

# The Rural Tribune

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## State Civil Rights Division Is Sued, Job Bias Claimed

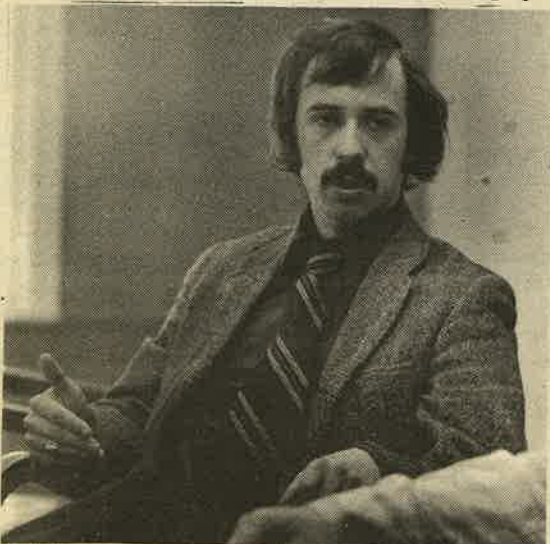
A suit that complains of discrimination in hiring has been filed against the state agency that handles civil rights complaints. The State Civil Rights Division is responsible for investigating charges of discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. When five openings for civil rights investigators were announced, at least six persons of Spanish language (including Chicanos and people of Latin American descent) applied for the position. Not one was hired, even though there is only one Chicano on the Civil Rights staff that includes fourteen investigators.

The civil rights suit was filed earlier this month before the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in San Francisco. The woman filing the suit is one of two Spanish speaking women who were interviewed for the positions and rejected. The suit argues that the Civil Rights Division ought to be hiring more Spanish-speaking investigators and that less qualified people were hired to fill the openings.

The Rural Tribune spoke with Board members of Aguila ("eagle" in English), an organization that concerns itself with the problems of the state's Spanish-speaking minority. The group supports the complaint against the Civil Rights Division. David Gonzales was one of the six Spanish speaking applicants for the openings, but is not a party to the law suit. He emphasized that the State Civil Rights Division has only one Spanish speaking investigator to cover the problems of the largest minority in Oregon. (In 1969, there were 34,577 people of Spanish language in the state, compared to 26,308 blacks.) Gonzales feels that the Civil Rights Division is not doing justice to the problems of the Chicano and Latin community.

Although Gonzales is not filing suit against the Civil Rights Division, the history of his application is interesting. Gonzales is an honors graduate of the University of Oregon, where he earned an impressive grade point average (3.6, an A- average). He also holds a master's degree in counseling and has experience working with minority problems.

(continued on next page)



David Gonzales is one of six Spanish speaking people who applied for a position with the State Civil Rights Division. His background is impressive, but he did not get the job.



## Latest Poverty War Battle

# Poor Occupy Capitol Hill

Over 20,000 people, most of them blacks and Puerto Ricans, listened to dynamic speakers, such as Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy and Rev. Jessie Jackson at the Capitol Hill last February. The crowd, most of whom traveled all night and morning in the 800 buses that were in town that day, attended this national rally in protest of President Nixon's abrupt dismantling of OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity). The Northwest sent 125 representatives, including this reporter, with contributions from the community.

The abolition of OEO included all Community Action Organizations and Model Cities Programs (designed to build up the inner core of the cities which house many minorities).

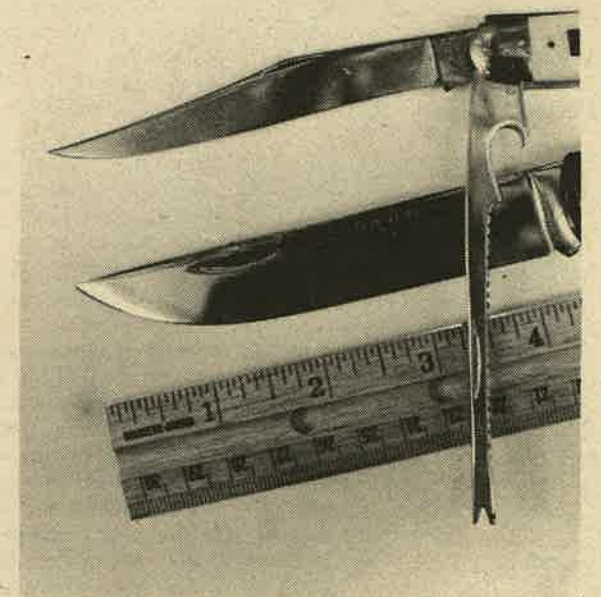
The Capitol and many adjoining buildings, such as HEW, were flooded by people asking questions, talking to their Senators and Congressmen and literally stopping all regular functions of our national capitol. The sudden rush of peaceful protesters brought on an increase of policemen directing traffic, keeping the peace, and checking for identification. There were even some police dogs in waiting.

At the scene of the rally, the enthusiasm of the crowd was tremendous in response to the eighteen or so speakers, which included Senators, Congressmen, Mayors, and leaders that spoke to the crowd. The front lawn and steps of the Capitol Hill were jammed with people as reporters, photographers, and

cameramen surrounded the speakers on this Tuesday, February 20th.

Before the rally, that morning I went to see Oregon Congressman Wendell Wyatt to ask him what his role was in terms of helping the public with their demands and concerns over OEO.

(continued on page three)



A folding knife is a pocket knife unless its blade is over three and a half inches long. Then if you carry it in your pocket, it is a "concealed weapon" and you could wind up in jail. The story is on page five.

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## ... More On Rights Suit

He was one of the first to apply for the openings announced at the Civil Rights Division. His application was accepted by the office and sent off to Salem for a civil service rating. He was given a 90 rating, based on his training and experience, and felt satisfied. It was, he thought, good enough to get him interviewed. After hearing nothing from the Civil Rights Division for several weeks, he called to find that interviews were only being given to those with ratings of 95 or higher. It was too late to appeal his rating.

The ratings are one of the mysteries of the hiring process. On the surface, Gonzales should have been rated as highly as any of the Spanish-speaking applicants. Yet, three received higher ratings and were eventually interviewed.

When the Spanish-speaking applicants who were interviewed were not hired, they tried to find out the reasons. They were allowed to see the applications of the five people who had been hired to fill the openings. This was, strict-

ly speaking, against the regulations. They questioned the choices made in two cases. One of the people hired had a journalism degree and was a recent college graduate. The other had no degree at all and no related experience.

At this point, Aguila became involved. The group tried to get information on how the final hiring decisions were made. According to Aguila board member Irma Flores Fishman, the group asked to see the applications of those who were hired — they asked that the identity of the people be masked. The group was told that releasing that information was not allowed and that they could file a civil rights action against the Division.

In addition to being a board member of Aguila, Mrs. Fishman is the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer for the Federal Civil Service Commission in Portland. When I spoke with her, she indicated that she was puzzled by the selection procedure. She explained that the ability to speak Spanish could have been used as one of the qualifications for the job openings. The State Civil Rights Division could have used "selective certification"

to insure that qualified Spanish speaking people were hired for one or more of the positions.

Gayle Gemmell, administrator for the Civil Rights Division does not believe that her office has discriminated against Spanish speaking people. She expressed sympathy for the Latin and Chicano applicants who are now complaining. "You're dealing with people who are very sensitive and rightly so." Then she added, "We do have a Spanish-speaking person in this office."

Mrs. Gemmell explained that she did not believe in a quota system or a "numbers game" in employment. "The goal," she said, "is to deal with people as individuals . . . This office has reached the state where people are judged as people . . . We are in the position where we have reached the ultimate goal, where we judge people by qualifications."

