



From the Boardroom

by Gladys McCoy, County Commissioner

Should Rocky Butte Jail be fully maintained with expanded bed space or are alternatives to incarceration at the Butte sufficient?

Rocky Butte Jail should be fully maintained until the new Multnomah County Corrections facility is ready for use in November, 1983. Presently, Rocky Butte Jail is as full as a Federal mandate will allow as the result of a suit brought against the County for "inhumane standards." Already, our 1981 crime rate is up some 25 per cent; prostitutes are repeatedly arrested and return to the streets within hours because there is no room at the downtown jail. Public awareness of the lack of available bed space at Rocky Butte is an open invitation to crime; evidenced by increased arrests. The Corrections Division does not have the available bed space in the Rocky Butte Jail to handle its increased arrests, but will have space if permitted to expand.

To make room for unsentenced prisoners at Rocky Butte Jail, shifting to free up bed space is taking place on a cyclical basis. To make room at Rocky Butte Jail for pre-trial detainees, shifting of unsentenced, medium security prisoners to the Multnomah County Corrections Facility (MCCF), Troutdale, a minimum security facility, places

these unsentenced prisoners with sentenced work release prisoners and endangers the security at that facility. To make bed space available at MCCF, some of the medium security prisoners are shifted to the various work release centers in the County, such as the Burnside Project and the Oregon Halfway House where there is very little security. Some of these offenders commit more crimes, are re-arrested, and the shifting to make room starts again.

To stop or reduce the shifting within the Corrections system, Rocky Butte Jail should be fully maintained, requiring funds not presently available in the County budget. However, the request from the Federal Marshall to house an additional 17 Federal pre-trial detainees at the Butte, with funds provided, to increase the bed space, would allow the County the needed flexibility as well as the required beds for the Federal Marshall.

To increase the bed space, a dormitory, costing \$137,000, would be built in the basement of Rocky Butte Jail. It would house 17 additional Federal pre-trial detainees plus the unsentenced prisoner population held at MCCF. Rocky Butte presently houses 13 Federal pre-trial detainees. This Federal money is be-

ing offered in order for more of the Federal court pre-trial detainees to be held near the Portland Federal Courthouse, placing the Multnomah County Corrections Division in a position to immediately resolve its overcrowding problem in the County jail.

I maintain that the overcrowding could be resolved by spending \$137,000 in Federal funds to expand Rocky Butte. This would be an immediate and wise solution to our present growing need for more available bed space. It would help stabilize our increasing crime rate; provide some flexibility for the Courts and arresting authorities; and, provide space for Federal detainees.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners support the Federal Marshall's contract being signed, but the County Executive is reluctant to sign without the explicit authority to add bed space. There is a split on the Board regarding the increased beds. Some Commissioners believe all the problems can be handled by adding a work release center combined with a new time line initiated by the Courts to cut the number of days between arrest and conviction, an on-street supervision program, and, a recog program.

I am very concerned about the cost of public safety and I maintain that the cost to expand Rocky Butte Jail, in the short run, ensures greater benefits in the long run through improved public safety, rehabilitation of prisoners through work release center, reducing recidivism, and, a considerable cost reduction to Multnomah County. It would also help keep the jail populations within Court-mandated limits. MCCF would be relieved of its present security problems caused by sentenced work release prisoners and unsentenced prisoners being housed together.

Rocky Butte Jail is the only secure facility we have until our new Justice Center is completed some two years from now. Rocky Butte must be used until it is abandoned. Let us utilize Rocky Butte Jail fully to provide safety for our citizens. Is \$200,000 too much if it saves a life? Protects a senior citizen? Spares a rape victim? Or protects your property? Make no mistake, we must have secure jails. The Federal Marshall's grant will assist us to have both.

If you have a strong position on this issue, please let me hear from you by phone (248-5219), letter, or drop by.



From the Capitol

Congressman Ron Wyden

Q. Congress will reconvene next week after a long August recess. Now that the budget and tax cut battles have subsided, what do you expect to be the major topics of debate?

A. Social Security and military spending will probably be the two biggest agenda items. Other likely issues include reauthorization of the Clean Air Act and extension of the Voting Rights Act.

Social Security—Expect a very heated and long-winded debate. Almost everyone agrees that the system is in dire need of reform, but there is a great deal of dispute as to

how to go about achieving that end. Proposals range from those eliminating benefits for current recipients (such as the Administration's proposal to eliminate the minimum Social Security benefit) to those which look only at long-range changes. I will be working to ensure we adopt a reform package that provides the system with a sound economic base—but still allows working men and women and retirees time to prepare.

Military Spending—There are a lot of places to cut military spending without threatening the strong defense we need and I support. Too much money is wasted on overly ex-

pensive, inefficient weapons systems. The House will shortly take up the Armed Forces Pay Act of 1981 which puts more of the defense dollar where I believe it should be—into better pay and incentive packages for the men and women of the Armed Forces. Without a fighting force that is trim and properly motivated, all the technology and whiz-bang weaponry in the world will not provide us with the strong defense we truly need.

Clean Air Act—Proposals are being circulated to roll back our clean air standards—a move that could be disastrous for Oregonians and other Americans. Oregonians pride them-

selves on our clean, fresh air—and I don't believe they are about to give that up. Oregonians also understand that it is possible to strike a balance between economic and environmental concerns—that a clean environment does not mean a loss of economic opportunities. Although I would agree there is a need for increased flexibility in certain provisions of the Act, I believe that can be achieved without rolling back the standards.

