

President Clinton Says Education Key To America's Future

"Cutting education in the time of global economic competition would be like cutting defense spending during the Cold War." -- President Clinton, March 14, 1995

Education and training are cornerstones of President Clinton's economic policy, designed to expand opportunities for all Americans. Now, more than ever, opportunity in the global economy depends on skills and education. Yet Republicans plan significant cuts in the very educational programs that help working families. Here is what that means to Oregon:

Student Loans: President Clinton supports student loans and opposes Republican efforts to make them more expensive. Republicans want to help pay for their tax cuts for the wealthy by eliminating a grace period that allows 4.5 million students to defer interest charges while still in school. President Clinton will fight to stop Republicans from raising the costs of college and job training for 60,901 students in Ore-

gon. The Department of Education estimates that ending this grace period would mean that the student who borrows \$17,125 over four years would owe \$3,150 more, and have his or her monthly repayment amount increased by more than 18%.

Direct Lending: The President wants to expand his Direct Lending program which simplifies the application process, reduces fees for students, and offers borrowers convenient repayment options, including pay-as-you-can. Direct Lending is saving taxpayers \$6.8 billion in administrative expenses. The President opposes Republican efforts to help banks by capping participation in Direct Lending and preventing thousands of schools and millions of students from receiving its benefits. In the 1995-96 school year, 18 schools in Oregon will participate in direct lending. The Republican proposal would prevent any further schools from entering the program.

Making College Affordable: President Clinton wants to offer a tax

deduction of up to \$10,000 to help middle-class Americans meet the cost of education and job training. Families in Oregon would receive approximately \$278 million from this deduction over the next five years. The President opposes Republican efforts to cut education to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

National Service AmeriCorps: President Clinton's service program, offers young people a hand paying for their education if they give a hand to their community. The President opposes Republican efforts to gut AmeriCorps and prevent 568 students in Oregon from serving their communities.

Goals 2000: The President won passage of Goals 2000 to help states and local communities train teachers and upgrade standards for their schools. Republicans call for a 40% cut in the program that would reduce support for high standards by \$1,574,049 in as many as 45 schools in Oregon.

Was First Class Stamp Hike To Pay For 'Image' Ads?

The Postal Service is spending thousands of dollars on a new "image" ad campaign for its monopoly service -- raising questions about why its customers are paying \$3 billion a year in higher first class mail rates.

Those questions were fired today by the Coalition to Make Our First Class Mail First Class as the new ads appeared in newspapers.

The ads have a headline that states "If it surprises you that the U.S. Postal Service is not funded by tax dollars, join the crowd."

"If it surprises you that the U.S. Postal Service is wasting money, you must not have dealt with them much," Scott Macdonald, communications director for the coalition, shot back.

"First class mail is a monopoly. Millions of Americans are prohibited by federal law from sending mail by any other means."

"Why does the Postal Service

need to spend thousands of dollars on ads to promote something we can't avoid -- even if we want to.

"Surely this money would be better spent on finding ways to improve on-time deliveries that continually fall well below Postal Service's stated standards."

Macdonald called the ads "the latest example of a long list of Postal Service waste and inefficiency that includes huge bonuses for executives while the agency ran up nearly a billion-dollar deficit, million-dollar mistakes on stamps honoring various Americans and rope-climbing junkets to Florida in the name of improving teamwork".

Edward Gleiman, chairman of the independent Postal Rate Commission charged with overseeing the rates charged by the Postal Service, criticized the agency's feel-good advertising last Fall.

"Coming on top of the rate increase, people are going to scratch their heads and wonder why this money is being spent and ask if this is wasteful," Gleiman told the Washington Post.

The coalition called on the Postal Service to stop wasting money on feel-good advertisements and, instead, concentrate on delivering mail on time.

The Coalition to Make Our First Class mail First Class has more than 150 member-organizations that represent more than five million businesses and individuals. Its members include the Association of Retired Americans, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Minority Business Council, National Association of Realtors, American Small Business Association, National Federation of the Blind and the National Council of Senior Citizens.