I asked if her office felt that it had obligation to hire minorities to deal with minority people. She agreed that it did, but she said that the way to do that was to avoid screening out any minority person for reasons not necessary to the job.

From a more general point of view, I asked if Spanish-speaking ability was a legitimate qualification for some jobs. "I could see instances where it would be," she said. She gave as examples a Spanish teacher or a foreman who had to work with Spanish-speaking people. But in her office, she indicated, this was not a problem, because they do have a Spanish speaking person on the staff.

From statistics supplied to me by Mrs. Gemmell, it is clear that the Civil Rights Division has handled relatively few cases involving Chicanos. Out of 590 complaints of job discrimination, only thirty-four were based on discrimination because of national origin. This category includes all job complaints from Chicanos and Latins. This is a small number compared to the complaints based on racial or sex discrimination.

When I presented these statistics to Aguila board members David Gonzales, Irma Fishman and Alfredo Aragon, they used them to argue that the Civil Rights Division ought to hire more Spanish speaking people. "A quota system can be destructive," Gonzales admitted. But

he added, "Not having more Chicanos in the Civil Rights Division (will mean that) a large number of suits will not be brought . . . You can't expect people to talk to people with no feeling for their culture and no knowledge of their first language."

Gonzales said that without seeking complaints, Aguila has assisted in filing twenty civil rights complaints in the last six months. This includes cases brought against the Portland Public Schools and the Portland Residential Manpower Center.

Mrs. Gemmell pointed out that her staff is already overworked, even with the new investigators. When we talked about the different ways that civil rights complaints can be initiated she said, "As a practical matter (the Division) is totally overburdened and understaffed, with more complaints than we can begin to handle." As a result, she said, the Division is not in a position to be "aggressively seeking complaints."

The Aguila board members agree. "The staff is overburdened," Gonzales said. And he repeated, "One Spanish-speaking investigator can't cover the whole state . . ."

Paul S. Jacobs

## Demanda Contra Civil Rights Division por Latinos

Hay una demanda de discriminación contra la agencia del estado que maneja las demandas de los derechos civiles por la manera que usan para emplear trabajadores. El estado de Oregon Civil Rights Division es responsable por investigar cargos de discriminación en elonamiento, empleo habitacion del público. Cuando cinco oportunidades para investigadores de derechos civiles fueron anunciadas por lo menos seis personas de language Español (incluyendo Chicanos y gente de descendencia Latina-Americana) aplicaciones para las poseciones. Ninguno fue empleado, aunque nomas hay un Chicano en los Derechos Civiles que incluye catorce investigadores.

El pleito de los Derechos Civiles fué legajado temprano este mes antes del Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission en San Francisco. La senora que legajo el pleito es una de las dos senoras que fueron entrevistadas para las poseciones y fueron rechazadas. El pleito discute que la Division de Los Derechos Civiles deben de estar ocupando mas investigadores que hablen Español y otras personas que no estaban tan calificadas obtubieron las poseciones.

El Rural Tribune hablo con miembros de la mesa directiva de Aguila, una organizacion que esta interesada de la gente que habla Español del estado y que tienen problemas. El grupo soporta la demanda contra la Division de Derechos Civiles. David Gonzales es uno de las seis personas que hablan español y que aplicaron para las posiciones, pero no está enuelto con el pleito. El recalco que la Division del los Derechos Civiles del estado tiene nomas un investigador que habla español para cubrir los problemas de la minoria mas grande en Oregon. (En 1969, habia 34,577 personas que hablan español en el estado comparado con los 26,308 negros). Gonzales si-

ente que la Division de los Derechos Civiles no esta haciendo justicia en los problemas de los Chicanos y de la comunidad Larina.

Aunque Gonzales no esta legajando ningún pleito contra la Division de los Derechos Civiles, la historia de su aplicación está muy interesante. Gonzales es un graduado de honores de la Universidad de Oregon, donde el percibió un grado impresionante de (3.6, un A- regular). El tambien tiene una master's degree en aconsejando y tiene esperiencia con los problemas de minoría.

El era uno de los primeros que aplicó para las poseciones anunciadas en la Division de los Derechos Civiles. Su aplicación fué aceptada por la oficina y fué mandada para Salem para darle una valuación del servicio civil. Le dieron una valuación de noventa, basado en su adiestramiento y experencia, y sintio satisfecho. El creía que eso era muy bueno para su entrevista. Despues de no oír nada de la Division de Derechos Civiles por varias semanas, el llamó para darse cuenta que nomas a los que tenían sus valuaciones de noventa y cinco o mas alto. Ya era muy tarde para llamento en sus valuaciones.

Las valuaciones es uno de los misterios para el proceso de ocupar. Gonzales debia de haber sido valuado tan alto como cualquiera de los aplicantes que hablan Español. Todavía así, tres recibieron valuaciones mas altas y fueron entrevistados.

Cuando los aplicantes de habla hispana no fueron empleados, ellos trataron de saber las razones. Ellos fueron permitidos de ver las aplicaciones de las cinco personas que havian sido ocupadas para llenar las posiciones. Esto era estrictamente, hablando, contra las regulaciones. Ellos preguntaron las selecciones en dos casos. Una de las personas que emplieron tenia un titulo de periodismo y era un recién graduado de colegio. El otro

no tenia ningún titulo y ninguna esperiencia relacionada.

En este punto, Águila fue complicado. El grupo trato de tomar, o agarrar informacion en como las dicesiones finales de ocupar eran echas. Segun una miembro de la mesa directiva de Águila, Irma Flores Fishman, el grupo preguntaron en ver las aplicaciones de los quien fueron ocupados — ellos preguntaron que la identidad de la gente era personal. Le dijeron al grupo que no eran permitidos a dar informacion, y que ellos podian legajar una accion de derechos civiles contra la division.

En adición en ser una miembro de la mesa directiva de Águila, Señora Fishman es una oficial del Equal Employment Opportunity para el Federal Civil Service Commission en Portland. Cuando yo hablo con ella, me explico que la capacidad de hablar Español podia ver sido usada como una de las calificaciones para las posiciones del trabajo. La Division del estado de Derechos Civiles podian ver usado "certificaciones selectivas" para asegurar que gente calificada que habla Español fueron empleados para una o mas de las posiciones.

Gayle Gemmell, administrador para la Division de Derechos Civiles no cree que su oficina ha discriminado contra jente de habla hispana. Ella expreso simpatia para los aplicantes Latinos y Chicanos que ahorita se estan quejando. "Usted esta transacionando con jente, son muy sensitivos y rightly so." Despues ella anadio "Nosotros si tenemos una persona que habla Español en esta oficina."

Senora Gemmell explico que ella no creia en una Quota System o en "Numbers Game". La "Meto", dijo ella, "es transacionar con jente como individuales . . . Esta oficina a llegado al estado donde la jente son juzgados como jente . . . Nosotros estamos en la posicion donde hemos alcansado la meta, donde juzgamos por las calificaciones".

Yo le pregunte a ella que si su oficina se sentia que tenia obligacion de ocupar minorias para que transacionen con

jente minoria. Ella convenio que si, pero ella dino que la manera de aser esto era evitar en desocupar a cualquier persona minaria por razones que no son necessarias en el trabajo.

De un punto de vista mas general, yo le pregunte que si la habilidad de habla hispana era una qualification legitima para algunos trabajos?" Yo via que en unos casos si podia ser," ella dijo. Ella nos dio como ejemplos de una maestra de Español o un foreman que tenían que trabajar con jente de habla hispana pero en su oficina ella indico que esto bo era un problema, porque ellos si tienen una persona que habla Espanol el el personal.

