

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

March 4, 1991 Hearing Room 50 03:00 p.m. Tapes 24 - 26
MEMBERS PRESENT: SEN. GRATTAN KERANS, CHAIR SEN. LARRY HILL,
VICE-CHAIR t SEN. PETER BROCKMAN SEN. BOB KINTIGH SEN. BOB
SHOEMAKER

STAFF PRESENT: ANNETTE TALBOTT, COMMITTEE COUNSEL ROBERTA WHITE, COMMITTEE ASSISTANT MEASURES CONSIDERED: SB 368 - PROVIDES SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS FOR WOOD PRODUCTS WORKERS EMPLOYED AS RESULT OF RESTRICTED TIMBER SUPPLY (PUBLIC HEARING) SB 369 - CREATES TASK FORCE ON TIMBER ADJUSTMENT APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR (PUBLIC HEARING) SB 370 - ESTABLISHES FAMILY SUPPORT FUND TO PROVIDE BENEFITS TO DISLOCATED TIMBER WORKERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN DISLOCATED TIMBER WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS (PUBLIC HEARING)

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE 24, SIDE A

001 CHAIR KERANS called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE BILLS

003 MOTION: CHAIR KERANS moved to introduce the bills en bloc as noted on (EXHIBIT A)

VOTE: Hearing no objection, the motion carries. (Senator Brockman was absent.)

SB 368 - PROVIDES SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS FOR WOOD PRODUCTS WORKERS UNEMPLOYED AS RESULT OF RESTRICTED TIMBER SUPPLY - PUBLIC HEARING SB 369 - CREATES TASK FORCE ON TIMBER ADJUSTMENT APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR - PUBLIC HEARING SB 370 - ESTABLISHES FAMILY SUPPORT FUND TO PROVIDE BENEFITS TO DISLOCATED TIMBER WORKERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATE IN DISLOCATED TIMBER WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS - PUBLIC HEARING ~ ate
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WITNESSES: JOHN KITZHABER, PRESIDENT, STATE OF OREGON SENATE BERNIE AGRONS, REPRESENTATIVE RETIRED KAREN CLARK, HOMEMAKER CHERIE GIROD, CANYON CRISIS CENTER LEANETTE BASL, HOMEMAKER DONALD D. CASLER, S.W.P.I.C. PATTI LAKE, LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM J.R. COLE, DISLOCATED WORKER SETH WOODARD, DISLOCATED WORKER MICHAEL GARDNER, DISLOCATED WORKER RICHARD LEWIS, DISLOCATED WORKER MICHAEL CONOVER, DISLOCATED WORKER BILL TILTON, DISLOCATED WORKER

021 JOHN KITZHABER, PRESIDENT, OREGON STATE SENATE: > Testifies in support of the bills. 053 BERNIE AGRONS, FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE > Testifies in support of the bills. > The interim committee study dealt with a different group of people than were formerly considered dislocated workers. > The committee brought in experts with different areas of expertise which defined 21 different timber communities throughout the state. > The committee found that at least 55% of the people in the various communities were in a very high risk category because of different variables in their communities. > Oregon needs a strategy for overcoming the difficulties of dislocated workers that is

not community oriented, which is the Economic Development Department approach, but should be worker oriented. > Training programs at community colleges often abort because of financial/economic considerations such as insurance, mortgages, etc. > It would be helpful to provide some assistance to wives so that they can go back to work or school to help support the family as well. > This is a federal problem. It is brought about by a change in federal policy. The federal government needs to step in and help with financing these types of programs. > There is precedent from the past for this type of need to be met by the government. This may require about \$130,000,000 over a period of 3-5 years. > We need a sufficient support system for the dislocated workers, but in addition, early intervention is required to help with this problem so that weeks of unemployment insurance are not spent during the time of mental/emotional rehabilitation.

TAPE 25, SIDE A

BERNIE AGRONS, CONTINUED > Senate Bill 369 wants to establish a special limited duration timber adjustment task force.

055 CHAIR KERANS: > What sources of dollars or income can we attach to SB 370 to make it more palatable for

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passage?

081 AGRONS: I don't know.

155 KAREN CLARK, WIFE OF TIMBER WORKER (EXHIBIT B) > Details Exhibit B. 273 JEANETTE BASL, HOMEMAKER (EXHIBIT C) > Details Exhibit C. 368 CHERIE GIROD, DIRECTOR, CANYON CRISIS CENTER, MILL CITY > They serve a 1,000 square mile area. > The crisis center began in 1985. The last two years have shown a great increase in the need for crisis intervention. > In 1989, their statistics showed that volunteers contributed 10,885.66 hours. This year, the volunteers have contributed 19,519.72 hours working with clients. This is an increase of 8,634 hours. > They performed 1,379.31 hours of advocacy for their clients. This entailed performing tasks for the workers which they felt incapable of performing themselves. > There were 636 more calls in 1990 than in 1989. There were 1,599 calls in 1990, compared to 953 calls in 1989. > The center took 1,103 immediate crisis calls in 1990, which is 335 more calls than in 1989. > The center directly served crises for 899 persons, 496 more than in 1989. There were also 204 who were not in immediate crisis, but who still required help when it was available. > There were 228 more women in crisis, for a total of 540 IN 1990. These were not all domestic violence. These were women concerned with keeping families together.

TAPE 24, SIDE B

001 CHERIE GIROD, CONTINUED > Aggression in all the schools has risen because of the stress experienced by the children in their homes. > 40% of all the children are on the food subsidy program in the schools, and the schools are trying to carry the program over into the summer because they know that many of the children will not be fed at home because both

parents will be working. > There were 59 men in immediate crisis in 1989, while in 1990 there were 254 who required counseling. That is an increase of 185 men. Many were suicide calls, calls for emotional support and requests for advocacy. > In 1989 the center served 25 children, in 1990 there were 105 children whom they served. Most of the children are displaced and abandoned children. > The center has established a program with Northwest Human Services to place the children into shelters. They are not runaway children, they are children who simply cannot live through the stress at home. The center counsels both children and parents, then there is mediation to bring the children back into the home. > They provided advocacy for 581 people. The center did the leg work for the clients who felt they were incapable of making phone calls, etc. The center also provided some gas money for people who could not afford to pay for transportation to a city to apply for a job. ~ . These minutes contain material which paraphrase and/or summarize elements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to d. tapes. _ . Senate Committee on Labor March 4, 1991 - Page 4

201 DONALD D. CASLER, BOARD MEMBER, SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL (SWPIC) > He introduces Patti Lake and J.R. Cole. > The Dislocated worker program in Lane County is a partnership approach. The steering committee is comprised of business, labor, elected officials, community college, Employment Division and Adult and Family Services. > This is the largest dislocated worker program in Oregon. It now a nationally recognized program. They were awarded the National Alliance Business Award for the best dislocated worker program in the country in 1987. > The PIC does the initial contact with companies and workers. It also does the eligibility work for the workers. Lane Community College, the Private Industry Council and the Employment Division do all on site orientations for workers about their benefits and opportunities. Lane Community College provides the training and the placement for the dislocated workers. > SWPIC is in favor of passage of SB 368 and SB 370. > SWPIC is concerned about SB 369 because they feel there is some duplication. They would like to see a model patterned after the prototype developed in Lane County. SENATOR HILL: Do you think we could take the rapid response now of the JTPA and simply tailor it and change it a little bit and have what we need to respond to timber crisis? CASLER: Yes, I believe we could. SENATOR HILL: Without duplicating it. CASLER: Without duplicating it. SENATOR HILL: So, the intent of 369 is okay, but you don't think we need another duplicate program. We can use the one we have. CASLER: That's correct. 335 PATTI LAKE, CHAIR, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM (EXHIBIT D) > Details Exhibit D. > Testifies in favor of SB 368 and SB 370. SENATOR HILL: How do people enter the dislocated worker program? How are they entitled to the training money, and how do you make those decisions? LAKE: We go initially to a mill that is about ready to shut down and do the orientation as a joint project with the Private Industry Council and other agencies. We have people sign up. They go through eligibility and they start through career life planning workshop at Lane Community College. They have a choice between career life training and simple job placement. We have the responsibility to ensure that any training program in which the worker is interested has long-range potential. The workers make the decisions about what they want. SENATOR HILL: Are all your programs two-year training programs, or do you have shorter or longer programs.

