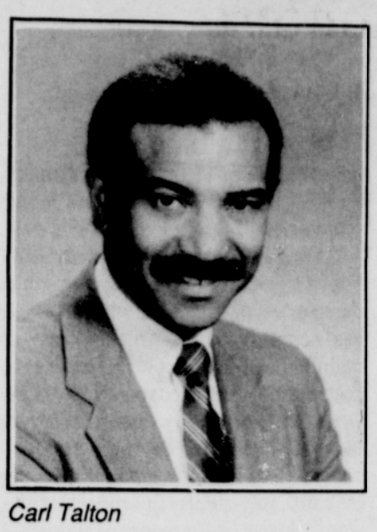
Carl Talton Received The 1991 Award Of Excellence



Carl Talton

Carl Talton, Pacific Power Columbia Area manager, received the 1991 Award of Excellence for outstanding performance from PacifiCorp. The award was given to only 25 individuals across PacifiCorp's seven state service area for exceptional performance in community service, customer relations and innovation.

"Carl consistently performs beyond expectations in community relations, economic development, sales and management," said Diana Snowden, vice president of Pacific Power's Oregon/California Region. "As the same time, he maintains high levels of trust among those he works with, both in and out of the company."

Talton has been instrumental in changing How Pacific, government and other major businesses respond to the needs of the poor in north and northeast Portland.

"The way to revitalize our part of Portland is through economic development and the jobs it brings," said Talton. "To do that, we need to bring in money for business, for upgrading the public infrastructure and for housing."

He has twice been appointed to the Portland Development Commission and has represented the City of Portland and PDC on business recruitment delegations to Japan. As a commissioner with PDC, he has helped in its efforts to produce $2.5 million for job training and small business development revolving loan funds and successfully lobbied at the federal level to get monies for the area.

"Pacific Power as a provider of electric services also plays a large part in the revitalization of northeast Portland," said Talton. "We are uniquely poised to provide plenty of power for growth, the services necessary to ensure that the growth is efficient and prices that have actually declined over the past four years."

Packwood Discusses Health Care Differences

Oregon Senator Bob Packwood, in an editorial board interview with the Salem *Statesman-Journal*, today discussed the clear differences between his own Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) and the Russo bill, supported by Congressman Les AuCoin. AuCoin had pledged his public support for the Russo bill at times during an interview with *Oregonian* columnist Jeff Mapes, and also at a Eugene health care rally in October, 1991.

AuCoin and his operatives have been disputing Packwood's use of a figure of a 21 percent payroll tax to fund the Russo plan. AuCoin aide Rachel Gorlin has said that the figure was a figment of the Packwood camp's imagination.

Packwood apologized today for the 21 percent figure. "The figure I gave, 21 percent, was in error," commented Senator Packwood. "The 21 percent figure I have been using was for the 1990 costs. The Congressional Research Service has based a new estimate on 1992 health care costs. *Costs now are much higher*. If paid for solely by a payroll tax, it would have to be a tax between 24 and 25 percent. To advocate placing this kind of tax burden on Oregonians is unconscionable."

Earned Income Credit Increases

The last part of the credit allows up to $428 for health insurance premiums paid that include coverage of one or more qualifying children. The credit cannot exceed the actual amount of the premiums paid and the Schedule A medical deduction (if applicable) must be reduced by the amount of the credit.

"Jackson Hewitt uses a computerized software system that allows the Earned Income Credit to be calculated quickly and accurately," said Susan J. Girouard, District Manager.

Health Care Should be An American Birthright; AuCoin Calls For Quality and Affordable Health Care

Saying that America stands at a crossroads where the path to economic justice must be the hallmark of all our endeavors, Democratic senatorial candidate Les AuCoin proposed a plan for quality and affordable health care for all Americans.

"For too many Americans," AuCoin said, "affordable, quality health care is becoming only a distant dream. The premiums, deductibles, and add-ons are breaking family budgets--and becoming a distant memory." In fact, AuCoin added, over $70 billion a year is "wasted on paperwork alone."

AuCoin said the current health care system in America is at a "crisis," and that it is time to act to ensure affordable and decent health care for all Americans--not just for the 37 million Americans who have no health care at all, but for the thousands of Oregonians and millions of Americans who are struggling each and every day to pay for health care coverage for themselves and their families.

AuCoin proposed scrapping the current system and replacing it with a single payer system. "That means replacing the 1,500 insurance companies that run up billions of dollars in overhead costs, bury us in senseless paperwork, and write their own rules that leave those who really need coverage out in the cold," he said.