De estadísticas que fueron surtidas a mi por Mrs. Gemmell, era muy claro que la Division de Derechos Civiles ha manejado relativamente

deben de ocupar mas personas que hablen el español. "Un quota Sustum puede ser destructivo," No teniendo mas Chicanos en la Division de Derechos Civiles (quiere decir que) un número grande de pleitos no van a ser traídos . . . Usted no puede esperar que la jente hable con la de mas jente con ninguna sensación de cultura y ningún conocimiento de su primer lengrage.

Gonzales dijo que sin buscar quejas, Águila ha asistido en legajando veinte quejas de derechos civiles en los ultimos siez meces. Esto incluye casos triados contra el Portland Public Schools y el Portland Residential Manpower.

La senora Gemmell dino que su personal y esta bien trabajado, asta con los investigadores nuevos. Cuando nosotros hablamos de las diferentes maneras que quejas de



Irma Flores Fishman is on the Aguila board. She is also the Equal Employment Opportunities Officer for the Federal Civil Service Commission in Portland.

muy pocos casos implicando Chicanos. De 590 quejas de discriminacion de trabajos, nomas treinta-cinco fueron basadas en discriminacion causa a origen nacional. Esta categoria incluye todas las quejas de trabajos de los Latinos y Chicanos. Este es un numero chico comparado con las quejas basadas en discriminacion de sexo o racial.

Cuando yo presente estas estadísticas a los miembros de la mesa directiva de Águila, David Gonzales, Irma Fishman, y Alfredo Aragon, ellos usaron para averiguar que la division de derechos civiles

derechos civiles pueden ser resolvable ella dino, Como una manera practica (La Division) totalmente este sobrecargada y no tienen el debido personal, con mas quejas que podemos manejar." Como un resultado, ella dijo, la Division no esta en una posicion para buscar pero para que las quejas sea buscadas en manera agresiva."

Los miembros de la mesa directiva de Aguila estan de acuerdo "el personal esta sovrecargado, dijo Gonzales. Y el repitio. "Un investigador de habla Hispana no puede cubrir todo el estado . . ."

P.S.J.

## ... More On D.C. Protest

The Congressman was in Japan at the time negotiating the Oregon Timber Exports with that nation, but I did get to speak to one of his aids, Mr. Jay Edwards. Mr. Edwards tried to summarize the general feeling of Congress over the matter.

When asked what the Congressman could do, Edwards replied, "Not much and I'll tell you why. The Congressman is not an expert on OEO but on forestry, fish and game. The only thing he can do is vote on the matter, but he does not belong to any

committee that deals with OEO."

When I asked him if Congressmen should know what's happening to the public, Edwards replied, "If the Congressman read every bit of information that deals with the country every week it would fill this room twice."

Edwards stated that what Congressmen needed were computers, such as the President has, to get information quicker instead of relying on everything by hand.

I asked him about the general public feeling that the Congressmen were only there to get re-elected and Edwards commented, "It does look that way, but let me remind you that a Congressman has to run for office every two

years." He also stated that it takes from six months to one year to campaign which made it hard to work and campaign at the same time.

Edwards continued to stress that with the help of computers the Congressmen could know what the other committees were doing. "This is where the President has the advantage," stated Edwards.

When asked what he thought of the sudden budget cuts, Edwards stated, "The President has taken a lot of power in his own hands, dictatorial power, so to speak, which stems from our Constitution."

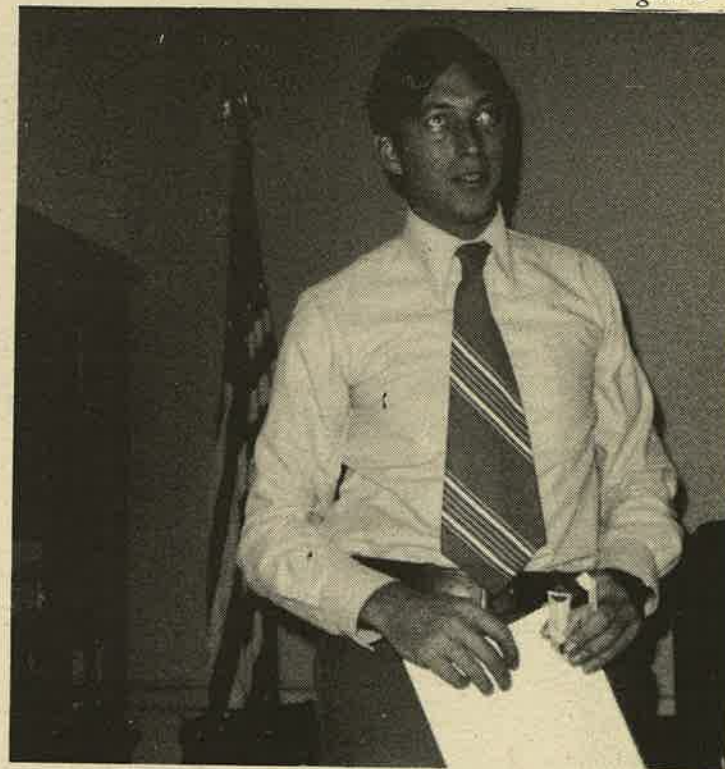
Edwards stated that the U.S. Constitution is so old and vague that the President has used it to his advantage.

He continued, "Each Congressman is on a different committee and without the aid of computers it makes it very easy to go over the budget since each committee doesn't know what the other

one is doing completely."

Edwards then stated that the President waits until the Congress goes over the budget and then steps in and vetoes what he wants.

Amador Aguirre



Jay Edwards is Congressman Wyatt's assistant in Washington, D.C.

## Pobres Van al 'Capitol' Protestan 'Budget Cuts'

Como 20,000 personas, casi todas Negros y Portorriqueños, escucharon a oradores como Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy y Rev. Jessie Jackson en Washington, D.C. El grupo, casi todos que caminaron toda la noche y mañana en 800 autobuses que estaban en Washington, D.C. ese día, atendieron este "rally" nacional en protesta contra el desarmamento de OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) por el Presidente Nixon.

Estos estados del norte (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska) mandaron 125 representantes, incluyendo este reportero, con contribuciones de las comunidades.

El abolicion de OEO incluye todas las Community Action Organizations y Model Cities Programs (hechos para reponer el centro de ciudades donde viven mucha gente de minoría). Casi toda la Capitol Nacional y muchos de los edificios como HEW (House Education and Welfare) fue-

ron undidos de jente preguntando preguntas, hablandon con los Senators y Congressmen y casi parando todo los funciones regulares de la Capitol. Este tropel de protesteros pacificos trajo un crecimiento de policias derigiendo trafico, guardando el paz y chequando identificaciones. Habia hasta perros policias esperando.

A que la vista del Rally, el entusiasmo de la gente estaba tremenda en respondiendo a los 18 oradores que incluyen Senators, Congressmen, City Mayors, y Portavozeros (leaders) de la gente. La yarda enfrente de Capitol Hill estaba llena de gente mientras reporteros y fotografos rodeaban los oradores. En este martes, 20 de febrero.

Antes del "Rally", esa mañana yo fui a ver a Oregon Congressman Wendell Wyatt para preguntarle que era su parte en ayudando el publico con las demandas y intereses contra OEO.

El Congressman estaba en

Japon en ese tiempo negociando el Oregon timber exports con esa nacion pero si pude hablar con imo de sus ayurdantes, Señor Jay Edwards. Mr. Edwards trato de resumir el sentimiento general del Congress contra la situacion de OEO.

Cuando le pregunte que el Congressman podia ser Edwards replied, "Casi mada y te voy a explicar. El Congressman no es experto en OEO pero en monte, pescados y animales del monte. La unigue cosa que el puedo ser ea votar pero no es miembro de ninguna committee que se trato con OEO."

