

Oct. 4, 1996

Dear C-SPAN Program Director

Regarding your asking for suggestions for people and topics in viewer's locality, may I suggest you look into having our Okla. Labor Commissioner, Brenda Reneau in an early time slot soon?

The enclosed editorial indicates the importance of this topic and the attention it has had otherwise. It is true this fine newspaper is a conservative one with a fine editorial page editor, Patrick B. McGuigan.

I hope you will give this your consideration. Thank you.

S-W

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Friday, October 4, 1996

Twisting in the Wind

IT has now been over a year and a half since Labor Commissioner Brenda Reneau first brought allegations of fraud in the federal prevailing wage to the public and to federal law enforcement officials. A federal grand jury in Oklahoma City has looked into the allegations for nearly six months.

Since the commissioner first exposed the alleged fraud scheme, a congressional subcommittee has held two hearings and the General Accounting Office has issued another report confirming problems in the prevailing wage survey process. The Wall Street Journal has joined *The Oklahoman* in writing frequent editorials on this subject.

Three national news programs have devoted significant air time to her findings of ghost workers, phantom projects, inflated wages and taxpayer waste associated with this bad law. Virtually every newspaper and news program in Oklahoma has covered this developing scandal and many, including some not generally categorized as conservative, have editorialized for swift punishment of the guilty and a re-examination of this

outdated and discriminatory legislation.

We've seen some action. The Oklahoma Supreme Court struck down the state's Little Davis-Bacon Act on the grounds of unconstitutionality. That's already saved Oklahoma taxpayers a reported \$32 million.

But whatever happened to that federal investigation? Why, a year after the case was opened and six months after a federal grand jury began looking at the evidence, haven't we seen steps taken by the U.S. Attorney's office?

Without making accusations, consider a couple of facts. Patrick Ryan, the respected U.S. attorney in Oklahoma's Western District, was appointed by Bill Clinton, who is in his home stretch of a political campaign. Labor bosses, who benefit most from the prevailing wage law, have pledged \$35 million to help Clinton win re-election and defeat Republican candidates.

Just a coincidence? Hope so. Meanwhile, that federal investigation is reportedly "ongoing" — but too many good people are slowly twisting in the wind.

e Raid on Mosque

Moscow police periodically round up Chechens and other people from the Caucasus, using docu-

ment checks as a pretext for the crackdowns. The roundups have fueled complaints of discrimina-

tion against people from Central Asia and the Caucasus region and people of minority religions.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL PIANO SALE

Numerous Kawai and Steinway pianos in conjunction with institutional loan programs will be disposed of by Saturday, October 5th. Pianos from the Eastman School of Music, University of Southern California, University of Houston, Oklahoma State and other major universities have been brought to Edmond Music's warehouse to be sold.

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