Bar Seeks Public Board Member

The Oregon State Bar is seeking applicants for a public member on its board of governors. The term is for three years effective October of 1995.

The board of governors is the governing body of the bar, and its members serve staggered three-year terms. Any person appointed to a public position on the board must meet criteria set forth in the Oregon statutes: he or she must be a U.S. citizen and an adult resident of Oregon, and cannot be an active or inactive member of the Oregon State Bar or a law school graduate. Public members cannot be a spouse of an attorney member of the Oregon State Bar or seek to benefit by personal monetary gain from tenure on the board.

Currently three public members serve on the board. The successful applicant will replace Joe Smith, whose term is ending. Public members have the same voting rights as the 12 active members of the bar serving on the board. They are not, however, permitted to serve as officers of the bar. They are charged with the same functions and duties as lawyer members under Oregon statute.

Members of the board of governors attend an average of eight meetings per year, all day on a Friday and usually the following Saturday morning. Approximately one-half of the meetings are held in Portland; the remainder at locations around the state. In addition, there are periodic meetings of various board committees. Expenses at a set rate are paid

for all meetings.

Application forms are due June 23, 1995 and can be obtained from the bar office. To order an application, call Caroline Stein at 620-0222 or 1-800-452-8260, ext 385.

The Oregon State Bar handles admission, membership and disciplinary matters for all lawyers practicing in Oregon. The Oregon State Bar also provides educational services for members and offers public service programs for the general public.

The Oregon State Bar is also seeking applicants for public members on its other boards, committees, fee arbitration panels, trial panels and task forces. Appointments are made for three year terms.

Suspect Arrested After Stand Off

A man wanted in connection with a kidnapping and rape was arrested by officers from the Portland Police Bureau's Special Emergency Reaction Team after a seven hour stand off in a southwest Portland neighborhood near Oregon Health Sciences University. Detectives from the Hostage Negotiation Team were successful in persuading the man to surrender.

The efforts to arrest the suspect began at about 3:00 a.m. Friday after a 27 year old OHSU medical student reported that she had been sexually assaulted.

She told police that a neighbor

had broken into her apartment armed with a gun and a knife at about 9:00 p.m. Thursday. The suspect then used restraints to limit her mobility and to choke her. The woman was then sexually assaulted and forced to go to the suspect's nearby apartment where the assault continued.

She was finally able to escape and call police after the suspect fell asleep.

Central precinct officers initially responded and later called out SERT and HNT after the armed suspect refused to give up. The stand off ended at about 10:30 p.m. Friday.

Arrested was Russell C. Checketts, 44 of 3414 S.W. 11th Ave. Apt. 1. Checketts is employed as a nurse's aide at OHSU.

Checketts will be charged with multiple counts of Rape in the First Degree, Sodomy in the First Degree, Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, and Kidnapping in the First Degree. He will be lodged at the Justice Center Jail after an interview with detectives.

Checketts has a prior conviction in Utah for a 1977 rape. He received a sentence of five years in prison for that crime.

County asks Citizens: What are the community's priorities and needs?

On Thursday, May 4, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Clark County residents will be asked to talk about their priorities for county human services. The public forum will be at the Clark Public Utilities Community Room at 1200 Fort Vancouver Way in Vancouver.

Staff from the county's Community Services Department will be available to talk about the strategic planning process the department has been involved in for the past year. Now midway into the strategic plan-

ning process, the department will discuss some of the proposed changes for Community Services.

"We're in the process of looking at our role in the provision of human services and whether those services are appropriate and whether the county is the best provider," said Mike Piper, Community Services Director. "One new direction we're moving in is to become more of a broker of services instead of a direct provider. By coordinating services in the community -- whether they're ours,

non-profits or other agencies -- we can ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources and customer service."

Piper said that anyone interested in the services that county government provides to people should come to this informational meeting. Free Childcare will be provided.

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