Cuando le pregunte a Edwards que si el Congressman no debia saber que estaba pasando con el publico. Edwards dijo, "Si el Congressman lee toda la información que trata con el parz todas las semanas se llenava este cuarto doble."

Edwards dijo que los Congressmen necesitan computero, como las que tiene el Presidente, para recibir información mas rapid en lugar de hacer todo a mano.

Le pregunte del sentimiento publico general que

los Congressmen nomas estan para "get re-elected" y Edwards comento "Si parece asi, pero dejane recordarte que un Congressman tiene que correr para ofecina cada dos anos." El tambien dijo que se tarda de seis meses a un año para companian y es muy duro trabajan y companian al musmo tiempo. Edwards continio a expresar que con la ayada de computers los Congressmen pueden saber que los otros comites estar haciendo. "Esto es dondier el Presidente tiene la ventaja."

Cuando le pregunte al Señor Edwards que pensaba del los dineros que vian cortado. Edwards dijo, el Presidente tiene mucho poder en sus manos, poder dicta-

dura, que viene de la constitucion.

Edward's dijo que la constitucion de los Estados Udios esta tan vieja y vago que el Presidente la puede usar para su ventaja.

El sigio, "Cada Congressman esta en diferente comite y sin la ayuda de computers esta muy facil para irse arriba del dinero que está alicado para cada diferentes programas siendo que cada comite tiene difentes árias de enteres."

Edwards luego dijo que el presidente se espera hasta que el congresso se pasa de dinero presupuesto para cada programa y luego el Presidente entra y le hace veto a lo que el quiere.

A.A.

## Don't Hold Your Breath

### Local Man Cleared of Driving Charge

This month a Washington County citizen was found not guilty of driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Thomas Ochoa, Hillsboro, is also fighting a 90 day suspension of his driver's license because he refused to take a breath test the same night he was charged. He claims that he did not understand the consequences and rights of refusal to a breath test because these were not

read to him in Spanish.

When the officer read Ochoa the consequences, he used a prisoner from the County jail as translator. The prisoner could not satisfactorily translate the consequences and rights of refusal of breath test.

If someone refuses to take a breath test the law reverses — you are presumed guilty until you have proven your innocence. The first hearing

you are allowed is by a board of the Department of Motor Vehicles. They will determine whether or not your license will be suspended.

If all rights and papers that have to be signed were also written and read aloud in Spanish, the Police could do their duty, while giving every citizen full advantage of his rights.

A.A.

### Hombre Local Escapa Cargos de Borracho

Este mes un ciudadano del condado de Washington lo hayaron not guilty por unos cargos de manejando un carro mientras estaba tomado.

Tomas Ochoa, Hillsboro, está tambien peleando los 90 días en que le van a suspender su licencia porque rehaso un examen de respiro la misma noche que le iseron los cargos. El dice que no podía entender las consecuencias y derechos de rehasar un examen de respiro porque no se lo leeron en español.

Cuando el oficial de policía leo las consecuencias al señor Ochoa el uso un prisionero de la carcel del condado para interpete. El prisionero no pudo enterpetar satisfactoriamente.

Si alguno rehasa un examen de respiro la lei se voltea — usted esta culpable hasta que no prueben que esta inocente. El primer oído (hearing) que te permiten es por una mesa del Department of Motor Vehicles. Ellos deciden si te van a quitar tu licencia a no.

Si todos los derechos y papeles de firma están leídos y escritos en español, las policías pueden ascer su tra-

bajo y al mismo tiempo dándole todos los derechos a todos los ciudadanos.

A.A.



Thomas Ochoa took his case to court and won.

## Your Breath Test Rights

If you refuse to take a breath test:

1. Your driver's license will be suspended for 90 days.
2. Upon your request, you will be granted a hearing. If the hearing result is adverse to you, you may appeal the matter to the circuit court for a trial.
3. You will be permitted, upon your request and at your own expense, reasonable opportunity to obtain the services of a doctor or surgeon, licensed nurse, qualified technician or chemist of your choosing to administer a chemical test or tests to determine the alcohol content of your blood, in addition to the one given by a police officer.

Do you understand what has just been read to you? Will you now take a breath test to determine the alcoholic content of your blood?

(Taken from the standard form used throughout Oregon when drunk driving is suspected.)

## Derechos del Examen de Respiro

Consecuencias y derechos de rehasar un examen de respiro Si usted rehasa un examen de respiro:

1. Su licencia de manejar va estar suspendida por 90 días
2. Por sus derechos o demanda, usted puede tener un examen de testigos (oído). Si el oído es contra de su caso, usted puede recusir otro caso en la corte de circuit con un juicio.
3. Usted está permitido, por sus derechos y al gasto de usted, oportunidad razonable en obtener los servicios de un medico o enfermera de su escojo para adminiatrad un examen químico o exámenes para decidir la contidad de alcohol en su sangre aparte del examen de respiro administrado por el oficial de policías.

Entiende lo que dicen estos derechos? Ahora se deja adminiatrad un examen de respiro para decidir la contidad de alcohol en su sangre?

## Funds in Doubt, Discrimination Charged

# What's Happening to Residential Manpower?

Portland Residential Manpower, a vocational training center has had no definite decision on whether it can continue. The President's plan to cut the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has left the future of Residential Manpower in doubt. If the program is cut it will affect many young people attending Residential Manpower from Washington County.

Residential Manpower is for youths from sixteen through twenty-one years of age. The youths who come to the center have to be high school drop-outs from low-income families. The center

has a variety of vocational training such as: business administration, welding, health education, auto mechanics, and others.

Youths who have credits from high school and need a few more, can earn their credits through the center. At the same time they can be getting technical and vocational training. After the training, they are placed in jobs.

The population of this center now is 275. Most of the youths there are being provided with room and board. At least thirty-five to forty percent of the population comes from Washington

County. According to the director, Patrick Hickey, this number includes several Chicanos, mostly from the Hillsboro area. There are fifteen Chicanos in the program.

Residential Manpower has been open for three years and has had good success. Ninety-three percent who complete the program are placed in jobs.

Aguila, a non-profit organization of concerned citizens, has protested against Residential Manpower for terminating Enrique Flores Mendez from the program. The Regional Manpower Office eliminated Mr. Mendez' position as audio-visual coordina-

tor. Mr. Mendez was offered a job in the warehouse. Meanwhile there were two job openings as a counselor and as a recruiter. Mr. Mendez was not notified about the two openings and apparently they were taken by two other persons.

The three board members of Aguila I talked to (David Gonzalez, Alfredo Aragon, and Irma Flores Fishman), feel Residential Manpower should hire Spanish speaking staff, to serve the Chicanos attending there. Mr. Gonzalez said, "At this point we can't see ourselves supporting Manpower in its present form."

Alma Rosa Perez



Patrick Hickey, director of Residential Manpower.

## ¿Que Esta Pasando Con Residential Manpower?

Portland Residential Manpower, un programa de Vocational Training, no ha tenido ninguna decisión positiva. El plano del presidente de cortar la Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), ha dejado el futuro de Residential Manpower en duda. Si es que el programa va a ser terminado, va afectar muchos jóvenes atendiendo Residential Manpower del condado de Washington.

Residential Manpower es para la juventud de dieciséis a veinte uno años de edad. Los jóvenes que vienen al centro tienen que ser drop-outs de la escuela secundaria y que vengan de familias pobres. El centro tiene una variedad de Vocational Training, como business administration, welding, health education, auto mechanics, y otros mas.

Jóvenes que tienen créditos de la escuela secundaria y necesitan unos pocos mas,

pueden percibirlos por el centro. Al mismo tiempo, pueden estar recibiendo entrenamiento técnico, y vocacional. Después del entrenamiento, son puestos en trabajos.

