

OREGON MIRROR

REFLECTING ACHIEVEMENTS, INTERESTS AND PROGRESS

VOL. 11 NO. 13

PORTLAND, OREGON

Wednesday, June 13 1962

Five Cents

National Labor Union Exec Visits City



Pictured above are left to right, A. Phillip Randolph, vice-president of The American Federation of Labor and C.I.O. and Pres. of International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, talking with members of the Union, C. Johns, Fay Gordly and McKinley Williams.

COURTESY OF BALTZEGAR

A. Phillip Randolph, Vice Pres. of the American Federation of Labor and Pres. of the International Brotherhood of sleeping car porters visited the city for three days, June 9, 10 and 11th to speak to labor union groups, and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Speaking before a huge audience in the conference room at the Porters club on N. Williams Ave., Mr. Randolph stated that his purpose for coming to Portland was to establish a Negro American Labor Council. The purpose of this organization will be to work towards eliminating segregation in unions, and to obtain equal opportunities for Negroes who seek apprenticeship training, on union jobs, that are rejected because of racial origin. Mr. Randolph stated that Negro progress is moving too slow in this fast world of automation, and if parents don't start encouraging their children now, towards acquiring education, and seeking training in skilled crafts, they will be left out in the field of employment. Membership in the Negro American Labor Council is limited to union members, people seeking apprenticeship training through union jobs, and people seeking membership in labor unions that are turned away because of race.

B. Johns of 4325 N.E. Rodney was appointed by Mr. Randolph to head the membership drive for the Portland branch. Mr. Johns is Pres. of the Portland branch of Sleeping Car Porters. The National office for the Negro American Labor Council is in New York City. Mr. Randolph is touring the U.S. establishing branches of the Labor Council in all states. There are 25 Branches of the Negro American Labor Council established throughout the U.S. so far, and Portland will make 26.

13 Year Old Youth Hears From Dept. of Defense On Letter To Pres.



Jerry Cox, 13 year old youth of 4945 N.E. Cleveland Ave., received a letter from the Dept. of Defense in reply to a letter he wrote to President Kennedy suggesting a way to save lives from radio active fall out, in the event we were bombed. Below is a copy of letter sent to the President and the reply from the Dept. of Defense, Office of Civil Defense.

4945 N.E. Cleveland
Portland 17, Oregon
Feb. 24, 1962

Hon John F. Kennedy
The President of the United States

Hon. Sir:

My name is Jerry W. Cox. I am 13 yrs old and a student of Immaculate Heart school and am in the seventh grade. I met you and had the honor of shaking your hand, when you were in Portland.

I hear on the radio, and read in the papers about fall-out shelters. I believe fall-out shelters are inadequate, for the following reasons: #1. It would take too many shelters there would be thousands of people who would have no protection. #2. Radiation would spoil all existing food and contaminate the soil, all plant food would be eliminated for several years. #3. Industry would come to a stand still.

In order to save the lives of our people I have devised a plan which I believe would allow our industrial plants to continue manufacturing food stuffs and other vital products. This would be a huge iron cylinder machine with sections, which would draw in the Radio Active material and filter it out. I have a drawing of this device and if you are interested I will send a copy of my drawing. I think this will save our country and certainly worth perfecting. Please let me hear from you so if interested I will send you my drawing.

Respectfully Yours
Jerry W. Cox



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

Jerry W. Cox
4945 N. E. Cleveland Avenue
Portland 17, Oregon

Howard U. Bans AKA Sorority Charged With Rough Hazing

WASHINGTON.— The founding chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the oldest Negro social sorority in the nation, has been banned from the Howard university campus in the wake of charges that chapter members physically abused 10 pledges.

The ban stipulates that Alpha chapter of the AKA sorority may not apply for recognition on the campus before September, 1966, and that the organization has been suspended from all campus activities.

The decision was made by the University-wide Committee on Student Organizations and Activities (UCSOA) upon the recommendation of the executive committee of that body.

35 Initiated Earlier

Action by the UCSOA came after Dr. Marjorie Parker, national basileus of the sorority, initiated 35 pledges of the chapter, but none of the 10 women who had complained to the university of mistreatment.

The chapter already was under 18-month suspension by the UCSOA for physically mistreating the 10 pledges in "egregious violation" of university regulations governing pledging procedures, Dean of Students Amour J. Blackburn reported.

Blackburn and Mrs. Parker declined to explain the specific charges that were made. Neither the university nor the sorority has acted against individual chapter members.

10 Pledges Suspended

Events leading up to the University ban took this course:

Late in March, the chapter suspended the 10 women from its program leading to initiation into the sorority.

A campus scandal broke out when a parent of one of the 45 members of the Ivy Leaf club—pledge organization of the AKA sorority—sent a four-page telegram to Howard President James M. Nabrit Jr., charging that her daughter and nine other women had been forced to undergo "much torment and suffering" during the pledging.

The telegram alleged that "un-

just and unfair treatment" had caused her daughter and the other young coeds to walk off the pledge line.

Pledges Testify

Later these pledges testified to the extreme hazing. Other testimony came from members of the campus chapter. Both groups felt that the physical hazing had been extreme.

The 10 women reportedly substantiated the charges with few exceptions before the executive committee of UCSOA and Mrs. Parker. Dr. Blackburn said that he then asked Mrs. Parker not to initiate any of the remaining pledges until a full meeting of UCSOA could be held.

UCSOA suspended the chapter April 10, and recommended that Mrs. Parker initiate the 35 pledges if the 10 suspended pledges would be given the chance to be initiated.

Letter Not Received

A registered letter informing Mrs. Parker of the committee decision was sent to her April 11 but was returned undelivered. Mrs. Parker initiated the 35 pledges April 15.

Withdrawal of recognition by UCSOA was the result of a "misunderstanding" between herself and the committee, Dr. Parker declared last week. She planned to meet with Blackburn in hopes that the committee will reconsider.

Dr. Parker said she was too busy traveling to and from her home here and Bowie State Teachers college, where she is director of student teachers. She also is a visiting lecturer at Howard.

Dear Jerry:

I have been asked to reply to your letter of 24 February 1962 addressed to the President.

We are glad to know that citizens of your age are interested in your Nation's security. The civil defense program under development is based upon the best technical knowledge available in the world today. In case of nuclear attack, blast or fire damage and initial radiation would be limited to the immediate areas of nuclear detonations. The greatest hazard to the rest of the country would be from radioactive fallout. Thus fallout shelter, which is the key element in our civil defense program, would save millions of lives which would otherwise be lost.

Whatever the fallout radiation may be an hour after an attack, it will decay to 1/100th of this intensity within two days. It will decay further to 1/1000th of this intensity within two weeks. Some time during this period, shelter occupants may make short excursions outside their shelters within limits announced over CONELRAD or by some other means. By the end of two weeks, most of the land area of the United States will be habitable once more. Food stocks under cover and production equipment in buildings will be usable.

I am enclosing documents which will provide you with more details. I hope you will read these publications carefully, as I believe they will help you to understand the true nature of civil defense. If there is anything in these publications you do not understand fully, I'm sure an older member of your family or your teacher will be glad to explain it to you if you ask.

You will read in the enclosed Program Statement that provision is made for food, water, and other necessary things in the shelters in existing buildings or other shelters to be made available under this program. It also considers the matter of family shelters for rural or suburban areas, shelters in schools and other public buildings, finding and measuring radiation plus the education of people for survival in a nuclear age.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Rasmussen
Public Affairs

Enclosures