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443 LAKE: By and large they are two year programs because that is where they get a certificate from the community college. But we do have people in truck driving school, which is 9 weeks, we have people finishing a four-year degree at the U of O. If they happen to have some college education, we allow them to finish their four-year degree. We have put together a recreational vehicle technician program that is one year in length. That would be ideal. If we could find a few areas like that to train people in one year, it would be to everyone's benefit, but those areas don't exist. We are trying to develop something at the college that will allow people to become employed in one year but continue with their education until it is completed.

SENATOR HILL: What is average age of the dislocated worker?

LAKE: The average age is 42, the average time in wood products is 16 and one-half years. They have an average 12th grade education. They are typically family people, and primarily male.

SENATOR HILL: What is your average cost for the dislocated worker on an annual basis? I would like the money that it costs to run the program.

LAKE: It's about \$4,000/year for everything. That includes tuition, fees, mileage reimbursement, books and supplies. Because many of the students live in rural areas, our mileage bill runs \$15,000 - \$20,000 per month. We don't do child care because we would run out of money too fast.

TAPE 25, SIDE B

061 SENATOR SHOEMAKER: Can you give me some sense of how this works? Do the people who come out of this succeed in their new career, and how many do not seem to be able to get their careers back together?

LAKE: We only see people who ask for help. When you consider that 2,400 people have lost timber related jobs in Lane County in the past one and one-half years, and Lane Community College has enrolled about 700, we are seeing less than one-third of the people who lose their jobs. Once people are in our program, we really try to retain them. The people who are exiting our program right now are earning an average wage of \$8.80 per hour. The people who are exiting the program with training are real close to \$10.00 per hour. The people who access our program for job search assistance are averaging just over \$8.00 per hour, so we see the difference that training makes.

093 SENATOR SHOEMAKER: Do you also help the spouses?

LAKE: We can't spend any money on spouses. We like the spouses to come with the dislocated workers when we are doing individual career life planning and helping them on their new track. We help hook the spouses up with financial aid and help them through registration, but we can't spend any money on spouses. SENATOR SHOEMAKER: What about people in the shops whose business rely on dislocated workers? Senate Committee on Labor March 4, 1991 - Page 6 LAKE: Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do now. We have a lot of timber products related folks, and we can't meet that need.

140 J.R. COLE, DISLOCATED WORKER: ~ Testifies in support of the Lane Community College dislocated worker program. > It would help if there were money to help pick up the slack when unemployment benefits run out.
263 BILL TILTON, DISLOCATED WORKER > Testifies in support of the Lane Community College dislocated worker program.

288 MICHAEL GARDNER, DISLOCATED WORKER > Testifies in support of the Lane Community College dislocated worker program.

337 SETH WOODARD, DISLOCATED WORKER > Testifies in support of the Lane Community College dislocated worker program.

TAPE 26, SIDE A 008 MIKE CONOVER, DISLOCATED WORKER > Testifies in support of the Lane Community College dislocated worker program.

061 RICHARD LEWIS, DISLOCATED WORKER > Testifies in support of the Lane Community College dislocated worker program. 181 The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Sincerely: Reviewed by: Roberta White Annette Talbott
Assistant Committee Counsel

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Memo Introducing Committee Bills - Staff- 1 page B -Testimony on SB 368, 369 & 370 - Karen Clark - 3 pages C - Testimony on SB 368, 369 & 370 - Jeanette Basl - 4 pages D - Testimony on SB 368, 369 & 370 - Patti Lake - 7 pages E - Proposed amendments to LC 3735 - Amalgamated Transit Union - 1 page F - Letter regarding SB 368 - Larry Heasq - 1 page G - Written testimony on SB 368, 369 & 370 - John W. Campbell - 4 pages