

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



FRANCIS J. IVANCIE
COMMISSIONER

Acknowledge

CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

February 26, 1971

Dr. Robert D. Clark, President
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Clark:

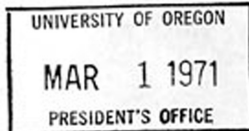
Attached is a copy of my reply to the OSPIRG
Steering Committee of Portland Community College,
who requested my opinion on their informational
pamphlet.

This is for your information, as a copy has
also been sent to the Board of Higher Education.

Sincerely yours,

Francis J. Ivancie
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

February 18, 1971

Mr. Ted Rogers
OSPIRG Steering Committee
Portland Community College
12000 S.W. 49th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97219

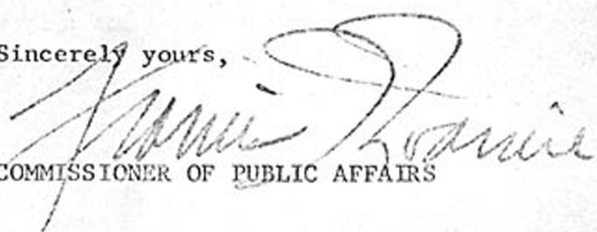
Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the informational pamphlet concerning Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group. I do have opinions about such an organization which I have formed largely based on my experiences as an educator and public administrator.

Certainly no one can argue that the blighting conditions which result from the indiscriminate acts by members of our society must be controlled, nor will I deny that the students of Oregon have the right to form an organization that is concerned with environmental problems. I have no doubt that such an organization could be very effective in influencing both public and private decisions. I do, however, question the assessment of every student by the State Board of Higher Education or any public institution even if the payment could be refunded at a later time. The rationalization that such fees should be imposed by the state because it is the will of the student majority or that it is the least expensive way of collecting such fees is not convincing, particularly in view of the fact that the stated purpose of the organization is to influence public and private decisions. It is equivalent to the state collecting dues for the majority political party. Further, I think it is completely inconsistent for the institutions of professed higher learning and academic freedom to endeavor to crystalize and marshal public opinion against those with whom they don't agree.

I have no quarrels with the students desire to become useful members of our society. I can fully understand their frustrations at finding themselves in their early twenties and still docilely going to school as they did from the first grade. But, there are no simplistic solutions as suggested in the rationale of OSPIRG. In fact, the odds are that OSPIRG will be wrong on as many issues as they are right. For these reasons, I think it would be extremely unfortunate for the State Board of Higher Education to require all students to financially participate even temporarily in the program.

Sincerely yours,



COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS