



## From the Capitol

Congressman Ron Wyden

(This week Congressman Wyden talks about the controversy over sale of infant formula to Third World countries and the upcoming debate over reauthorization of the Clean Air Act.)

**Q.** Congressman Wyden, this week you called for the administration to reverse its decision to oppose a code recommending restrictions on the marketing of breast feeding substitutes - particularly in third world countries. Why do you think this is important?

**A.** First let me say that despite urging of myself and other concerned Americans, the U.S. did go ahead and vote against the code - the only nation to do so.

My feelings about that vote in retrospect are the same as before it was taken - I think it is atrocious that America would go on record in support of a product that has proven detrimental to the most innocent, vulnerable members of the human - underprivileged babies.

The issue is not whether breast milk substitutes have any value. Undeniably, they do. The issue is

that we have allowed these substitutes to be marketed in situations, particularly in Third World countries, where they are not helpful; indeed are harmful. Situations such as in Latin America and India, in which the result is increased disease; retarded growth; even death.

We cannot as a nation hope to solve all the problems of the world. We can, however, at least do our part by discouraging marketing of products which have proven harmful to human life.

**Q.** The Clean Air Act is up for reauthorization this year. What is the significance of this for Oregonians and other Americans?

**A.** The Clean Air Act is perhaps the most important piece of environmental legislation ever passed in the United States. The cleanliness of the air you breathe will in good part depend on what Congress decides during the reauthorization process.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Act,

I am the only member of the Oregon delegation in a position to play a major role in the reauthorization debate - and I intend to do so.

It would take pages to explain all of the many important issues that will be debated during consideration of the Act. Two of the issues I am most concerned with, however, are maintaining the current air quality standards while at the same time giving states and our key industries more flexibility and freedom in meeting the objectives of the Act.

Reauthorization of the Clean Air Act will be a long and complicated process. But that does mean that citizens cannot join with experts to take part in that process. Oregon has long been a source of wise ideas and approaches. I see no reason why the Clean Air Act cannot benefit from some of that wisdom.



## Dick Bogle

Does this country care more about corporate profits than it does about healthy children in the developing nations?

Let's hope the United States' vote at the meeting of the World Health Organization in Geneva last week is not a true indicator.

The issue was an international code of ethics up for vote which would urge governments to do far more to protect and promote breast feeding and to take responsibility for distributing reliable information about breast milk substitutes.

The U.S. and two other nations were the only countries to vote against adoption of the proposed code. Immediately after the vote, representatives of the other two nations stated they had misunderstood the question and had they had complete understanding of what was at stake they would have voted exactly opposite.

A spokesman for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that a million infant deaths could be prevented each year if the international community would promote natural breast feeding.

Some in favor of the code say there is simply too much danger of women in developing countries being enticed by infant formula advertising to abandon breast feeding. This is dangerous, they say, because of the high cost of formula resulting in poor women diluting it to nutritionally dangerous levels or of powdered formula being mixed with polluted water.

They also see a danger in that some poor women may start off bottle feeding their infants and then when they discover they can no longer afford the formula, it's too late to switch back to breast feeding because their supply of nature's milk has dried up.

Infant formula companies say if codes like the one proposed at Geneva go through, it could encourage the possibility of other government restrictions on free enterprise.

Evidently the massive lobbying

effort by the infant formula companies of Congress and the Reagan Administration paid off. Former Senator Sam Ervin Jr. even testified in Congress that the code was a totalitarian document which could undermine the American constitutional values of free speech, free press and free competition.

The bottom line is that the code would urge governments to prohibit both the promotion of breast milk substitutes to the general public and the distribution of free formula samples to pregnant women.

However, the code does recognize the need for formula to be available in case a mother is unable to breast-feed.

The most cynical of the critics of the United States' position say that with the increase of breast feeding in the countries of the industrialized West, the formula companies are looking for new markets. And those markets in the developing countries are estimated to be \$1 billion. That's lucrative especially since the big majority of new babies will be born in those countries.

**Quick Note...**The best entertainment bargain for jazz lovers has to be at Geneva's on North Williams on Sundays.

The good news is altoist Lawson has returned and so has the jam session format. I was there last Sunday and heard George in front of a rhythm section of Howard Young on piano, Omar Yowman on bass and drummer Billy Joe Newman. Guests included Al Copeland on guitar, an unnamed pretty fair baritone player, vocalist Marian Mayfield, tenor men Vern Johnson and W.C. Cage, trumpeter Bobby Bradford and of all people, Sir Malcom Key on drums.

Malcom left Portland 16 years ago and now resides in New York. This was his first return to Portland and he is headed to Hawaii to play an engagement with the Ink Spots.

The music was superb, the crowd appreciative and responsive.

It's so good to hear a horn again in a club filled with congenial folks.

## Need telephone volunteers

The Portland Police Bureau's crime prevention division is looking for volunteers to staff its telephone reassurance service (TRS). TRS is a free community program designed to serve isolated elderly and handicapped persons. Trained volunteers make daily telephone calls to those living alone who may be suffering from a fear of crime or just plain loneliness. Many of the recipients have been recent victims of crime.

Volunteers will be trained in basic elderly crime prevention and will learn about the essential social service agencies for referral purposes. Each caller will be assigned from one to three people and will be re-

sponsible for making approximately 10-minute calls to each individual, five days a week, at a pre-arranged time.

In cases where someone fails to answer, a pre-appointed neighbor will be notified and asked to check out the situation. Where the neighbor cannot resolve the problem, a police officer will be dispatched to investigate.

Interested volunteers may contact James Nelson at 248-4126 or may drop by the Central Police Station at 222 S.W. Pine Street. The crime prevention offices are located on the fourth floor.

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