

Let me say this about that

...First black judge

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ized by city police. He was walking home from a downtown dance and taking a shortcut through a white neighborhood when stopped by two cops in a police car who asked why he was there. Because he did not take off his hat while replying to them, they knocked him down. "I left because I felt I would be killed," he said in recalling the incident.

SERVING IN THE ARMY after World War II, Brown saw duty in Germany and France. After receiving his honorable discharge, he used the GI Bill to attend Southern University in Louisiana and Fisk College in Tennessee. Next, he moved to Canada and got a job on the Canadian Pacific Railroad as a porter, joining the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He wanted to see Canada and he'd heard the tips were good, which would give him a chance to save some money for law school. In that job, he got to know the union's founder and president, A. Philip Randolph. A legendary figure, Randolph later became the first black person to hold a seat on the AFL-CIO Executive Council and was a civil rights leader.

BROWN DECIDED ON PORTLAND as a place to move to because he could take day or night classes at its downtown Northwestern School of Law, which years later became part of Lewis and Clark College in Southwest Portland. He relocated to Portland in the early 1950s and supported himself with a day job as a public welfare caseworker. He found that Portland had some racism, but he was not harassed by police and there were no "white" or "colored" signs on drinking fountains and restroom doors. Things improved after the 1957 Oregon Legislature at Salem passed civil rights legislation known as the public accommodations law and it was signed by then-Gov. Mark Hatfield.

After earning his law degree in 1957, Brown began participating in Democratic Party activities. Aaron also joined two civil rights organizations, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Urban League, and he and Avenice met and married. She had started working at the Pacific Northwest Bell telephone company as a member of the Communications Workers of America. She later was promoted to a supervisory post outside of the bargaining unit and out of the union. After a federal judge broke up the Bell system Avenice Brown went with the American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) long-distance company. She helped United Way charity fundraising campaigns as a loaned executive, and assisted in the Junior Achievement youth organization and in Red Cross training programs.

JUDGE AND MRS. BROWN raised two sons, Gregory and Eric, and a daughter, Yvette, in their Portland home. As parents, the Browns participated in the Boy Scouts; Aaron also served on scouting's Portland regional Executive Council. Now, Gregory works at a Portland bank; Eric and Yvette live in Dallas, Texas, where they run businesses. Aaron and Avenice also have four grandchildren. A half-dozen years ago, to be near her siblings and other relatives, Aaron and Avenice decided to move to her hometown of Holly Springs, Mississippi. Aaron said they enjoy driving to nearby Memphis, Tenn., to tour Elvis Presley's Graceland home, and visit other places of interest. Occasionally they are accompanied by friends from Portland.

★★★

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, the 36th chief executive of the United States of America, made the following comments to a group of AFL-CIO labor editors on Nov. 26, 1965:



LYNDON JOHNSON

"You who edit and produce the labor press perform a most useful and indispensable function in our free democratic society. The labor press is the effective voice of a movement that has consistently advanced and supported programs to elevate the dignity of American working people and to advance the well-being of our country.

"Today the efforts of American labor — and the labor press — are paying rich dividends. Most of our citizens enjoy a level of prosperity unprecedented in history.

"The labor press has played an invaluable role in defining our national

goals at home and abroad by keeping union members abreast of where we are heading — and should be heading."



U.S. House passes Peru trade deal; Wu and DeFazio vote against it

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Peru Free Trade Agreement passed in the U.S. House Nov. 8 by a vote of 285-132.

The Change to Win labor federation opposed the agreement and the national AFL-CIO was neutral. In Oregon, the state AFL-CIO passed a resolution at its convention in October opposing the trade deal.

Democrats opposed the Peru measure by a 116-109 margin (70 percent were freshman lawmakers), while Republicans supported it, 176-16.

Only two of Oregon's five representatives sided with labor in opposing the

trade deal. They were Democrats David Wu in the 1st District and Peter DeFazio in the 4th District.

Supporting the Peru Free Trade Agreement were Earl Blumenauer in the 3rd District, Darlene Hooley in the 5th District, Greg Walden in the 2nd District and Brian Baird in Washington State's 3rd District.

Wu said that although he saw improvements in the Peru deal over past trade deals, he rejected it because it didn't put human rights on an equal footing with environmental and labor protections.

"Trade agreements are one of the

few, one of the key levers to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law abroad," he said. "I do hope ... to reach a day, some day, when human rights will be included in trade deliberations on an equal footing with environmental and labor protections."

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney called the Peru pact "far from perfect," and criticized many sections, including letting firms that get government contracts export those jobs.

Sweeney said the federation is dead set against two other looming free trade pacts, with South Korea and Colombia and would lobby hard against them.

Congressional Dems want to expand program to help workers hurt by trade

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — Defying yet another veto threat by President Bush, the Democratic-run U.S. House of Representatives mustered a bipartisan 264-157 vote on Oct. 31 to extend and expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act, the program that helps workers who lose their jobs to subsidized foreign imports.

The TAA program was first created in 1962 to help push trade pacts through Congress. But it now applies only to industrial workers who directly lose their jobs to subsidized foreign imports — and even then, only after the Labor Department agrees. As a result, TAA helps far fewer workers than it should.

The new version (HR 3920) doubles trade adjustment assistance's author-

ized budget. It also extends TAA to service-sector and public-sector workers who lose their jobs to trade or off-shoring.

"The Trade and Globalization Assistance Act provides a critical safety net for the millions of workers who lose their jobs every year due to off-shoring and increased imports," said national AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "Our nation has lost 3 million family-supporting manufacturing jobs on Bush's watch alone. Flawed trade policy continues to send manufacturing and service-sector jobs overseas. Working men and women need assistance of TAA more than ever."

The Office of Management and Budget had a different take. The Ad-

ministration strongly opposes the bill, stating the reforms impede the programs' flexibility. Instead, the agency charged Congress with converting TAA "from a trade-related program to a universal income-support and training program."

OMB called the extension of TAA to public-sector and private-service workers "inappropriate and unworkable." And the department denounced a provision saying that state-named "merit workers" — not outsourced workers overseas — must run retraining programs for workers who lose their jobs.

OMB said its senior advisers will recommend that Bush veto the bill if changes aren't made.