



# Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

**Q. Finding top quality—yet affordable—child care services is a critical issue for single parent households, as well as those where both parents work. Are there efforts underway to help those looking for child care services?**

**A.** Yes, there are—in the Congress and in the Portland area.

The need for adequate child care services speaks for itself. According to the Department of Labor, during 1982, 55 percent of all children under age 18 had working mothers. For pre-school children, that percentage totalled 46 percent; for children between 6 and 17, 59 percent. In all, some 8.5 million mothers were in the labor force in 1982, up from 5.6 million in 1970.

In the Portland area, 4-C, the only areawide child care referral information service, has been working hand-in-hand with local child care providers, consumers and employers over the past 10 years to help provide those services. Yet despite those efforts, all the information necessary to figure out who needs services, where they need them, and what they can afford to pay for them is still not available.

Earlier this year, 4-C worked with Portland State University to obtain a \$200,000 federal grant to conduct a study assessing how child care affects the workplace, as well as what the child care needs are in the Portland area.

Unfortunately, however, the grant alone will not be enough. 4-C does not have the final link needed to allow it to properly analyze and use the data it gathers. That missing link—as the Portland City Club acknowledges in a recently compiled report—is a computer system.

Last week I kicked off a drive to

help 4-C raise the \$15,000-\$20,000 it needs to purchase that computer system. I talked to private sources about raising the money—and last week I was able to present 4-C with the first \$4,000 toward that goal, which was donated by two local companies.

And for once, Congress is not behind the game. Efforts are underway at the federal level to expand this concept.

I am the cosponsor of a bill, the Child Care Information and Referral Services Act, which sets up an \$8 million federal grant program to fund new or improve existing child care information and referral clearinghouses.

The clearinghouses will work with families and providers to make the most efficient use of available resources by matching families' needs with providers' supplies. In other words, this bill will extend what 4-C is trying to do in Portland to the national level.

Because this legislation—and the 4-C project—will help working parents meet their child care needs, it will add up for Oregon and America. It will help increase productivity, because Oregonians will be better able to identify child care services that meet their unique needs. And by increasing productivity, it will help get Oregon and America back on the mend.

**Q. What is Congress doing to address the energy assistance needs of low-income citizens?**

**A.** Congress needs to come up with an insurance policy against bad weather and bad times for millions of needy Oregonians and other Americans.

That's why I joined Congressman Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.) last week in introducing a bill to provide \$3

billion in low-income energy assistance during fiscal year 1984.

The bill would increase funding for the energy program by more than \$1 billion over 1983, and by nearly \$2 billion over what the Reagan Administration has requested for 1984. Oregon would receive between \$35-\$40 million of the money, up from \$24 million in fiscal year 1983.

This is the kind of program the Administration claims to support—a program that provides the neediest Americans with one of the basic necessities of life. And yet by its actions, the Administration has left millions of these vulnerable people out in the cold.

Statistics compiled by the Health and Human Services Department, indicate that only 7 million of an estimated 21 million eligible households are presently receiving assistance. And when one considers that the poor expend at least 35 percent of their income directly on energy, it becomes evident that there are a lot of people out there with little or no way to provide for other necessities.

The increased funding level is particularly important for Oregon, which is one of only four states to have committed all the available energy assistance funding by March 1. The state had anticipated the funds would hold out for an additional two months.

Oregonians have suffered more than most under the current, inadequately funded, energy assistance program. During Fiscal Year 1983, the state was able to pay only \$191 per family on average, compared to \$200 nationally. Now the state has completely obligated its funds, and I want to make sure we don't face a similar situation next year. I think our bill will do the trick.

# Governor boycotts AFL-CIO

by Rich Lochner

Governor Victor Atiyeh will not be getting his labor advice from the state AFL-CIO. The governor has just set up a Labor Advisory Council, which includes the building trades, the Teamsters, and the Longshore Union.

Atiyeh refuses to see the state AFL-CIO and more liberal union leaders because of their strong backing for his opponent, Ted Kulongoski, in last November's elections. The governor called his decision "a human reaction" at a recent press conference.

# It's time for tax reform

by Franz Schurmann,

Now that the economic recovery has begun, Americans, according to the original Reagan economic program, should be looking forward to declining taxes. Instead, the chances are that taxes will be going up in the years ahead.

High taxes have usually been a sign that something is wrong in the body politic. They signify that government is getting revenue from people's pocketbooks, and not from healthy growth. What angers people even more is that all too often government cannot justify the uses made of those revenues.

In the late 1970s many Americans were clearly angry over high taxes, as was evident in the California and Massachusetts tax revolts. The Reaganites offered them a program to remedy such grievances. They advanced one simple explanation for high taxes: the massive and wasteful welfare state. Cut it down radically (the "new federalism"), reduce taxes so people will invest in production and not in more money ("supply-side economics"), and go back to traditional social values which encourage people to depend on each other rather than the government—and soon growth will resume, revenues to government rise, and taxes will drop. Indeed, they argued, there even will be enough money left over for a much bigger defense effort.

In fact, the recovery has virtually nothing to do with these prescriptions. Except for painful funding cuts to poor and disadvantaged people, the welfare state remains intact. Even die-hard Reaganites have come around to supporting a Social Security system which imposes the

All recent Oregon governors, both Democratic and Republican, have had an open-door policy, says state AFL-CIO president Irv Fletcher. "Even in absolute monarchies such as Saudi Arabia the king traditionally has a monthly open court, where people can come and state their grievances," Fletcher points out. "Now we don't even have access to the throne room."

