training for the Alaska Pacific Conference of CME. He is a member of the Board of Missions of the national body of the CME Church.

He is a member of the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Union Fellowship. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and is on the Search Committee to find a new executive director.

He is a member of the NAACP and the Urban League of Portland and is former Chairman of the Board of the AMA Family Day and Night Care Program.

Rev. Strayhand and his wife Sarah have two daughters, Debra and Mary.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Pacific Power