El número de estudiantes de este centro es 275. La mayoría de los jóvenes les dan dormitorios donde se pueden quedar. A lo menos treinta y cinco a cuarenta por ciento vienen del condado de Washington. Según el director, Patrick Hickey, este número incluye varios Chicanos. La mayoría vienen de la area de Hillsboro. Hay quince Chicanos en el programa.

Residential Manpower a estado abierto por tres años y ha tenido un buen éxito! Noventa y tres por ciento de los que acaban el programa son puestos en trabajos.

Aguila, una organización que no es comercial de ciudadanos interesados, a protestado contra Residential

Manpower porque terminaron a Enrique Flores Mendez del programa. La oficina regional de Manpower eliminó la posición audio-visual coordinator que obtenía el señor Mendez. El señor Mendez le ofrecieron un trabajo en la warehouse. Mientras, dos posiciones estaban abiertas, una era de consejero y otra era de reclutar Chicanos. No le avisaron al señor Mendez de las dos posiciones y aparentemente fueron tomadas por otras dos personas.

Los tres miembros de la meca directiva de Aguila con quien yo hable (David Gonzalez, Alfredo Aragon, y Irma Flores Fishman), sienten que Residential Manpower deben de ocupar personal que hable Español, para que puedan servirles a los Chicanos que están atendiendo aquí. El señor Gonzalez dijo, "En este punto no nos podemos ver soportando a Manpower en esta forma presente." A.R.P.



Alfredo Aragon is an Aguila board member.



At the Portland Residential Manpower center.

## Welfare Fraud Unit Wants Police Status, Critics Worry About Recipients' Rights

The State Legislature may soon be considering a plan to make police officers out of state welfare fraud investigators. Except for a long, mostly favorable editorial in The Oregonian, the plan has received little publicity. Robert Harris, chief welfare investigator, argues that the bill would protect the fourteen state investigators from violence and improve their pension benefits. Critics of the plan see it as an unnecessary attempt to add fear to the lives of welfare recipients.

Chief investigator Harris, who originated the bill, says that its chief justification is the threat of violence to investigators. "The days of flower boys and flower girls are over," he told me. He said that a number of "violent characters" are now coming under investigation.

Giving an investigator police status would make the penalty for assaulting him more severe. And Harris argues that people would know that they would be prosecuted for attacking a police officer and think twice about it.

I asked how often fraud investigators were faced with violence. Harris said he could name "a half dozen occasions." He added that he personally was pointed at with a loaded gun. Another investigator was struck. In another case, dogs were sent after a fraud investigator. No one has been hurt yet, but Harris sees great potential for violence. He gave as an example a commune just out of Grants Pass, where people

walk around openly carrying guns and "fierce looking knives." But even at this commune, Harris admitted, investigators have experienced only verbal abuse.

Harris points to other benefits gained by making investigators police officers. They would get a better retirement plan and be eligible for retirement sooner — if the Police and Fireman Retirement Act would apply to them, which is not a certainty. They would also be able to get additional law enforcement training, although Harris only named "other schools" (than they now attend) when asked for specifics. The plan would bring welfare fraud investigators to the same status as welfare recovery staff and some probation officers.

The bill would not allow Harris and his men to carry fire arms and they would be limited to welfare violations as they are now. From Harris' point of view, the change would "have no effect on the rights of recipients."

In the Portland Welfare Field Investigation office, I talked to investigator Russ Carlisle. He painted a different and less hazardous picture of the department's work. The work the investigators do is "similar to an auditor," he said, "the bulk (of the work) is through paper. It's not a storm trooper thing." He said that the men tried to "keep our noses clean," and he expressed pride that "we've done the job without any hassle."

Critics of the proposal see

things differently. They scoff at the idea that more severe penalties for assault would give any added protection to investigators. They are critical of the methods now used by the investigators and fear that adding to the power could hurt the rights of welfare recipients.

One welfare advocate says that some welfare recipients have been awakened at 6:30 in the morning when fraud investigators pounded on their doors. Two advocates in Portland have handled four such cases in the last eighteen months.

According to the welfare advocate I talked to, HEW regulations suggest that investigative visits ought to be confined to working hours and that they are not allowed during normal sleeping hours.

Welfare recipients cannot refuse to be investigated. But they can insist that investigators come during normal working hours and that they make an appointment, the welfare advocate said.

In some cases, fraud investigators have threatened to reduce the recipient's grant if he did not cooperate with an unannounced or untimely investigation. Fraud investigators are not allowed to make such threats.

The welfare advocate I talked to is afraid that making investigators police officers would make it even harder for welfare recipients to defend their rights.

P.S.J.

## At Cornelius School: The Kids Who Came In Out Of The Cold

A serious problem was solved when parents, teachers and the Cornelius School Committee got together. Children who arrived early at Cornelius Elementary School had to wait outside until the school doors were opened — even in bad weather.

At a January PTA meeting in Cornelius, the PTA president, Ralph Brown, and the rest of the members faced the problem. The school was not opened until 8:55 in the morning. When there was bad weather, the children had to be kept outside. It was suggested that the students should be allowed to go in.

There was some publicity on this problem. A letter was

## Ahora Escuela de Cornelius Deja Niños Entrar Temprano

Un problema muy serio fue resuelto, cuando parientes, maestros y el comité de la escuela de Cornelius se juntaron el mes pasado. Niños que llegaban temprano a la escuela primaria de Cornelius tenían que esperarse afuera asta que abrieran las puertas de la escuela. Igualmente cuando el tiempo estaba malo.

En enero, el PTA tuvo una junta en Cornelius. El presidente, Ralph Brown, y los demás miembros de el PTA fueron encontrados con la problema. La escuela no esta abierta hasta las 8:55 de la mañana. Cuando habia mal tiempo los niños tenían que quedarse afuera. Fue indicado que debian de permitir a los estudiantes a la escuela.

Una carta fue mandada al News Times en Forest Grove,

sent to the News-Times in Forest Grove complaining about students being kept outside. KATU, Channel 2, reported this incident, showing children playing in the rain while they waited for the school doors to be opened.

Things were not decided until a Cornelius committee meeting in February. This meeting took place at the Cornelius Elementary School and 70 people attended. The school committee responded to the problem, and it was decided to let the students go into the school early whenever the weather was bad.

The PTA and its president feel very happy with the way things turned out. A.R.P.

que jandose de la escuela porque los niños se tenían que quedar afuera. KATU canal 2 reporto este incidente, enseñando los niños jugando en la lluvia por mientras que abrieran las puertas.

Las cosas no fueron decididas asta que una junta de el comité de la escuela de Cornelius se junto en el mez de febrero en una de la escuela primaria de Cornelius. El comité de la escuela respondió al problema y fue decidido que dejaran a los estudiantes entrar temprano a la escuela cuando el tiempo esta malo.

El presidente del PTA y los demás miembros se sienten muy contentos como resolvieron el problema.

A.R.P.

Forest Grove Task Force

Will the Real Foreigners Please Stand Up

There were about forty concerned people at the Forest Grove School Board meeting March 1st to hear task force recommendations read by Ellen Stevens. Mrs. Stevens is chairwoman of the task force which made a study of Chicano students and their needs in the Forest Grove Schools.

After the recommendations were read, the audience asked questions and gave comments on the recommendations and the possible policy of hiring more Spanish speaking teachers and setting up classes in Chicano studies.

The feelings expressed by both sides of the community, Chicano and Anglo, showed some open prejudice and lack of understanding.

One of the Anglo citizens said, "Ninety percent of the Mexican-Americans don't pay taxes because they work in the summer and then buy a

brand new car with chrome wheels and then go on welfare."

He was answered by a Chicano citizen from Gaston, "We do pay taxes, just like everybody else — gas tax, income tax, state tax. And when we buy a brand new car, who do we buy it from? An Anglo businessman."

