

The OREGON MIRROR

Established in March 1959 - Negro Weekly

Circulated by Mail - Newsboys - Businesses

Published Every Wednesday

4617 N. Williams Ave. AT 4-4551 or PR 1-9884

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Please Forward Mail to - 7972 S.E. Foster Rd.

EDITORIAL

GEOGRAPHICAL PLANNING

Part 2

GENERAL SUBJECT: "GEOGRAPHICAL PLANNING" (Comments of Gene W. Rossman, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Portland, Oregon, as a Layman "Resource Person" participating in the "URBAN LIFE CONFERENCE ON THE INNER CITY" sponsored by the Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon, March 22, 1962).

The factor of geography in the selection of sites for the housing of low-income Senior Citizens is especially significant. Our experience has conclusively shown that a vast majority of elderly people displaced by public works WILL NOT relocate in areas remote from their former residence. Most of these oldsters have highly established habit patterns. They feel they MUST be near their friends, their doctor, their Church. Few of these elderly can be lured from the havens and haunts to which they have become so strongly attached -- to take up a new home in strange surroundings, regardless of the material incentives that may be given them. So Public Housing is attempting to locate its new housing developments for low-income elderly in areas where these people are presently living, in communities presently served by Churches and other essential services. Are the Churches giving proper consideration to the importance of maintaining existing services in these established areas at a high level, in expanding and supplementing present facilities to meet the widening needs of communities within the Inner City that are being revitalized through urban renewal and public-housing developments?

One final issue that would seem to relate to geographical planning on the part of the Church, as well as of Public Housing, pertains to RACIAL INTEGRATION. The first question we should ask ourselves is "do minority groups concentrate themselves into given communities because of economic pressures or by choice?"

Where the element of economic pressure is ACTUALLY present, both Government and the Church should most obviously work to eliminate it. But where people of any race, creed, or color PREFER to band together through free choice, is there any "authority" on Earth that has the God-given RIGHT to challenge such preference? Public Housing takes the view that the development of decent, safe, and sanitary low-rent housing in a deteriorated community in which there is a concentration of a specific minority group does not necessarily constitute the "perpetuation of segregation". Historically, a "ghetto" is a place where a specific minority group is "FORCED" to live. Where Public Housing "ventures into" a minority-group community and seeks to replace substandard, slum-type dwellings with respectable housing for the low-income households involved, its chief concern is the CHILDREN of these households -- the "small fry" whose parents PREFER and EVEN DEMAND to remain in the neighborhood, whose ONLY chance for a decent housing facility and a respectable home atmosphere lies in a public-housing development in the community. Is the Church aware of this basic attitude on the part of local Housing Authorities? Is the Church keeping pace with the dedicated effort of local, state and federal government to re-build and re-invigorate deteriorating neighborhoods so that those who are destined to con-

The Oregon Mirror

Five Cents

Wednesday, April 4, 1962

tinue to live there can take at least a realistic degree of pride in where they live and how they live? Is the Church willing to espouse the essence of racial integration in such neighborhoods to a degree that will implement the efforts of government to promote the general public acceptance of racial equality?

Let us hope that the great force of good government, coupled with the spiritual dynamics of the responsible Church organizations in our country, may work in close harmony in the years ahead to assure the continuing development of facilities and services that will provide a better physical and spiritual life for our less fortunate people.

Let us pray that through thoughtful consideration of all of the implications of geographical planning as set forth hereinbefore, and through the coordination of our joint efforts, these objectives may be met fully, and soon.

Facts on Building Levy For Portland Public Schools

On May 18, 1962, the voters of Portland will be asked to approve a ten-year building levy in the aggregate amount of \$21,000,000, payable in annual installments of \$2,100,000. The public school building and maintenance program projected for the ten-year period calls for a total expenditure of \$20,514,000. The difference between the two figures represents the amount that will be lost to discounts which the law gives to taxpayers who pay their total property tax in advance each year. The proposed levy amounts to approximately \$9 per year during the ten-year period upon an average home having a market value of \$10,000.

GROWTH IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: During the next ten years the overall growth in the number of children in the elementary schools will level off. There are some areas in Portland such as the southwest, north, and southeast, where school population will continue to increase. As an example, there is presently an over capacity in the southwest area. By 1965-66 the capacity of elementary schools in southwest Portland will be exceeded by 685 pupils. In the north section of the city it will be necessary to continue using emergency World War II buildings to handle the increase. In some elementary schools courses in industrial arts, home economics, and special education have already been discontinued in order to provide additional space.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Construct a building to accommodate 1000 full-time day students, 75% of cost reimbursable by the state.

SERVICE UNITS: Construct a building to house facilities for school supplies and equipment, maintenance shops, truck storage; provide facilities for the instructional materials department.

SITES: Purchase 8 sites for school buildings presently projected.

COMPARISON OF PREVIOUS SCHOOL BUILDING LEVIES WITH PROPOSED LEVIES: In the period commencing with the year 1947 the School District has built 26 elementary schools, 15 primary schools, 4 high schools, and additions to 44 elementary and 6 high schools to accommodate an increase of 26,000 pupils. In each instance the money was provided by special building fund levies voted by the people which averaged \$3,850,000 a year and between 1958 and 1961 averaged \$4,430,000 a year. All previous building fund levies have expired. The proposed levy is \$1,750,000 less than the 15-year average and \$2,330,000 less than the average during the preceding three years. The cost of the proposed levy is \$10 less than the taxpayer of a home worth \$10,000 paid for building levies during the preceding 3 years.



CHEAP DOLLARS WON'T BUY AN EXPENSIVE EDUCATION

If YOUR CHILD were old enough today for college, that \$5,000 educational policy would see him through. But what about ten years from now?

Who can forecast what inflation will do to that insurance policy -- and to the money you've set aside for retirement, or to take care of your wife if something happens to you?

If we miscalculate today by keeping in public office the free-spenders who roll up the public debt, the plans you make today may be totally inadequate tomorrow.

You make the decision at your ballot box. If you put your faith and trust in those who promise to cure the ills of the world by spending, spending and more spending, you and your family can expect to reap the harvest of regret -- regret that the plans you make today will be inadequate tomorrow. Remember that on Election Day.

One of a series of advertisements presented in the interest of better government by

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