



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

Election night remarks

It's good to be here to celebrate with so many friends and supporters. But as we celebrate, let's remember that for many Oregonians, particularly those who are out of work or struggling to get by on small fixed incomes, tonight has a bittersweet taste.

So before we go any further, I'd like to make what might seem like an unusual election night request. I'd like to ask each of you, sometime during the next few days, to go into your neighborhood or down the street and offer a helping hand to a neighbor or friend who has felt the ravages of tough economic times.

I'm making this unusual request tonight not because I believe voluntarism has replaced a federal responsibility for social needs, but because I think this community, this state and this country need to create a new spirit of togetherness to tackle the tough problems that lie ahead.

A new spirit of togetherness can bring labor and management together to concentrate on ways to increase productivity and protect jobs.

It can bring consumers, health care providers and the government together to change a health care system that rewards inefficiency and penalizes providers who try to cut

costs.

It can help us preserve the clean air and clean water that have made this country "America the Beautiful," yet still attract new industry and new jobs.

For Oregon, this new spirit of togetherness means the opportunity to create a whole new generation of jobs—in trade, shipping and exports—in housing and in high technology industries as we build a new partnership.

We've already seen the fruits of what meaningful cooperation can mean here in the Third Congressional District.

Just a few days ago, we put on line a local development corporation that will open up millions of dollars worth of business opportunities for local businesses. And we can do more. A new spirit of togetherness, could, in my opinion, bring thousands of jobs to Oregon in areas such as Rivergate and serve as an example for areas all over the country.

The greatest need for this new spirit of togetherness, however, is at the federal level where we must persuade the national government to get its priorities straight—and instill the dose of fairness that has been missing the past two years.

We need this spirit of togetherness, for example, to make sure that never again does our national government use our jobs as the weapon to combat inflation.

We need it to force defense contractors to be as accountable for government money as the director of a senior citizen center.

We need it to preserve the dream of millions of youngsters for a college education.

And we need it to take the tobacco industry off the free lunch program that's subsidized by working and retired Americans.

I think we can change the way we allocate our resources in this country, but only if we join hands in a new spirit of togetherness. Over the last few months, we've seen a bitter, divisive campaign. I say it's time to put an end to divisiveness—time to replace the spirit of meanness with the spirit of togetherness.

Tonight we've elected a new Congress and with it a new hope for prosperity and peace.

With your help, we can make certain our children and grandchildren will enjoy the fruits of jobs and justice.

With a new spirit of togetherness we can make the difference.

Let's start tonight.

Educators charge school facts twisted

Three education leaders claimed last week that statements concerning education, made in public or in campaign literature by proponents of Ballot Measure 3, are either totally false or misleading and not based on facts.

The leaders, Dr James Ulum, president of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, Ted Romoser, president of the Oregon Education Association, and Wayne Chambers, president of the Oregon School Boards Association, dis-

puted the claim, made to a Lake Oswego audience, that the School District there had added 40 new teachers in the past year. The fact was, claimed the educators, that no new teaching positions were created; all "new" teachers replaced resigning or retiring teachers. Furthermore, the district had actually reduced its total staff by ten positions.

The educators also disputed the campaign's frequently-cited figure that only 53 percent of all people employed by Oregon schools are

teachers, the implication being that the rest are administrators. Administrators, say the educators, make up only 7 percent of Oregon's public school staff. The bulk of the staff, including counselors, librarians, aides, school bus drivers and cafeteria workers, work with students.

Further, Measure 3 backers, said the educators, consistently report that test scores are down, when in fact the State Department of Education reports they are up.



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Socialists win Spain elections

Spain dropped the last vestiges of fascism last week, electing the Socialist Workers Party. This could be the final act of the Spanish Civil War which has served as an inspiration to those seeking liberty, especially in the Third World. The victory also threatens U.S. military presence in Spain and Spain's participation in NATO. For that reason, U.S. reaction will be watched closely.

The Spanish Socialist Workers Party was founded in 1879. After the proclamation of the Second Republic in 1931, the party emerged as the voice of the working class in a sharply divided country. Many of the leaders were imprisoned following an uprising in 1934, but the party was the largest in the Popular Front which won the 1936 election. The party's aging leader, Francisco Largo Cabellero, who called himself the "Spanish Lenin," was elected Prime Minister. The civil war broke out that summer.

The civil war—which was viewed as a struggle between progressive forces and Nazi-backed fascists—drew many volunteers and much public support from the United States. Many blacks joined the international Lincoln Brigade and the front lines were visited by black intellectuals including Paul Robeson

and Langston Hughes.

The civil war ended in 1939 with the victory of Francisco Franco's armies and Franco's 40-year rule began. Many Socialists fled into exile; others were imprisoned or executed.

A parallel effect of the loss to Franco was the influence of the many Spanish writers and artists in exile on the people of Cuba, Puerto Rico and other Latin American nations.

Franco died in 1975 and King Juan Carlos began a liberalization of political life. In 1977 the Socialist Workers Party came in second in the parliamentary elections, losing to the newly organized, centrist Union of the Democratic Center. The Democratic Center drew many of its leaders for the Francoists, and the SWP continued to call for a decisive break with the old order. The third party—which also gained in the election—is the far right Popular Alliance which has the support of the army and the industrial banking oligarchy.

Credit for the SWP victory is given party leader Felipe Gonzalez, 40, who will become Prime Minister. Born after the Civil War, Gonzalez took the party leadership in 1974 when it was still outlawed by Franco. He is an important figure in the Socialist International. He has pledged to eliminate that great disparity between Spain's rich and the poor.

The United States offered subdued congratulations to the new government but there is concern over the future of U.S. bases in Spain. State Department officials predicted "long, hard bargaining." During the election campaign Gonzalez pledged to reconsider membership in NATO, perhaps following the example of France which is a member but does not take part in military planning or exercises.

Gonzalez also promised to renegotiate the 5-year agreement with the U.S. which allows bases for jet fighters and aerial tankers, a navy base, and involves 8,500 men.

The U.S., which supported the Franco regime, acquired the bases in the 1950s when they were used for the defense of Europe. Recently they have become a vital part of the Rapid Deployment Force for the Middle East.

The U.S. Defense Department

has already begun efforts to obtain new bases in Portugal, and to renew its lease in the Azores, off Portugal's coast, and has obtained access rights to airfields in Morocco, across the Mediterranean from Spain.

The U.S.' next problem with the new Spanish government could be its demand for the return of Gibraltar by Great Britain—a cause that could again place the U.S. squarely in the middle of a conflict between two vital allies.



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