



## Racism by any other name

by Rep. Ron Wyden

Since news leaked out weeks ago that the Treasury Department had decided to allow tax-exempt status to schools guilty of blatant racial discrimination, the Reagan Administration has taken a lot of heat for being "racist." Administration officials say the criticism is unjustified. But the record shows otherwise.

In the year since assuming office, the Administration has:

- Actively opposed continuation of affirmative action programs;
- Refused to endorse a strengthened Voting Rights Act;
- Effectively liquidated the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The caper was the move to allow tax-exempt status to avowedly racist schools.

Faced with an uproar from civil rights activists and many other Americans, the Administration purported it only meant to see that the decision-making power was placed in the hands of Congress—not the IRS. And they have submitted a bill to Congress which alleges to take care of the matter.

In reality, the bill may create more havoc than it resolves. Because it is based on the assumption that the IRS never had the authority to deny tax-exempt status to racist schools, it may actually allow schools previously denied such status to sue the government for recovery of taxes.

In other words, this bill could result in a windfall to racist schools previously denied tax-exempt status. The very thought is outrageous.

A better approach—and one which I endorse—is to simply recog-

nize the validity of the IRS ruling, and allow it to continue as before. I have co-signed a Sense-of-the-House resolution which would do just that.

But we must not stop here. Whether Administration officials care to admit it or not, they have embarked on a dangerously racist and bigoted course.

Civil rights activists have fought long and hard to try to wipe out racial injustice in this country. We cannot sit idly by while this Administration undoes all that has been accomplished—and returns us to an era that was nothing short of a national disgrace.

**Q. What is your general assessment of the President's State of the Union Address Tuesday night?**

**A.** I was more struck by what he didn't say, than what he did say. Oregonians and most other Americans were waiting to hear what the President planned to do to reduce soaring interest rates and put Americans back to work. Unfortunately, the President didn't really have anything to say about these issues. Instead, he seemed to expect us to take comfort in his announcement that the federal deficit is not expected to exceed \$100 billion during fiscal 1982—and the fact that he has a plan to shift responsibility for most social programs from the federal government to the states.

**Q. You mentioned the President's plan to have the states pick up responsibility for social programs. Is this really a workable idea—and if it is, what will it mean for the states, and for the people who've come to**

**depend on these programs?**

**A.** Although I have long advocated allowing the states more control over their own affairs, I must admit I have some real concerns about this particular proposal.

For one, although the President claimed these programs would be accompanied with the money to pay for them, that is not necessarily true. Administration officials have since admitted that the trust fund turned back to the states along with the programs may actually be several billion dollars short of the amount needed to sustain the programs at their current levels. Since states such as Oregon are in no position to shoulder additional financial burdens, the clear losers in all this will be the people who depend on those programs for the necessities of life.

I am also concerned that the President's proposal does not call for economies in some of the areas in which cuts would be most appropriate—such as wasteful defense expenditures and other sacred cow programs.

I said at the outset I support the ideal behind the New Federalism. But the type of New Federalism I support is one which promotes a true partnership between local governments, the states and the federal government—a partnership built on trust and mutual reliability—a partnership which promotes government efficiency and common sense. The President's New Federalism—which would hand the states increased responsibilities, but without adequate money to pay for them—is no partnership at all.

## Street Beat

Our Street Beat question is, 'How would you appraise the performance of Gov. Victor Atiyeh?'



**Omega Beasley, unemployed—**"He's not doing a good job. People all around are out of work. People need things and he is not proving himself to us. He's not doing anything to please poor people. It's the rich who are getting all the benefits."



**Nancy Cook, food stamp worker—**"I'm not real happy with Atiyeh. I'm a state employee and I may lose my job. A lot of people I know have lost their jobs. It is really hard to function in the state office."

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown



**Jackie Fix, waitress—**"I don't think the man is doing all that much. When his budget was passed it was kind of hush-hush. I think he had better put people to work instead of making cuts."



**Carl Lidel, security chief—**"I've heard about what he's doing. I don't see the governor in touch with the economy of the state. He sounds a lot like Reagan. There are cuts but nothing to replace it with. It's a complete disregard for the people."

**Andy Brown, teacher—**"I would appraise him like I would Reagan. Everything he does points away from people with no money towards those who have money."



**Lila Leppart, retired—**"I would hate to see a surtax or a sales tax. I just hope he manages the budget a little better."



**Kermit Brooks—**"What I've been hearing doesn't sound like he has been taking care of business. He's making it rough. Reagan is making it tough and they both seem to be in the same corner."



## From the Boardroom

by Gladys McCoy, County Commissioner

**PORTLAND, OR—** I am pleased to provide you with an update on Project Health. I know that a number of you are familiar with Project Health on a first-hand basis and would be interested in knowing how it is progressing. Others who have not enrolled in one of the available health plans may find this to be helpful information for meeting ongoing health care needs.

Project Health was designed to make available a single standard of health care for the citizens of Multnomah County. It has provided health care services for low income Multnomah County residents since 1973. Clients are allowed to choose from among several health plans which provide a comprehensive benefit package for the whole family. The amount you pay as a member is based on your individual income, family size, and the plan you select. The average monthly enrollment fee has, historically, averaged about six dollars. Clients receive an identification card from their selected health plan which is presented at the doctor's office or hospital to obtain services. Cur-

rently, four health plans are participating in Project Health: Kaiser-Permanente, Providence Family Health Center, Oregon Health Sciences University Family Practices Clinic, and the Multnomah Preference Plan through the Providence Medical Center.

Project Health is seeking additional grant funds from the Federal government to facilitate the research of a new approach to health care delivery, a program called MULTICARE. This program was initiated by the County a few months ago to assist in the control of health care costs. MULTICARE uses County-employed doctors and nurses in the role of "family physician." The client selects a physician to be responsible for his/her medical needs. Should the physician find a health problem that requires special attention or hospitalization, he/she refers the patient to a specialist or hospital in the community for further care. The intent of this approach deletes the use of more expensive levels of medical care except when such care is deemed necessary, while assuring the patient receives

whatever medical treatment he/she needs.

All new enrollees of Project Health spend a brief period of time in the MULTICARE program prior to entering the health plan of their choice. The concept of the MULTICARE program is to continue providing a full range of quality medical services for individuals in our community, without adding to the spiraling costs of health care for everyone.

The big question now is how Project Health and other human service programs will fare with the current budget planning process. During this period of economic crisis, there is an increasing need for health and social services in the community, and a shrinking supply of government funds to assist in their provision. We continue to seek ways to make the best possible use of scarce dollars in all our programs and to locate sources of money to bolster the funds available in the County.

Should you need additional information, please call my office, 248-5219, or Project Health at 248-3056.

## Police brutality

(Continued from page 2 column 6) mentioned.

Bambi Harper and her 11-year-old son were stopped for a shoplifting charge at NE 11th and Alberta. She was arrested and both she and her son handcuffed. She was transported to Pamir's clothing store at 121 SW Salmon where she allegedly had stolen some goods.

Ms. Harper denied any wrongdoing. The police searched her car to locate stolen property. None was found. Harper was released.

The Portland Police report said that no stolen property was found in the suspect's car.

Why are so many people complaining of police harassment? What is being done about it? Next week: the *Portland Observer* interviews Portland Police Chief Ron Still.

"There is nothing makes a man suspect more than to know little." Francis Bacon

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