



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

Despite much ballyhooing by the administration about its commitment to education, one can see little in the way of basic help from the federal government for our nation's embattled schools.

Several programs that have provided basic support to education for the disadvantaged and vocational education have been pruned by the Reagan administration over the past three years.

The program for disadvantaged students commonly known as Chapter 1 is an example of this lack of support. Chapter 1 has had documented success in raising the reading achievement of poor, low-achieving and minority children. Despite this effectiveness, the funding for the program was cut by 6 percent between 1980 and 1982.

Vocational education programs

were also cut by the administration. It seems sensible that a program like this, which trains students for the job market, would receive adequate funding in a time of economic dislocation. Yet, it has lost 16 percent of its funding between 1980 and 1982.

I was proud to be a part of the recent House effort to restore these and other vital education and social programs to levels of funding more in line with their need.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Act, which passed the House on September 13, signaled a commitment to spend wisely on vital social programs.

The money that Congress decided to put into education by that vote, both in the two programs mentioned above and others such as handicapped education and adult education, is money well spent. It will come back

to the community in the form of increased employment (and tax revenues) for the handicapped, for disadvantaged youth and for those seeking a trade.

As well as raising funding for the education programs, the Vocational Rehabilitation package provided more funding for social programs that had been cut since 1981.

Among these is the Special Supplemental Feeding for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The WIC program serves pregnant women, infants and children who risk malnutrition, and as such, is a last line of defense against starvation. The program has proven results: Birth weights are higher and infant illness rates lower for WIC recipients.

The money spent here can be looked at as an investment: an in-

vestment in good health and cost-efficient health. According to testimony, every dollar spent on the WIC program can save as much as \$3 in immediate medical costs.

Congress cannot solve all problems simply by throwing money at them. But it can make prudent investments in health, in education and in other vital areas of our social defense that will repay themselves in terms of a healthier, more productive nation. These are the types of investments I hope this Congress continues to make.

WARNING!

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Energy savings made simple

Simple ways to cut your energy bills will be the focus for a series of workshops to be presented by the staff of the City's Energy Saving Center at neighborhood community centers during September and October. The workshops will feature a slide show with no-cost tips on how to cut energy consumption and a review of low-cost ways to finance home weatherization.

The workshops are scheduled at the following locations: October 4, 7 p.m., Peninsula Park Community Center, 6400 N. Albina; and October 5, 7 p.m., Woodstock Community Center, 5905 SE 43rd.

The public is invited and there is no charge.

The Energy Saving Center was set up by the Portland City Council to help city residents to make their homes and businesses more energy-efficient. It offers 4 1/4% weatherizing loans to Portland homeowners who meet income guidelines. For example, a family of four to be eligible can have an annual income of up to \$31,680. For persons who don't meet income limits or who live outside city limits, the Energy Saving Center can help to find the most economical financing for home weatherization. For oil-heated

homes, it recommends the State Oil Heat Weatherization Program which offers 6 1/2% loans statewide with no income restrictions. Both electric utilities and Northwest Natural Gas Company also offer low-interest weatherization loans to their space-heating customers.

The Energy Saving Center also features over 50 different publications on how to select and install weatherizing materials. These are free and can be obtained by stopping in at the Energy Saving Center, 2755 NE Broadway. For information about the workshops call the Energy Saving Center, 248-4636.

NCAC starts health care plan

The North Community Action Council, a North Portland social service agency, is currently organizing a steering committee to develop a health care program for low-income people in North Portland.

The North Portland Health Care Steering Committee will assist in planning and establishing a health program to help meet the needs of the medically indigent, those without health insurance or the resources to pay for health care. The program may also serve elderly persons who lack access to medical care due to financial and other barriers as well as other special groups.

The steering committee will be comprised of community members to provide citizen involvement in the project, and health care professionals to provide technical assistance in the areas of health planning and program design. Steering committee representatives are also sought from social service agencies, business, churches, and the public sector.

The health program may provide some direct health care services, health education, and screening and referrals to the most appropriate health care providers in the Portland area. These services are tentatively set to begin in early 1984.

There are an estimated 95,000

people county-wide who are without health insurance or the income to pay for health care. While it is difficult to estimate North Portland's medically indigent population, it appears that less than half of the area's 10,013 poor and near poor population identified in the 1980 census qualifies for Medicaid. North Portland also includes a high proportion of those who have lost their jobs due to the recession and

have been left without health care benefits.

Funding for the project will be sought from private foundations, corporations and individuals. Donations of equipment and supplies are also needed.

People who are interested in joining the steering committee may contact Donna Schaeffer, Health Care Program Manager, at 286-8371.

Community Calendar

Sabra and Shatila—One Year Later: Film, *Sabra and Shatila*, Oct. 3rd, 3, 4 and 5 p.m., Portland State University, 271 Cramer Hall. Picket, Oct. 5th, noon-1 p.m., Pioneer Courthouse, 520 S.W. Morrison. Candlelight Vigil, Oct. 5th, 8 p.m., in front of the Federal Building. Sponsors include Black United Front, General Union of Palestinian Students, and others.

FREEZE WALK, Saturday Oct. 1st, register 9-9:30 a.m. at Laurelhurst Park. 226-6932 for more information.

Eliot Neighborhood Development Association meeting, 7 p.m., Oct. 4th, Unthank Plaza, 2500 N. Williams.

North Portland Citizens Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., Neighbors North, 7508 N. Hereford.

Central America: The History, the Crisis, the Challenge, Reed College lecture series. This week historian Thomas J. Dodd will lecture on "Continuity and Change: The Past in the Present," Vullum College Center Lecture Hall, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd., 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Oct. 6th.

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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

Bill collection was our topic this week for Street Beat as we asked, "Should the IRS have the authority to withhold the tax refunds of people who did not repay their student loans?"



Donna Auestad
Retired

"I think they should have that authority. Some people have gone ten years without paying and I think that is a bit much."



Jay Akoi
Purchasing Agent

"We, as taxpayers, should have the right to dictate to the IRS how we want them to spend our money. I don't think they should."



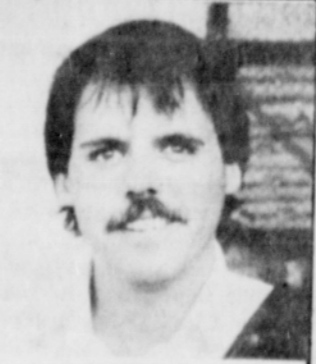
Neal Roberson
Tri-Met

"No, the IRS is not hard up for money. The government should show a little consideration for the people. When I got out of college I couldn't find a job — educated and unemployed."



Michael Shannon
Unemployed

"No, because the former students obviously do not have the money."



Gary Bergevin
Head of Housekeeping

"I think they should, because people should pay what they owe the government. I owed the government \$100.00 and paid it once I got to thinking about all the other people who owed."



Anne Asberry
Housewife

"Yes, they should. If you owe something, you should pay. We are taxed for everything else, so why not?"