



From the Capitol

Congressman Ron Wyden

Q. This week trustees for the Social Security System said the system will go belly-up by the end of next year if we don't drastically cut benefits or hike taxes. Do you agree?

A. First, I think it is important to remember who -- and what -- we are really talking about here. Those Social Security beneficiaries everyone is talking about are not some unknown quantity -- they are our own mothers and fathers -- the ones who provided us with the prosperity we now enjoy.

There is no call to subject these people to a campaign of terror -- to frighten them by telling them they

will lose the benefits they depend on to meet their daily expenses. Rather, what we need is to sit down and come up with a well-reasoned approach that will guarantee a sounder economic future for the system -- and still give today's retirees their due.

The best available estimates indicate we need to come up with \$3 to \$5 billion in savings in the near future if we are to keep the Social Security system afloat. To achieve that goal, I would:

- Allow interfund borrowing between the Old Age and Survivor Fund, the Health Fund and the Disability Fund.

- Pick up part of the financing for Social Security with general fund dollars -- secured by making cuts in some of the sacred cows, such as tobacco subsidies and synthetic fuels.

- Lift the outside earnings limitation that prevents retirees from earning more than \$5,500 in outside income each year without having their benefits reduced.

- Consolidate some of the social components of Social Security within other agencies. For example, educational benefits should be combined with other programs under the Department of Education -- thus eliminating extra costs and duplication of services.

No one can pretend to have the magic solution to all the ills of the Social Security system. But it is important that we all begin to pull together to solve its problems -- instead of allowing the stresses of hard economic times to pit us against each other.



Congressman Ron Wyden reads to children at "The Reading Tree," reading and tutorial program held each summer at Irving Park. The program en-

courages children to read through demonstrating the value and pleasure to be found in books. (Photo: Cleo Franklin)



From the Courthouse

By Donald E. Clark
Multnomah County Executive

After analyzing the results of Multnomah County's three-year, \$5.1 million serial levy election, it was very apparent that voters in the inner Northeast neighborhoods strongly supported both measures. I was very heartened by this positive response to the County and to the important services we provide in the community.

Voters overall supported part of the serial levy, providing some important revenues which will allow the County to maintain a number of basic services that were in jeopardy.

Measure 3, which will provide \$2.13 million was passed. Measure 4 of \$2.94 million however, was narrowly defeated.

Although passage of both measures was necessary to restore most of the program cuts in the 1981-82 budget, the passage of Measure 3 makes those reductions less severe, and provides for an important two years of fiscal stability. It does not however, make up for the loss of funds at the State and Federal levels for services that continue to be desperately needed.

In the North/Northeast areas of the County, passage of Measure 3 kept the Albina Branch and four other branches of the Multnomah County library from closing. In addition, services provided through the North/Northeast mental health clinic, the Albina Multiservice Center's family planning clinic, and County dental clinics such as the Buckman, will not have to shut their doors to a substantial number of community's residents.

Failure of Measure 4 however, will reduce services provided through Animal Control and Project Health, and make it

necessary for the Central Library to close all day each Monday.

The County's revenue shortfall forced the County to eliminate 237 positions for the 1981-82 fiscal year. One of my principal concerns was the impact those reductions would have on our employees -- especially minority employees. With that in mind, we created "Project Save" to control hiring until we could attempt to transfer existing employees, whose jobs were in jeopardy, into vacant positions maintained in the budget.

The jobs of 133 employees were endangered by the budget cuts, and they were actually given termination notices in mid-June. (The other positions cut were already vacant.) Of those 133 employees, 21 were minorities. I was extremely pleased that the considerable efforts of the Division of Employee Relations made it possible to save jobs for 20 of those minority employees. The one minority employee who left the County did so voluntarily to exercise other job options.

Thanks to your support, the County was able to minimize the impact that our fiscal problems presented to the well-being of our employees, as well as ensuring two years of programs and services to those who truly need it.

It is important to note, however, that the serial levy is only a temporary relief. The failure of Measure 4 and the continuing fiscal conditions which affect County government will require a long-term solution in the very near future.

I hope that we can continue to rely upon the support of many of you so that Multnomah County can provide a level of services that address the quality of life we want for our community.

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Life on the street

(Continued from Page 1 Col 5)
because when it's raining or snowing they're not out because you have no one to tell you when to get out. Women who have a man do not like women who don't have one. To them they're just taking up time. They are there for a minute so they're not dedicated to the life. I was out there for five years and made thousands, and gave it to the fool I was with. A pimp is somebody who is stuck on themselves. I doubt if they have any feelings for you, and if they do, they can't show it because they have to stay hard hearted."

In the street life the pimp is the most over-glamorized of all. There appears to be two kinds of pimps; the street pimp and the professional pimp. The street pimp deals mainly with petty hustling and does not depend on the exploitation of women to maintain his lifestyle. The professional pimp maintains his lifestyle entirely on the ability of his women. Despite the glamorous image the pimp conveys, his life is

far from being colorful. It's a constant struggle to outwit his women and keep one step ahead of the police. Their lives are erratic and their fortunes disappear as soon as they are made.

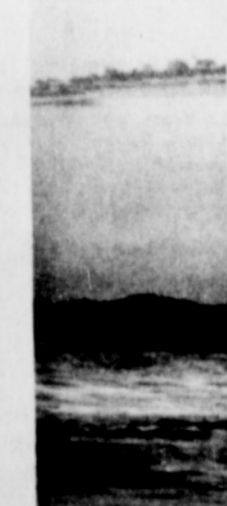
Another type of street lady that is seen often is the teen-prostitute. According to Janice Burrett, a Juvenile Court Counselor, some teenage prostitutes are turned on to the life because they're runaways. "They become involved after running away from home. They are out on the streets and they need some way to support themselves. Many go to a pimp because they're there. Half the girls who come are out there by themselves."

Whatever the glamour, whatever the glitter, most street ladies end up with no marketable training, and with counterfeit glory in their past and no foreseeable future.

(Editor's Note: Lanita Duke is News Director of Grassroot News N.W., a newservice reporting Black news of the Northwest)



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