

Portland Challenger

An Independent Newspaper

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How Can You Help

For the second time interested groups are pushing for the passage of Oregon civil rights legislation. There should be no doubt that just such legislation has been sorely needed. The Oregon Committee, formulated expressly for the purpose of seeing that this bill goes through as originally written, has been officially endorsed by over 20 local organizations and countless individuals. They are right in there pitching to raise the necessary funds and see that proper pressure is applied in the appropriate places.

The fact is, however, that no matter how hard and long these individuals and organizations work they still need your support. They want every one in Oregon to know about this bill, they want every legislator to vote for it and they need an office and \$3000 to do it.

This is how you can help them do it. First, your financial contributions are urgently solicited. Anything from ten cents upwards will be greatly appreciated. The old United Committee for Equality which was formed to provide the impetus for passage of the city civil rights initiative in 1950, raised and spent \$11,000 among citizens of Portland alone. The budget for this new state bill committee is drastically reduced. It will be necessary for them to have an office and staff to distribute the publicity material needed in this drive for human equality.

Your contributions should be addressed to: Ulysses G. Plummer, Attorney, Loyalty Building, Portland 4, Oregon.

Secondly, you are urged to write to congressmen, yours or others, telling them how greatly you desire to have this bill become law. Write this letter today; in your own words. Lists of the members of the 1953 Oregon legislature can be obtained from the Urban League, 408 S. W. 3rd avenue; or from the Portland Challenger, 3300 N. Williams avenue.

Your letters to congressmen should be addressed like this: The Honorable _____, Senate House (or House of Representatives), Salem, Oregon.

We don't feel that we should try to make you aware of the importance of this project because we think you know already. Let's all get in and pitch for ourselves, our children and tomorrow.

Negro History Week

There are really two sides to Negro History Week. Truly it is gratifying to sit back and think of the great accomplishments Negroes have made since gaining their freedom. Men like George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington, to mention only two, have had their achievements serve as a continual inspiration to Negro youth.

Negro progress is accelerating as time goes on. There are many rights now enjoyed by the Negro citizenry throughout the nation that were taboo just a short ten years ago.

Locally, the racial climate has improved tremendously. In the fields of employment, education and civil rights there has been marked improvement within even the past five years.

However, we must not sit back and reminisce too long. We must look forward to the days when there will be no more Negro History Weeks as such. That will be the day when Negro leaders' accomplishments will go down side by side with their Caucasian contemporaries in every child's history primer. This day will come only after we all buckle down and sincerely work with organizations like Portland's excellent Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a full first class citizenship.

Let this Negro history week be not a time for resting on our oars but let it be a week of rededication for the purpose of securing equal rights and full fledged integration. There is much to be done.

Committee Mulls Civil Rights Bill

(Continued from page 1)

Ulysses G. Plummer, Jim Collins, George Dysart, Shirley Field, Kenneth Kraemer and Sid Lezak. Providing for both civil and criminal punishment the bill reads thus:

Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon:

Section 1. All persons within the jurisdiction of this state shall be entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of any place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement, without any distinction, discrimination, or restriction on account of race, religion, color or national origin.

Section 2. A place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement, shall mean any hotel, motel or motor court, any place offering to the public food or drink for consumption on the premises, or any place offering to the public entertainment, recreation, or amusement. Provided, That nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to include or apply to any institution, bona fide club, or place of accommodation, resort or amusement, which is in its nature distinctly private.

Section 3. Any person who shall make any distinction, discrimination, or restriction on account of race, religion, color, or national origin, in the admission of any person to, or the accommodation or service of any person in, any place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement shall be liable to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, to be recovered by the person aggrieved thereby.

Section 4. Any person who shall make any distinction, discrimination, or restriction on account of race, religion, color, or national origin, in the admission of any person to, or the accommodation or service of any person in, any place of public accommodation, resort, or amusement shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 5. Whenever any agent or employee shall so exercise any function or employ any power with which he is charged or entrusted as to violate any provision of this Act, both he and his principal or employer shall be held equally liable.

Section 6. The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Act, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

New Eliot Plans Cause Objections

The letter to Rehms said that the committee felt the recommendations would enable primary grade pupils to attend schools in their immediate neighborhood and that the building of two schools would be more economical, less than one-half the amount of the proposed New Eliot building.

They felt that their recommendation for a social worker was fully justified and would be of help to both students and parents.

Although the Urban League is conscious of the problems of segregation, it noted in the letter to Rehms that the element of segregation was not entered in the proposals offered. The league blamed the segregation issue on residential discrimination against the Negro and not on the school district.

Dr. Rehms acknowledged the receipt of the Urban League communique and said it appeared that the school board would discuss the matter at their meeting in the School Administration building Thursday, February 26, at 7 p.m.

Letters to Editor

To the Editor:

Your editorial, "Confidence in Peterson," which appeared in the January 9th issue of your paper certainly deserves the reading and digestion of all civic minded Portlanders. The members of Beta Eta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority would like for you to know that we are with you one hundred percent for good government for all people. Continue to speak out and there is no doubt that you and your staff will be successful.

