

Public Welfare Commission Activities Reviewed at Lunch

"An economical, effective and adequate program to protect the interest of the responsible taxpayer and the deserving and needy people of our state will be the goal of this commission."

Mrs. Frank Bash of Medford, secretary of the Oregon public welfare commission, included this statement of policy in a discussion of public welfare Monday noon at the Medford Chamber of Commerce Roundtable meeting.

"By dealing with cause rather than effect, concentrating on rehabilitative programs, vigorously prosecuting fraud, and exacting the best possible administration," Mrs. Bash insisted, the commission aims to restore many persons to a responsible social status.

Reappointed to Group
Mrs. Bash has been a member of the state commission for two years, and was reappointed to the position Friday for another term. She noted that her experience on the commission has been "a hectic one."

"We (the commission) have moved to Salem, five new members were appointed, a new administration hired, three new programs were added as provided by the Oregon legislature — namely medical aid to the aged (Kerr-Mills), aid to dependent children (unemployed), and the surplus food distribution."

In her discussion, she outlined the organization of the group, told of its problems, discussed federal assistance with government control, cited suggestions made by the counties, and reported the group's accomplishments.

Her comments and remarks, she noted, did not "presume to represent the philosophy of the seven-member state public welfare commission." She said the welfare program is "a complicated one."

Commission Problems
Problems of the commission, Mrs. Bash said, include rapidly increasing population, automation in industry, benevolent government subsidies, pressure-group control, and a general lapse in moral standards.

"The problems of the commission are the problems of society — and belong to all of us," she noted.

She explained that there are programs in which money grants are the only answer.

aid age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to the disabled, and others. The success of the welfare program hinges on the number of people who can be restored to active, participating members of society.

Basically, the speaker explained, the commission is charged by law to administer and supervise the administration of all public assistance programs, and it must promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations as necessary to assure full local compliance with federal and state laws.

Social Security Programs
Most of the regular programs are called social security programs because the federal government participates in the cost by about 47 per cent. Mrs. Bash added that "when the federal government participates in the cost, it also controls the program — laying down rules and regulations that must be complied with in order to get its participation."

In recent legislation, according to Mrs. Bash, the federal government is proposing programs to rehabilitate, and offers as much as 75 per cent participation if the states comply. At the same time, this expands the over-all program which is already an "administrative monster."

One point she made was whether generous benefits under the aid to dependent children (unemployed) program stimulated work incentive. The program was designed to protect the family so a father would not be forced to desert, divorce or die in order to receive aid for his family. It was put into operation on a year's trial basis, but recent federal legislation extended the operation for a five-year period.

Questions Philosophy
Mrs. Bash also questioned whether the children involved in such a program are being indoctrinated with the proper philosophy of work and reward, or if the extent of their contribution to society will be awaiting the welfare check each month.

Other programs under the welfare commission include the surplus food distribution and medical aid to the aged (the Kerr-Mills legislation).

Mrs. Bash praised Oregon's work program. In May, some 20 counties were participating, 645 men were referred to

the project and 219 men were removed, she reported. Of this number, 148 found employment.

The new case reclassification program also was thought to give promise of more efficient casework without additional personnel.

Major Social Problems
The high drop-out rate in public schools and the high divorce rate in Oregon were cited as major social prob-

lems. "Oregon's divorce rate is about equal to the marriage rate," Mrs. Bash observed.

In a question and answer period following Mrs. Bash's prepared remarks, members of the audience cited examples of improper administration of welfare. The speaker welcomed the information and encouraged anyone to report misuse of welfare funds. Welfare may be recovered through prosecution for fraud.

She said she was "pleased" with the people working with the state-wide program, and that, administration-wise, Jackson County was one of the most outstanding in Oregon.



Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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DISMAL HISTORY OF CONSUMER COUNCILS

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of five articles on consumer councils.

The history of efforts to give you, as a consumer, a voice at the highest level of government — just as labor has a voice and business has a voice and agriculture has a voice — is "not replete with successful precedents," drily remarked Dr. Walter W. Heller, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, in his informational greeting to the 12 members of the newly organized Consumers' Advisory Council at their first meeting in the White House a few days ago.

It certainly isn't. In fact, the history is downright dismal — and this alone adds significance to President Kennedy's pioneering move in appointing this council of six men and six women to advise the executive branch of the government on issues of broad economic policy and programs both to protect and to inform consumers.

It also underlines the meaning of the President's welcoming remarks that "This is not intended to be a council of window-dressing. This is a council which I hope will go through the life of this Administration and other Administrations . . ."

Here is a brief rundown of past experiments with giving the consumer an independent voice in Washington, put together by Dr. Persia Campbell, professor and chairman of the economics department of Queens College in New York, an expert long identified with consumer programs and a member of the new CAC.

(1) In the early 1930s, one of the New Deal laws passed by Congress set up the National Recovery Administration to establish "codes of fair competition" which would help put floors under profits and wages. A Consumers Advisory Board to the NRA was created along with an Industrial Advisory Board and a Labor Advisory Board so all three viewpoints could be heard while the codes were being written. From the start, the CAB ran into trouble. It was hard even to find "consumer representatives" and when the CAB finally was named in 1933, it consisted mainly of professors and leaders of women's organizations. Moreover, because the consumer group was generally opposed to price-fixing arrangements, the NRA administrator himself detested it. The CAB died when the NRA was liquidated.

