



From the Capitol

Congressman Ron Wyden

Q. Congressman Wyden, of all the "social programs" affected by the budget cuts, health care programs seemed to fare the best. Does this mean that most of our health care programs are safe?

A. Unfortunately, it does not. First of all, although health care programs did come out ahead of many programs, they were still cut significantly.

Under the approved budget, health care programs were reduced a total of \$638 million, with Oregon alone losing more than \$4 million in Medicaid and an additional \$2 million plus in other public health service programs. Although many people have not begun to feel the pinch from those cuts yet, they will in October when the cuts go into effect.

In addition, it is very likely that health care programs are in for even more severe cuts further down the road. During the past few months, Congress has cut the budget, increased military spending, and cut taxes.

That means we're in for more

deficit spending. That also means that pretty soon, Congress is going to be looking for new places to cut. With only two major areas in which to do that—military spending and social programs such as health care—it's not hard to guess what will go first.

Q. This week you made a point of visiting industries in the Portland area to discuss jobs issues. Why?

A. Because I believe it's high time America adopted a National Jobs Policy that will get workers off the soup line and back onto the assembly line.

When I visited those plants, I told workers that they were the lucky ones—they have jobs. Unfortunately, nearly 10 percent of their fellow Oregonians are not so lucky—and their luck is not likely to change until we adopt a national jobs policy that will restore a healthy economy.

The jobs policy I envision would encourage Americans to work and to save, and reward them—instead of punishing them—when they do.

Specific components would in-

clude improved job training programs, better linking of jobs, transportation and related services, promotion of exports and adoption of a variety of measures designed to bolster small business.

It would also include adoption of incentives for savings and elimination of disincentives to work—such as the current limitation on outside earnings for Social Security recipients.

Q. President Reagan recently issued a set of general guidelines for reauthorization of the Clean Air Act. How do you feel about those guidelines?

A. Frankly, I'm concerned about what they mean for the health of Portlanders and other Oregonians—and for the health of our environment.

The gist of what these guidelines do is suggest a rollback of current

clean air standards. I believe such a move is uncalled for—and potentially dangerous.

Maintenance of our clean air laws are important if Oregonians are to continue to breathe the clean fresh air we all value so highly. Oregon, with its "can-do" spirit, has proven the Act can work. Given Oregonians' record of cooperating for the good of all, I'm convinced they will continue to make it work.

I'm not trying to say there is no room for improvement in the Act. There is a need for increased flexibility and other changes.

But I'm convinced that Oregonians support balanced clean air laws that protect both environmental and economic interests—not destruction of the Act.

I am committed to work for reauthorization of just such a balanced Act.

High schools register

Five Portland public high schools receiving students from now-closed Adams and Washington-Monroe have released a schedule of counseling and orientation activities:

Cleveland: New students will receive an orientation and register for classes at a special meeting, Sept. 8, 8:15 a.m. at the school.

Counselors will be available to meet with students beginning Aug. 10.

Franklin: Orientation for new sophomores, juniors and seniors will be Sept. 3, 10 a.m. to noon. Freshman orientation will be Aug. 31 at noon. Registration will be Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and 2. Counselors will be available to meet with the students beginning Aug. 17.

Grant: All new and returning Grant sophomores, juniors and seniors will select classes and teachers in an arena-scheduling session Sept. 8. All incoming freshmen will have their class schedules completed by then. Counselors will be available to meet with students beginning Aug. 13.

Jefferson: An orientation and

"cook out" for new students will be held Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Juniors and seniors will choose classes Aug. 13 from 1-3 p.m. and Aug. 14 from 6-8 p.m. Freshmen and sophomores will choose classes Aug. 17 from 1-3 p.m. Students unable to come to the Aug. 13 or 14 sessions may come on Aug. 17 from 6-8 p.m.

Seniors will register for school Aug. 28; juniors Aug. 27; sophomores Aug. 31, and freshmen Sept. 1. All sessions are from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Counselors will be available to meet with students beginning Aug. 13.

Madison: New sophomores, juniors and seniors will meet Aug. 20 at 9 a.m. for an orientation session. All freshmen will meet Sept. 3 from 9 a.m.-noon. At both sessions, counselors will meet with students to assist them in planning their classes. Counselors will be available to meet with students beginning Aug. 18.



An Open Letter

by Ronald R. Still
Chief of Police

I occasionally hear comments from citizens regarding a police officer's driving. They question why an officer will go through a red light, then slow down and go back to normal driving. Because they are police officers, their driving is observed with a critical eye and deserves some explanation.

The most common reason for a sudden change in driving is that the officers were enroute to a call and were informed by radio they were not needed or that they could slow down, but still continue to the call.

Oregon Law allows emergency vehicles responding to calls for help, to go through red lights as long as they can do so safely. The law also allows the officer to use his judgement in using the emergency lights and siren, if using this equipment will interfere with the potential arrest at a crime scene. This occurs frequently and unfortunately the officer does not have the opportunity to explain his actions.

Along this same topic area, don't forget that it is your responsibility as a driver to pull to the right and yield to emergency vehicles. It's frustrating to try to get somewhere in a hurry and weave through traffic at the same time. This also delays getting help to people as quickly as possible. Another tip that I would like to pass along deals with traffic stops. When you are stopped by an officer, please remain in the car and wait for the officer. Don't make sudden movements. Many officers have been injured in making traffic stops and so they are cautious in approaching cars. In the next article, I will take a closer look at what happens at a typical traffic stop.

If you have comment or questions regarding the Portland Police Bureau, send them to me through the Public Information Office, 222 SW Pine, Portland, Oregon, 97204. I will not be able to respond in my open letters to each and every concern, but will select those which will assist in improving communications and relations with the community.

After hours . . .

Part III

by Ron Sykes

According to David Simpson, public information officer for the Portland Police Bureau, the police are very aware of the existence of Afterhours houses. They are located in Northeast and Southeast communities, with the majority being in Northeast Portland. Simpson said that these places are allowed to operate because of the laws of search and seizure and the right to privacy. It is one thing to know that Afterhour activities are going on in a house; it is another to obtain the necessary evidence and witnesses to take it into court.

This is where community responsibility comes in. According to Simpson and Sergeant Bill Osborne, it is the community's responsibility and obligation to report such activities to the police. The community will complain about the prostitutes on Union Avenue and the drugs floating in the streets because they are visible to everyone. The activities that occur in an Afterhours are only visible to those who choose to frequent such places and therefore get very few complaints.

There have been complaints in the past from nightclub owners that illegal Afterhours are taking business from legitimate enterprises. But normally these clubs operate under a code of honor and do not open until legitimate clubs have closed.

The police officials reported that because many prominent citizens frequent the Afterhours spots and they appear to have community acceptance, they are low on the list of law enforcement priorities.

There has been a lot of reaction from certain facets of the Black community on the second in a series of articles on Afterhours. There have been those who have congratulated me for having the courage to put in print what is public knowledge. There have been those who have threatened my life and my property and have called me every filthy name there is. They have even physically attacked me. I have been accused of being a traitor to the Black community by presenting to the world things that heretofore had been unknown outside of the Black community.

It was not the intent of this series to attack—only to reveal things that are happening in the city. Afterhours have long been and forever will be a part of the Portland night scene. This series of articles will not cause Afterhours to go away. That is not the purpose. Nor is the purpose to disclose some deep, dark community secret. Nothing has been said that is not general knowledge to the people of the community and to the authorities.

Afterhours have existed since the 1940s and will continue to exist.

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