Another citizen said, "If the Chicanos don't like it here, they don't have to stay here. But I'm sure we have something to offer them or else they wouldn't stay."

A Chicano replied, "We were here long before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth rock."

Another added, "We're not the foreigners — you are!"

After the tension was released, the community participants showed concern. Some asked why the new program would only include

Spanish and Chicano courses when there are many other ethnic backgrounds such as German, Italian and French.

Others understood that the Germans, the Italians and the French wanted and were able to assimilate. With this understanding, some citizens asked if this proposed program could help the Mexican-American child better communicate and relate to school.

The School Board explained that with the help of Title 1M (Migrant Education), some of the money could come from the federal government. Superintendent D. Herbert Armstrong stated that new text books are reviewed every eight years, and next time it would be possible to include text books relating more to Mexican-Americans.

The only recommendation that was not passed by the

task force was the one concerning bilingual education. This plan will still be reviewed by the school board. There was some misunderstanding at this meeting that bilingual instruction would go from first through twelfth grade.

According to Joe Garcia, Director of the Title 1M, Migrant Education programs, bilingual instruction would only be necessary from kindergarten through third grade. This would allow the child to learn the basic concepts of education in Spanish — math, alphabet, etc. Bilingual education would be open to Anglos and Chicanos on a voluntary basis during these early years.

Garcia said, "I believe that if there is only one child in this school district that needs bilingual instruction, then he should be taught that way." A.A.

Jente Comenta en el Resulto de Task Force

Habia como 40 personas interesadas en la junta de Forest Grove School Board el día primero de Marzo. La junta estaba interesada en el Task Force y los problemas de los estudiantes Chicanos de las escuelas del Distrito 15, (Forest Grove).

La señora Ellen Stevens, presidente de la Task Force, presenta las problemas que ivian reconocido y las recomendaciones para las reformas del distrito 15.

Después de que leeron las recomendaciones la audiencia hizo preguntas y hablo de como se sentian de las recomendaciones que fueron dadas del Task Force, que incluyen empliando mas maestros Mex.-Amer. y classes de Chicano Studies. El sentimiento de los dos lados de la comunidad, Chicanos y Anglos, enseniaron prejuicio y falta de comprensión.

Un ciudadano Anglo dijo, "Noventa por ciento de los

Mexicanos Americanos no pagan las taxaciones porque ellos trabajan en el verano y luego compran un carro nuevo con chrome wheels y luego se meten al Welfare."

Le contestó un ciudadano Chicano de Gaston "Nosotros si pagamos las taxaciones como todos los demas, las del petro, el income tax, y el state tax, y cuando nosotros compramos un carro nuevo a quien se lo compramos? A un Anglo que es hombre de negocios."

Un ciudadano dijo, "Si a los Chicanos no les gusta aqui se pueden ir a otra parte, pero yo estoy seguro que tenemos algo que ofreserles, porque entonces no se quedaran aqui."

Un chicano dijo, "Nosotros estabamos aqui mucho antes que los Pilgrims que llegaron a Plymouth Rock," Otro dijo, "Nosotros no somos los extranjeros, ustedes son."

Cuando la tension fué librada, el parficipa de la comunidad enseño interes. Unos preguntaron porque el programa nuevo debe incluir Mexicanos y cursos de Chicanos cuando hay otros ethnic backgrounds como Alemanes, Italianos, y Franceses?

Otros comprendieron que los Alémanes y Franceses querian y podian ascimilar. Estos ciudadanos preguntaron que si este programa podia ayudar a los niños de Chicanos comunicarse y relatarse en la escuela.

La mesa de la escuela ayudó con enseñandolos que con la ayuda de Title 1M (Migrant Education), una parte del dinero podia venir de el Gobierno Federal. El Supretendiente, D. Herbert Armstrong, dijo que libros nuevos son revistados cada cinco años, y la otra vez que toque revistarlos hay posibilidad que los libros esten relacionados a los Chicanos.

La unica recomendación que no fue pasada por el Task Force era la educación bilingual. La mesa directiva de la escuela todavia esta revistando la educación bilingual. Hybo una equivocación en esta junta que la educación bilingual iba a ser desde el primer grado asta el grado doce. Segun Joe Garcia, Director del Title 1M (Migrant Education), las instrucciones bilingual nomas van a ser necesarias de el Kindergarten asta el grado tres! Y que los niños ivan aprender los conceptos basicos en Español (Math y Alphabets etc.) La educación Bilingual va estar abierta para los Anglos y Chicanos en un basico voluntario.

Garcia dijo, "Yo creo que si nomas hay un niño en el distrito de la escuela que necesite instrucciones bilingual, entonces debe de ser enseñado de esa manera." A.A.

Three Inches Worth Nine Days

The 'Pocket Knife' Caper

Last month a citizen of this county was questioned by Hillsboro Police because he had apparently killed a robin with a b.b. gun two blocks from his house. He claims that he was searched without being told of his rights and without first being arrested.

The police found a pearl-handled folding knife that was supposed to have a blade over three and a half inches long, in his possession. Oregon law makes a knife with a blade over three and a half inches long "a concealed weapon," unless it's carried

where it can be seen.

This person spent nine days in the County jail until he was finally released on his own recognizance. He was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. He was not charged with illegally shooting a robin.

According to his lawyer the blade measured just a little over three inches.

According to Oregon law, a knife carried and hidden or partially hidden, other than a "normal pocket knife" is a concealed weapon. To be a "normal pocket knife," the blade must be less than three

Una Navaja en la Bolsa

El mes pasado, un ciudadano de este condado fué preguntado por la policía de Hillsboro porque aparentemente el había matado un robin con su B.B. gun dos cuadras de su casa.

Dice el, que fué esculcado sin ver sido informado de sus derechos y sin primero ver sido arrestado. La policía se hayo una pearlhandled folding knife y lo acusaron de ver tenido una navaja, de tres pulgadas y media en su posición. La ley de Oregon es que una navaja de tres pulgadas y media es una concealed weapon, a no ser que la carga donde se vea. Esta persona estuvo en la carcel nueve días

en el condado de Washington hasta que fue soltado en su propio reconocimiento en los cargos de andar cargando una concealed weapon. No lo acusaron de que había matado un robin.

Su abogado dijo que la navaja estaba un poquito arriba de tres pulgadas de larga.

Según la ley de Oregon, una navaja que este en a posesión de uno y este escondida o un poco escondida, aparte de una "normal pocket knife" es considerada una concealed weapon. Lo largo de una navaja tiene que estar abajo de tres y media pulgadas para ser una "nor-

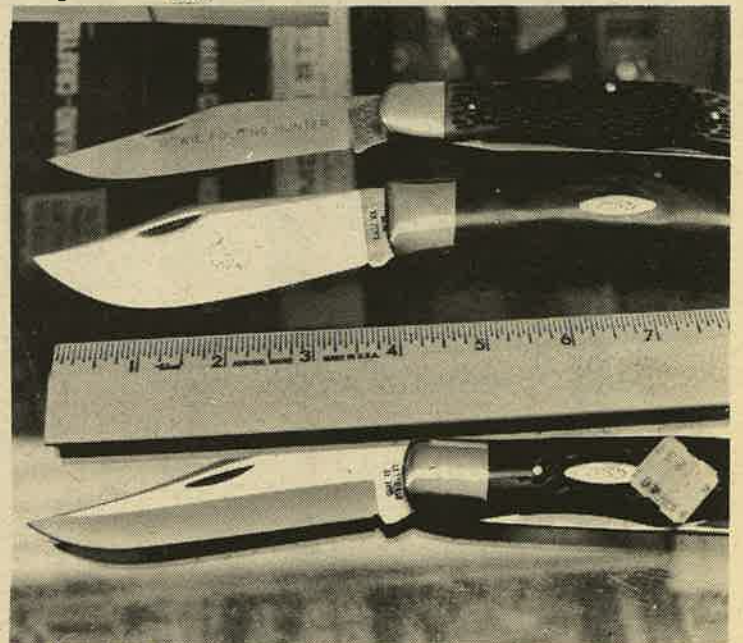
mal pocket knife."