(2) Also in the early New Deal. In the less than a decade of its life, the Consumers Council frequently fought with the Administration of which it was a part, for the AAA was trying to raise farm prices and control the flow of such products as milk to the market to stabilize prices. This office was killed in World War II.

(3) In 1937, a third experiment took place when a Consumers Council was appointed to the National Bituminous Coal Commission, designed to control coal production and fix prices at the mines. The conflicts of interest were overwhelming. This one was short-lived too.

(4) During and for a while after World War II, consumers were represented in the wartime agencies of the Office of Price Administration and the Office of Price Stabilization. These consumer committees, says Dr. Campbell, "identified themselves as consumer representatives, at least with respect to price control and rationing." They died when the agencies were dissolved.

(5) From 1946 to 1952, the President's Council of Economic Advisers conferred from time to time with a National Consumer Advisory Committee which it had appointed. The committee had no influence. It faded away.

Why so dismal a record?
An obvious reason why is that most consumers wear two hats and the hat with which they rarely identify themselves is that of the consumer as such. You, as a wage-earner, will identify yourself with your union battling for the biggest pay hike possible or you, as a businessman, will identify with your industry trying for the best price-profit possible — but neither of you will identify yourself primarily as a consumer who might suffer from your wage-price-profit policies.

It may be that as a result the consumer just cannot be organized or speak with a powerful voice in this country. But that only makes it more important that he be recognized and represented at the national level.

The CAC has been born against a background of repeated failures. It, must, as Kennedy told the members, "establish its (own) success."

Next: Status of the "Consumers' Protection" program.

Red Cross Expert Warns Of Danger

The American Red Cross reminds farm families that safety and accident prevention are lifelong, not just week long goals.

"Accidents, on the farm as elsewhere, cannot be foreseen, but many can be forestalled," Alfred W. Cantwell, national director of Red Cross safety

services, said recently. "One of the best ways is through safety awareness. This, along with first aid skills, can be acquired in courses taught by Red Cross chapters all across the country."

Farmwork Hazardous
Accident statistics show that the so-called healthful outdoor work of farming actually is the third most hazardous occupation in the United States, Cantwell said. It is exceeded only by mining and quarrying and by construction work. Figures for

1960, he said, show some 3,300 farmers and farm employees were killed on the job while another 290,000 suffered disabling injuries.

Falls, motor vehicles and farm machinery, he pointed out, are the leading causes of farm injuries.

"Naturally, these accidents usually occur far away from hospitals and professional medical help," Cantwell added. "In most cases, proper treatment within seconds is essential if the victim's life is to be saved. Such techniques as artificial respiration, stopping hemorrhaging, and splinting fractured limbs are taught in Red Cross first aid courses. Unless the victim is rendered unconscious," Cantwell continued, "he also may be able to use some of these skills to save his own life."

Drowning is Danger
Statistics also show that drowning is one of the biggest killers on farms, the director said.

"The best precaution against drowning is, of course, the ability to swim," he pointed out. "The aim of Red Cross water safety courses is to help persons acquire swimming and lifesaving skills."

He urged that farmers install a "safety post" beside each farm pond or swimming pool. This, he explained, can be merely a length of four-by-four upright post to which is attached a reaching pole (such as a bamboo fishing pole), a ring buoy or an inflated tire to which is fastened a length

the Future Farmers and other farm groups can arrange for both first aid and water safety courses in rural areas through their local Red Cross chapters.

A New Analysis Of Forest Product Companies

Our research department has prepared a comprehensive analysis of forest industry firms including 1961 results and share statistics. Companies included are:

- American Forest
- B. C. Forest
- Boise Cascade
- Crown Zellerbach
- Georgia-Pacific
- Evans Products
- Hines Lumber
- Longview Fibre
- MacMillan Bloedel
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- Puget Sound
- Weyerhaeuser

A copy of this study is available for you.

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Biologists Attend Corvallis Meeting

Corvallis — The largest scientific meeting ever held in the Pacific Northwest is under way at the Oregon State university.

The event is the annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, held this year jointly with that of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The meeting, attended by about 4,000 biologists will continue through Tuesday.

Dr. Hiden T. Cox, executive director of the institute, said this year's is the largest in the history of AIBS. More than 2,100 original research papers will be presented in 37 separate learned society sessions.

The gathering is the largest assemblage of any sort ever held in Corvallis.

Basic biological research which may have applications in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, medicine, space exploration and many other fields will be reported.

Swimmer To Get Education Grant

Astoria — Spencer Campbell returned home to Orofino, Idaho, today — the easy way.

The former frogman, who swam 557 miles down three rivers to reach this seaside city, climbed into a car Monday afternoon for the return journey.

Campbell heard at a dinner here following his arrival Sunday that he is assured of at least part of his main reason for making the marathon swim — a grant to continue his education.

Hart Hanson, president of the Orofino Chamber of Commerce, said Campbell will receive a grant.

The swimmer hopes to become something he seems eminently suited for — a marine biologist.

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