The boycott means the governor lacks the AFL-CIO's input when he proposes legislation. For example, the governor wants to set up a Wood Products Marketing Board to promote the export of finished lum-

ber. The AFL-CIO has supported the concept in the past, while Atiyeh's business backers have opposed it, Fletcher says.

Exporting finished lumber creates many more jobs than exporting raw logs, which is the present practice, Fletcher believes. The blackout prevents the AFL-CIO from speaking to Atiyeh on behalf of all the state's working people, not just union members, Fletcher says.

In the future, Atiyeh apparently will hear those labor views most in agreement with his own. The advisory council's first meeting is scheduled for April 27.

But if defense and entitlements are proving intractable, there is another path that could bring eventual tax relief. While the "New Federalism" and "Supply-side economics" have turned out to be flops, the Reaganites never really explored ways that people could help each other in order to reduce the burden on the treasury. The call to go back to old values is not the key, as we are now a country of diverse values and life-styles. But "people helping people" is something that one finds everywhere. In fact, as their pocketbooks shrink, more and more people are working, living and volunteering together. In inner city ghettos, barrios, revitalized cities and small rural towns alike.

Although many of these people alone would qualify for "safety net" welfare, together they form viable economic units. Yet the only income tax breaks they get are within the narrowest limits of the traditional family of married spouses and children. And they pay the same high and regressive sales taxes as everyone else.

We give tax breaks to businesses to stimulate growth. Why not give tax breaks to people who "share" in an economically significant manner? Sharing means performing free labor, freely given. It means less demand on scarce housing. It means caring personally rather than institutionally. Lower income and sales taxes for such people in the end would save the government money. And the resulting social support systems would help repair one of the most dangerous sources of instability in this society, the shredded social fabric.

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# Job bill brings few jobs

by Rich Lochner

Funds for a local project to help place the disadvantaged in construction jobs ended in November, 1981. "You can't treat the job in isolation with a poor person who has multiple problems," she said.

Combined with relaxation of affirmative action rules, Pettef fears Reagan administration moves signal a return to the era before civil rights and antipoverty programs.

Sen. Hatfield favors "bricks and mortar" construction work because otherwise funds would be wasted on "make work," Towe says. Budget-conscious governments have cut maintenance in the past decade, he says, creating a huge backlog of repair work.

Work will begin soon on most projects, because they're just speed-ups of plans already put off too long, he says. Most of the major projects are outside the Portland area.

Oregon received almost twice its share of the money, due to an amendment Hatfield introduced to target funds to high unemployment states. Hatfield chairs the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

Towe guesses the bill will create "a couple thousand" jobs in Oregon. That should make a dent in construction unemployment: jobs in the field fell from 47,000 in Feb. 1980 to 23,500 in Feb., 1983.

Oregon will also get \$1.4 million for summer youth jobs and \$1.5 million for childcare. These limited social service funds were added nationally at the insistence of the Congressional Black Caucus, and civil rights and women's groups.

Emergency food and shelter will get \$10 million.

Other jobs proposals, such as the Black Caucus budget and the Jobs with Peace campaign, hold that hundreds of thousands of useful, non-make-work jobs can be created in education, health, childcare and other human services. Human services are the biggest employers of women and minorities.

More jobs per dollar can be created in these fields than in construction, since construction pays higher wages and requires heavy equipment.

Some congressional liberals say the present jobs bill is just "Phase 1" of a larger jobs program, but most observers see little chance for a bigger bill this year.

# Washington

(Continued from page 1 column 2)

son with his or her measure of dignity; to supply city services as a right; to dispense jobs fairly; to use fairness, excellence and accountability in conducting city business; and to be mayor of all the people.

The new mayor must quickly address economic development with emphasis on deteriorating neighborhoods and the inferior public school system.

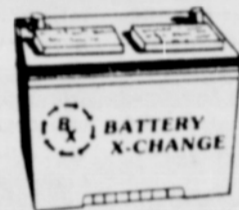
The credit for Washington's election goes to the thousands of black citizens who registered and voted for the first time and for those young black people—ages 18 to 30—who supported and worked for his election.

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# Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

With the landing of the "Challenge" in the headlines, the **Street Beat** team asked the public, "Should the government appropriate large sums of money and resources to the space program?"



**Vernon Hartwell**  
Steelworker

They are going to spend the money on what they want to. They should spend it on social programs. They are not proving anything to the Russians.



**Laura Davies**  
Housewife

Private industry should compensate for some of the budget. A lot of the space program would lead to satellites and that falls under the private sector.



**Phillip Moore**  
Community Professional Laborer

Yes, they should. We should not stunt people's imagination in the hard sciences. It is for the good of mankind. If anything, they should spend more money on the space program. The space program is a social program.



**Remal Moore**  
Education

They should spend some of that military money on the space program and less on armament, space exploration, and other kinds of research. We should do more to advance the quality of life for all human-kind.



**Daryl Fogarty**  
Manager

I think they should. It's to advance technology. We don't know where it would take us and we should explore all resources open to us.



**Gail Adams**  
Housewife

Yes and no. We have to keep the Russians in check but he could better spend the money down here.