The Rural Tribune made a random survey of hardware stores and found that there are many folding knives being sold with blades over three and a half inches long. Some of the knives are sold without carrying holsters. Even when worn with a holster, what happens if one is wearing a long coat? A coat that covers

the knife makes it a concealed weapon and the person carrying it can be charged with a crime.

The case was thrown out of court recently and all charges were dropped. Yet this citizen spent nine days in jail for a crime he did not commit.

A.A.



El Rural Tribune hizo un random survey de hardware stores y se dio cuenta que hay muchas navajas que se doblan y que son vendidas arriba de tres y sin andar cargando una holster. Cuando se carga con una holster que pasa si uno trai un saco largo? Un saco que esconde la nabaja la ase

que sea una concealed weapon, y la persona que la traiga puede ser acusado de un crimen.

El caso lo expulsaron de la corte y todos los cargos los despedieron. Pero como quiera este muchacho tuvo nueve días en la cárcel por un crimen que no comió.

A.A.



Manpower, points to its successes.



Center.



Gaston takes a call on the Access hotline.

Access: Spanish Spoken, Toll-Free Line Open

Spanish-speaking persons are needed to assist in phone calls so that more Chicanos can participate in Access, a hot-line crisis service. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for the hotline can call Alma Rosa Perez at 648-6646.

The hotline means of communication by telephone for use in a crisis now has a toll-free number for people in and around the Forest Grove area. This number is 357-7012. A.R.P.

Keeping Tabs on the Legislature

Bills Promise Relief for Schools, Renters, Farm Workers

In the next few months, the Rural Tribune will be watching the State Legislature in Salem. We will be following bills that are of special importance to the low-income and minority people of Washington County. Here are a few of the bills introduced so far. We will be following them as they move through the House and Senate, on their way to becoming law.

Farm Labor

SB 181 — This bill would keep children under ten out of the fields. According to Portland Representative Vera Katz, there are no laws that now protect children in agriculture. Opponents of the act say that migrant families depend on small children to earn their livelihood.

SB 182 — This bill changes Oregon law to allow picketing of farms during planting and harvesting. Picketing is now allowed, but is limited to those who have worked on the farm for six days. At a recent hearing, Washington County attorney Emily Knupp testified that current limits on farm picketing are unconstitutional anyway, because they treat farm workers differently from other workers.

HB 2338 — This is a complicated plan that sets up rules for strikes, lock-outs and collective bargaining in farm work. When workers are threatened with a lock-out or when an employer is threat-

ened with a strike, the threatened party can demand binding arbitration to settle the dispute.

The bill stops farm unions from encouraging employees of other businesses to refuse to handle farm goods. And it puts limitations on picketing. The bill is liable to be controversial and the Rural Tribune will be following it closely.

Chicano Affairs

HB 2859 — This bill establishes an eleven-member Chicano Affairs Commission. All members would be Chicano, including three campesinos, two elected members, and representatives from Centro Chicano Cultural, the Chicano Indian Center, and the Valley Migrant League. The Commission will work to improve opportunity for Chicanos and to insure Chicano participation in government, business and education.

Help to Renters

HB 2040 — This bill recognizes that renters do contribute to property taxes. It gives renters a share of "property tax relief." The plan assumes that 20% of rent goes toward property taxes and gives the renter the right to apply for a state income tax refund of up to \$400 based on the renter's income and the amount of rent he pays. This bill would only help families with incomes less than \$8,000.

HB 2542 — This act would require landlords to repair rental units. For the first time, tenants would have a clear legal basis for withholding rent until needed repairs are made. Where repairs are delayed, the tenant will be able to keep a part of his rent.

The bill also regulates the handling of "security deposits" — requiring that the

deposit be returned or a list of needed repairs given. The bill establishes certain rights for landlords. It also says that a landlord may not refuse to rent a unit because there are children in a family.

Home Improvement

HB 2541 — Home improvements raise the value of a house and increase the homeowner's taxes as a result. This

bill allows a certain amount of improvement without increasing the tax assessment for a period of five years. The improvements cannot increase the floor space of a house, but can improve the general livability and safety of the property.

Schools and Taxes

HB 2031 — Establishes state support for public kindergartens. The amount of support would be the same as that given for public elementary and secondary schools.

HB 2004 — This lengthy bill would greatly change the way public schools are supported. Local property taxes, which are now used to pay most public school expenses, would be severely limited. Under this plan, 95% of school funding would come from state sources.

Money for schools would come from a business profits tax, a statewide property tax, and increased income taxes. In addition to easing property tax, the bill would help to equalize the amount of money spent on each student in the state.

Passed by the House, the bill will soon be considered by the Senate. In an effort to get this bill to the Senate floor, Senate President Jason Boe took over the chairmanship of the committee considering it. In order for the bill to become law, voters will have to approve a state constitutional amendment (HJR 3).

P.S.J.

Write Your State Senator and Representative

For more information on bills before the State Legislature, you can call 1-800-452-0290. This is a toll-free number. Copies of bills will be sent to you if you request them. You can find out when a bill is scheduled for a hearing, if you or your group is interested in testifying.

The following is a list of Washington County's legislators:

Senate District	Senator
1	W.H. Holmstrom
2	Stan Ouder Kirk
3	Thomas Hartung
4	Victor Atiyeh

All senators can be reached at Oregon State Senate, Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon 97310.

House District	Representative
1	Dick Magruder
2	George Cole
3	Paul Hanneman
4	Les AuCoin
5	Lewis Hampton
6	Mike Ragsdale
7	Pat Whiting

All representatives can be reached at Oregon House of Representatives, Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon 97310.

To find out who represents your area in the House and Senate, call the County Elections Office, 648-8856.



Sande Swanson directs the Kids for Hire Program.

Project Looks for Kids and Jobs  
Proyecto Busca Chicos

Kids for Hire is one program started by the Youth Projects, Incorporated, which is a non-profit program for young people of the community. Kids for Hire is a youth employment program. Young people from 14 years of age through high school can participate. Youths who need jobs and are interested in this program should call 644-0141 or 357-7012 and ask for Sandy Swanson, the program's coordinator.

A.R.P.

Kids For Hire, un programa formado por los Youth Projects Inc., que son programas que no son comerciales para los jovenes de la comunidad. Kids For Hire es un programa para emplear jovenes de edades de 14 asta la edad de la escuela secundaria. Jovenes que necesitan trabajo y están interesados en este programa deben de llamar a los números 644-0141 o 357-7012 y preguntar por Sande Swanson, la coordinadora del programa.

A.R.P.

Poor Need More Housing,  
But HAWC Waits for Cash

The Rural Tribune has been trying to find out how President Nixon's recent budget cuts will affect the Housing Authority of Washington County (HAWC). We submitted a list of questions to Housing Authority Executive Director, Mrs. Lucy Cable.

Mrs. Cable indicated that the current grant for 208 units is still in progress and will continue through next year. The Housing Authority leases housing from private owners and then rents the units to low-income families at rates that they can afford.

The Housing Authority would like to add another 400 units. A new proposal will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) just as soon as HUD begins accepting applications.

Mrs. Cable explained that the federal government funded HAWC with \$355,536 for its first eighteen months.

The HAWC office has recently added a clerk-typist to do routine office work, giving other staff members additional time for other functions.