The Members of Beta Eta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority

Over 45? Stop Worrying; You Can Find Employment

By MARK A. SMITH

This is the fourth in a series of five articles by Mr. Smith, deputy commissioner of labor for the state of Oregon in the Fair Employment Practice Division. These articles can be of great assistance to the minority job seeker and the Challenger recommends that its readers keep the series for reference.

YOU AND A JOB—AFTER 45.

So now you are middle-aged. Since you have not yet assured yourself of an independent income you have begun to worry about security in your old age. At your age getting a job or just keeping the one you now have is your problem. You have noticed that the number of job opportunities being offered by the public and commercial employment agencies are getting fewer and fewer for applicants past 45. You don't see as many requests for older workers in the help wanted section of the newspapers these days. In fact most of them state a maximum age that is much younger than your age. Some employers don't take any more of the older workers and have fixed rigid retirement rules for those they now have.

You are right. The star of the older man and woman is not as high nor does it shine as bright as in days gone by, but you do not have to fold up and retire. There are a lot of fruitful years in those bones yet. "Age is just a quality of the mind; only if you have left your dreams behind, if hope is cold, if you no longer look ahead, if your ambition fires are dead—you are old."

Adopt New Ideas

Middle age does not become a problem to the worker who adopts new ideas and adjusts with the years. Common sense and observation tells us that although some individuals quit trying early, there are others who remain indefinitely at their peak of efficiency.

The usefulness of each individual depends upon that individual's flexibility, plasticity and emotional stability. Middle age does not become a problem to the worker who can still give out what he has learned in life and who can adjust and find that special niche for which his capabilities are best suited. Past middle age calls for an adjustment from the old goals you failed to achieve to a new goal that you know you can achieve now.

Because today fortunes are difficult to accumulate, most men must spend a longer time working on a job making a living. Many older men are still employable due to their intellectual abilities and a careful conservation of their physical strength.

Peak Still May Come

Although the peak of physical perfection is reached in the twenties or early thirties, the peak of one's skill and judgment may come in his fifties. The earnings of persons in the fifty group tend to be as high as, and often higher than, the earnings of those workers in the younger age groups. The over-all work records, their efficiency, their good judgment, their resourcefulness, their loyalty, their fewer accidents and their less absenteeism are generally superior to the more youthful and generally less experienced workers.

But let us not delude ourselves. Workers after 45 cannot shift jobs like younger men can. They can't lay off as often and hold their jobs. It is essential that they keep up their union dues and guard their seniority rights at all time. This must be done not only for their security on the job but also to preserve their feeling of belonging which they

need more and more as they grow older.

It must be borne in mind that the older worker deprived of a job discovers serious barriers to reemployment particularly in the new industries and occupations. He cannot readily step into a job in an occupation where he has to compete with the pace of younger workers. An employer is unlikely to be willing to stand the expense of training a "new" worker who is past 45. They prefer their apprentices younger. A few employers question the usefulness of older men in any industrial capacity.

Fewer Jobs Available

In most cases if you are past 45 and want to continue earning your way you should either be self-employed or a specialist in a particular line. There are many types of jobs you will not find open to your age group. Accept this fact understandingly.

However there are still many jobs for which you are best suited. There are still jobs that not even machines can do. A machine can't make a watch but many of our best watch makers and repairmen have reached the legal retiring age of 65.

Filling jars with olives has proved to be too difficult for a machine. It takes the gentle touch of many grandmothers in the olive canning plants to fill the jars to their brims with olives packed tight—but not so tight as to bruise them.

A man's efficiency as a worker need not end just because he reaches 45. His ability to do as good a job as the next fellow depends on his initiative and how anxious he is to prove himself a valuable asset and competitor.

Skills like precision drilling, putting locks together and retreading bolts gets an older man a job when inexperienced youth fails to make the grade.

"Careers Unlimited"

For those past 45, there are "careers unlimited" too. Few men who have reached this age have done so without achieving some experience in one or more particular skills. All that is really necessary is for you to market your skill. The services of the local employment office and such helpful agencies as the Urban League of Portland should be used to a greater degree than they are being used.

The job hunter past 45 should get the counselling service from these agencies which will help him greatly when he needs to obtain reemployment. There is no need to use lack of youth as an excuse for failure. Where patience and accuracy is needed you can win over the fast, youthful worker.

Fast workers are usually more inaccurate than slower workers. There is no need to succumb to "Oh, what's the use?" What if jobs after 45 are a bit harder to find? You have experienced years of hard nuts to crack and you have succeeded in cracking most of them. You can crack this one too.

FEPC Can Help

Those persons who have become our senior citizens and who find it necessary to hold on to their present jobs as long as they can perform them well or who have to find new employment are fortunate when they reside in the State of Oregon.

If on the job, they find that because of their race, color, religion or nationality, they are discriminated against or when in

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