Voting Rights Act—As I discussed in this column last week, the major civil rights issue before the Congress this fall will be the debate over whether to extend the Voting Rights Act. I have cosponsored legislation which would extend the Act for 10 years—a move I feel is important to ensure we maintain the gains we have made and move even further along toward political equality for all Americans.



An Open Letter

by Ronald R. Still
Chief of Police

Since becoming Chief of Police, I have had the opportunity to look at the wide variety of services that the Police Bureau provides to the citizens of Portland. We respond to many different needs throughout the community. I feel it will be beneficial to highlight two of these services.

The Community Affairs Crime Prevention Unit has a program called "free locks." This federally funded program provides many low income homeowners with security hardware at no cost. It's objective is to reduce the number of people who fall victim to burglaries. Since it's

inception in 1977, the six members assigned to this program have helped make over 3,000 homes more secure.

One of the good things about this program is that there is very little that the homeowner must do to obtain the service. A telephone call to the Crime Prevention Unit and signature is all that is needed. Someone will first check your home to see what is needed, then a two member crew will come to install the hardware. All this takes place over a very short time period.

This program is successful in reducing burglaries. It is not available

to everyone. To qualify you must be buying or owning your own home; earn under \$11,200 and live in the Housing Community Development area. The last qualification is difficult to define. Many neighborhoods in Portland are within these boundaries. My suggestion is that you call our Crime Prevention Unit to see if you qualify. Their phone number is 248-4126.

Even if you do not qualify for the "free locks" program, crime prevention personnel can come to your home and make recommendations for improving the security of your home. Recent indicators show that those homeowners that have security hardware installed, significantly reduce the chances of being burglarized.

I suggest that everyone should take part in this program. The reduction of crime in Portland is important to everyone.

If you have comments 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.

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

FROM THE BLACK PERSPECTIVE. Portland Community College, Cascade, is offering a special program of evening classes called: "... From the Black Perspective." Ten Black instructors from a variety of fields will be featured this Fall at six different Northeast and North locations. Registration is now open at Cascade. Fall classes begin Monday, Sept. 28. Call 283-2541, ext. 303 for more information.

HCD Advisory Committee, 7:30 pm, Wed., Sept. 16, Masonic Temple, 1119 SW Park.

Attica Day in Portland is held in conjunction with nationwide demonstrations commemorating the Attica uprising. Film, *Like A Rose* (an independently produced film about two women serving 25-year sentences in the Missouri State Penitentiary), will be followed by a panel discussion. 7pm, Sunday, Sept. 13, St. Andrews Church (NE 9th & Alberta).

NAACP, Portland Branch, general membership meeting, 4 pm, Sun., Sept. 20, at Bethel AME Church (5828 NE 8th).



Pacific Power

Citizen of the Week



Photo: Richard J. Brown

Gerry Abrams' primary concern is educational opportunity for young people: "Our children are our hope for tomorrow. The one most important thing I am working for is quality education for all children. I would like to see schools in our community that any parents would be proud to have their children attend."

Ms. Abram was born in Columbia, Mississippi and was raised in that state. She attended Jackson State University for two years, prior to moving to California. She came to Portland to visit, and here she remains. She earned a BS in Social Science with a certificate in Black Studies from Portland State University and plans to continue her education, studying counselling and African history.

Ms. Abrams is the mother of six children—three boys and three girls—ranging from 11 to 24 years.

She is currently spokesperson for the Jefferson High School Parent Advisory Council, Title I; is an alternate to the City of Portland's Housing and Urban Development Council; is a member of the NAACP and is active in the Black United Front. She is a member of Allen Temple CME Church.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Pacific Power

Fred Meyer
Shopping Centers

Super Shopping Centers Help Lower Your Cost of Living . . .

Your nearby Fred Meyer Super Shopping Center is filled with "People-Pleasing" services to make your shopping more pleasant. Wide, spacious aisles, friendly helpful clerks and undercover parcel loading are just some of the "People-Pleasing" services to you. Plus everyday low prices on thousands of items you use and need everyday help lower your cost of living.

Because we're open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, including Sunday, you can shop when you WANT to, not when you HAVE to. Come in anytime and "funshop" in a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere.

- **Walnut Park** N.E. Killingsworth at Union
- **Interstate** N. Lombard at Interstate
- **Peninsula** 6850 N. Lombard

Plenty of Free and Easy Parking

Open 9 am to 10 pm daily, including Sunday.

SOLE DESIGN OF PORTLAND
5600 NE Union
Portland, OR.
Tel. 287-0693

BACK TO SCHOOL SHOE SALE
*SAVE UP TO \$ 15.00/PAIR

ADIDAS TOP TEN HI TOP
* BEST IN ITS CLASS
REG. 45.95 SALE 55.95
SAVE \$ 10.00

PUMA HI TOP
ALL LEATHER
REG. 59.95 SALE 39.95
SAVE \$ 15.00

CONVERSE LEATHER
HI-TOP THE DR.
REG. 42.95 SALE 32.95
SAVE \$ 10.00

CONVERSE LEATHER
LO-TOP
REG. 39.95 SALE 30.95
SAVE \$ 9.00

FREE POSTER FOR EACH PAIR OF SHOES PURCHASED