Under the single payer plan AuCoin proposed, each state would appoint a separate commission--comprised of consumers, other private citizens and businesses-to negotiate yearly reasonable budgets with health care providers such as doctors, hospitals, drug companies and others.

And these changes can happen, AuCoin said, "not by having the government be in the business of providing health care, but by having the government work to control costs and finance a fair, available and affordable health care system."

AuCoin advocated paying for the system, "not through the peace dividend--we need those funds to re-tool America's economy. Instead, we should capture the money we're already spending, wastefully, in private premiums, rebate them to consumers and substitute public financing," saving $70 billion.

AuCoin, speaking at Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, said that health care costs are expected to skyrocket $700 billion in the next nine years alone, and that small businesses are also being squeezed by costs projected to increase by more than 600 percent during the same period.

Currently, America is the only industrialized country other than South Africa that doesn't have national health insurance; the United States ranks 19th among industrialized countries in infant mortality.

And through it all appears a frightening realization: that under the current, chaotic health care system, every American "is just one pink slip away" from losing the health coverage they need, AuCoin said.

Currently, Americans spend more than $400 billion annually on health care premiums, AuCoin said, adding that the current medical industrial complex likes things just the way they are.

In fact, AuCoin added, some people in Oregon advocate mandating that all employers provide health insurance to every employee, then call it a day. "Well, it won't work--and it's not fair."

AuCoin said that it's wrong to "single out a small business in Ashland and force it to bear the burden of paying for a health care quick fix. The last thing small businesses can afford is another mandate from a federal government intent on avoiding responsibility."

AuCoin also said that the administration's opposition to a sensible family leave law epitomizes the way this administration thinks about issues that affect working men and women throughout the nation.

AuCoin said that he will help "lead the fight" for a national family leave policy," legislation which will provide for parental leave for family crises, pregnancy leave and medical leave.

AuCoin said that the administration "just doesn't get it. Instead of helping families make it, they embrace the ultra-right agenda--vetoing parental leave; fighting child care legislation; waging their never-ending battle to take away the right to choose for women. That's why today's historic chance to change the direction of America is so critical."

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No Special Rights Committee Petition Fails To Qualify For May Ballot

Portland City Auditor Barbara Clark announced today that the No Special Rights Committee's petition to amend the Portland City Charter to restrict sexual orientation provisions of City law has failed to qualify for the May 19 ballot.

Backers of the petition needed 17,542 valid signatures to place the initiative on the May 19 ballot. A check of the petition signatures by the Multnomah County Elections Office this week indicates that the petition filed with the City on January 21, 1992, contained an estimated 15,909 valid signatures, approximately 1,600 less than required to qualify for the ballot. This result confirmed the results of an initial check of petition signatures conducted by the Elections Office January 31.

"The second check of the No Special Rights Petition once again showed that the signatures submitted by petition sponsors contained an unusually high percentage of names of individuals not registered to vote in Multnomah County or the City of Portland. On that basis, the petition has failed and will not appear on the May 19 ballot," said City Auditor Clark.

"I met with County Elections Director Vicki Ervin last week to review the signature sampling process, and I am satisfied with the validity and accuracy of the process. The sampling procedure used to check signatures on this petition is statistically valid, and conforms to the requirements of City Code and state law. Checks of additional signatures cannot reasonably be expected to change the result, so no further checking will be done. The petition has failed," said Clark.

Petition backers submitted 22,934 signatures to the City on January 21, 1992 to place the question on the May 19 ballot. An initial check of 1,605 signatures by the Elections Office last week indicated that petition backers had fallen short of the 17,543 valid signatures needed to place the measure on the ballot, due in part to a large number of signatures from unregistered voters, or voters not registered in the City of Portland. City Code and state law provides for a second sample to be checked if an initial sample reveals that a petition may not contain the minimum number of valid signatures. The Elections Office checked a second sample of 2,752 signatures this week, which contained only 1,909 valid signatures, or 69.4%. Based on this sample, the full petition contains an estimated 15,909 valid signatures.

Jefferson Student Literary Magazine Receives National Award

Jefferson High School literary magazine, **Rites of Passage**, received National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) highest award.

Poems, short stories, essays and illustrations by 42 Jefferson High School students were published in magazine format and submitted as one of 1,073 entrees in the NCTE competition. Jefferson was one of only 35 submissions nationally chosen for this award.

High schools, junior high schools and middle schools across the United States, Canada and American schools abroad enter the competition designed to foster literary magazines with high standards for writing and publishing.

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