Mrs. Cable mentioned that HAWC now has commitments with builders to lease HAWC 50 units of new construction in various parts of the County. These are expected to be complete in a few months. The office is working with other builders for more units. Out of the 208 units funded, 132 have been leased by HAWC and are now occupied by families.

In past articles, the Rural Tribune showed that quali-

fied applicants had to wait for months to get into units. Mrs. Cable doesn't argue with that. She said that there still could be qualified applicants on the waiting list, but it really depends on the size house the family needs and the area they want to be in.

For example, one bedroom units are more available than three bedroom units.

Mrs. Cable told the Rural Tribune that the County's Housing Authority may have reason to think that it's lucky. Other housing authorities not yet funded by HUD, may not be funded at all under the tight federal budget. "If we had not yet been funded by HUD, we wouldn't be."

Sharon Allen



Mrs. Lucy Cable, director of the Housing Authority of Washington County.

## New Commissioners Concerned With Federal Programs Cuts

In recent meetings the Washington County Commissioners have been looking into the effects of federal cutbacks affecting low income people. At this point, the question is what will county government be doing for the poor now that this federal money is being taken away?

In an interview with the Rural Tribune, Commissioner Virginia Dagg expanded on several issues affecting the poor. She began by discussing the present situation with the bridges in Washington County. The closing of the bridges has hurt the western and poorer parts of the county most severely. "Approximately eleven bridges have

been made operable through a 'band-aid repair.' In a year, we will ask the people in a regular or special election through a 'Spell it Out Campaign' what is to be done." Commissioner Dagg further commented that the money to be used in fixing these bridges will have to come from the people of Washington County.

When asked about revenue sharing, Mrs. Dagg said, "Citizens think that revenue sharing just makes the pot richer. But it's not really, it's so we can survive."

Asked about Community Action Programs, she said she knew a lot of them are going to be cut. "President Nixon is cutting back on a lot of these

funds. He is cutting for more bombers and whatever else. Health programs are being cut." Commissioner Dagg further said she was in favor of what Nixon is doing but was just afraid of more wars. She said that Commissioner Rod Roth had brought CAP's problem before the board in a recent meeting. She said that the board has to be informed of what help CAP needs.

We then brought up the idea of foodstamps being distributed in post offices in Washington County so it would be easier for recipients to purchase them. Commissioner Dagg said that she knew of it being done in other counties and that she liked the idea. She said that she would look into the matter.

In her closing remarks, Commissioner Dagg stressed that "it is most important for a commissioner to listen. We may not solve anything, but at least the people are heard."

In another interview, Commissioner Rod Roth added to what Commissioner Dagg said. When asked about the bridges, he also said that money would have to come from the voters through property taxes. He said, "People don't want this."

As far as the idea of county government supporting CAP is concerned, Roth said that he brought it up before the board two weeks ago. "I talked with several people down there and the commissioners were not aware of what was happening at all." Commissioner Roth then suggested to the board that somebody like Mel Chrisman of CAP in Hillsboro should be invited down to



Rod Roth, County Commissioner

"brief us to what's going on, so that we can be aware of what programs are being cut and what problems are resulting from that."

He continued, "So at the meeting just last night, we talked about the possibility of putting together a committee of people which would include Mel Chrisman and different other people from different sectors of the county that are going to be affected by these cutbacks. Have them make a presentation to us as to what money is going to be lost, what programs are going to be lost, and what recommendations they would have if the county pick up some of these programs."

When asked which programs would be considered first, Commissioner Roth answered, "As you probably heard, the County budget is a tight one every year. I don't know how much could be picked up and there's probably going to have to be some priority set and we're going to lose some but I think we can pick up the ones that are producing good results."

According to the Commissioner, if the county adminis-

trator hasn't set up a time for people like Mel Chrisman to make their presentation by the next board meeting, he is going to ask for a public hearing on it so everyone can have the opportunity to speak on it.

At the end of the interview Commissioner Roth talked about problems of zoning and planning in Washington County. "Probably the most important decisions we make are related to zoning and planning." He continued by explaining that some people in Washington County object to cheaper housing around the neighborhood because it would bring in "the wrong kind of person."

"And that's where zoning affects the minority problems because you get the neighbors coming in and saying, 'Hey, you can't do that.' The thing that everyone has to realize is you don't build just \$50,000 homes. You have to have homes in all ranges and you have to have some kind of intermeshing. Zoning affects the feature of the county and it affects every problem that we look at, including health, drainage, the whole scope."

Alan Ancien



Virginia Dagg, County Commissioner

## Chairman Hout Discusses Role in Poverty Problems

The Rural Tribune has been investigating how federal budget cuts will affect Washington County. I asked Eldon Hout, Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, what the County could do about programs that are being phased out. "I think that some of the programs are better than others," he said. He was particularly concerned about large cuts in health services and noted that the County Health Department is "under the knife."

But Hout agrees with the Nixon Administration's move toward direct grants to local units of government. It will give local politicians a chance to "stand up and say what we ought to be doing . . . I see it as a real opportunity."

Weren't Federal programs generally more responsive to the needs of poor people than local programs? Hout agreed. He fears that this summer will be "if not a hot summer, at least a warm one on many of these issues." But he is confident that setting up procedures for people to be heard locally can do a lot to avoid bad feelings.

I asked how the County would be using its revenue sharing money and how that funding might reach the poor. Hout said that in this county the money would not be used for tax relief. "I can assure you of that," he added. He pointed out that revenue sharing money was already being spent on salary improvements. This decision was made last fall, and over

half of the first year's checks will go into salary increases.

Hout noted that up to now, the County has had the greatest effect on low-income people in its planning functions — with the exception of the health department and the County's "pat on the back philosophy for the Housing Authority." Hout sees Senate Bill 100, the state land use planning bill, as particularly important to sound planning in the County. In its current form, Hout noted, it would turn the responsibility for planning over to the county governments.

I asked the Commissioner how the County might help in easing some of the tensions in police-community relations. Hout talked about the need for "professionalization of small town police departments."

"Our guys say, 'Why don't they contract with the County?' Our men are better trained, have better equipment, do a better job. I suppose it's a matter of local pride." He pointed to several smaller communities that did contract with the County for

police protection.

I asked Hout about the issue of hiring a Chicano to replace Mary Perlman, who recently resigned her position with the juvenile department. Hout said that the court has total control of juvenile department hiring, although he indicated that he would welcome state legislation to give the County Commission control of the department.

What about the problem of hiring Chicanos in the County government generally? He admitted, "The County doesn't have any particular program. Generally we're not hiring at all." He described the civil services procedures as a "clean, antiseptic process, not abused on a racial or ethnic basis." He concedes that the civil service may well have meaningless testing devices and looks to performance testing, which would be job-related and avoid what Hout called "class effects" or biases.

Commissioner Hout said that real "affirmative action" in employment would begin for the County after the fiscal year begins this summer. Then the County will hire a full-time personnel professional.

Hout saw public trans-

portation as one area that needs improvement. I asked him what he thought of Tri-Met's efforts in the County. He explained that Tri-Met has improved equipment, that the buses are clean and run on time. He is disappointed that Tri-Met, as he sees it, has "no real commitment to long-range planning, to any-

thing other than rubber tire buses." He also feels that they can do a lot more to improve the level of service, especially from place to place within the County. He described the Tri-Met Board as "downtown merchants interested in getting people downtown."

P.S.J.



Eldon Hout, Chairman of the County Commission

### County Commission Meetings

The Washington County Commissioners' office is located on the fourth floor of the County administrative building. The Board meets:

- 1st Tuesday — 1:30 p.m.
- 2nd Tuesday — 7:30 p.m.
- 3rd Tuesday — 8:00 p.m.
- 4th Tuesday — 7:30 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public.

