

Discrimination Suit Dismissed

A suit charging the Portland School District with racial discrimination was dismissed by U.S. District Court Judge Gus Solomon Thursday on the motion of the plaintiff Black Coalition.

In the order of dismissal, the Black Coalition stipulated that it "does not now claim, and never did claim, that individual members of the School Board or the central administration were ever guilty of intentional discrimination against blacks."

The order went on to state that the Black Coalition is "satisfied that the Board and the central administration will continue their current policy of using good faith efforts to prevent, as much as is possible, all

forms of racial discrimination in the future, and to fully investigate any claimed acts of discrimination which are presented to them."

The order of dismissal also calls for the superintendent of schools, Robert Blanchard, to consider recommendations from the Black Coalition in making appointments to the committee he established a year ago to investigate allegations of racial discrimination. At the same time, the Black Coalition agreed to turn over to Blanchard the facts concerning all alleged acts of racial discrimination that the Coalition feel merit investigation and to cooperate fully with Blanchard and the investigation committee.

Black infant study blocked

A proposed Harvard University study of black infants in Boston's Roxbury community has been suspended on the basis of objections by a review committee. The study was designed to determine how infants, aged 3½ to 13 months, got along psychologically with their mothers and with day-care staffers. The review committee, formed by the Black United Front, said the results of the study might be used to justify a federal program to "force black mothers

to work and place their children in governmentally provided day-care center." Dr. James Jones, a black professor of psychology at Harvard, who supported the review committee's position, said: "Imagine how Harvard would react if a group came from Roxbury and wanted to investigate the corporate structure, or study white students from the South. The project couldn't occur without a review at some central level."

Ethnic educational experiment

Some time ago I presented this proposal and it did not get top priority and finally it was tabled. I hope the readers of this column will see that this experiment is a plan of prevention. Maybe we have forgotten that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

I The Ethnic School supplements Hebrew Christian tradition with Afro-American tradition and places the two traditions in supplementary relationships. It provides experiences for building a strong self-image, self-respect, and self-understanding. It teaches "Black love" without teaching "White hate." It is a learning experience which enriches the adult teacher as well as the student.

II Education and Economic Growth Organization (EGO)

1. Church sites: To be named later.

III Joint strategy and Action Committee of Sponsors.

IV This project would be designed to reach black youngsters aged 3 to 12 years living in communities adjacent to the Churches named. It would be intended to combat attitudes of black inferiority, hostility, and self-hate prevalent in youngsters growing up in low-income ghettos, infested with poverty and neglect. Research has shown that attitudinal changes, and periods of most rapid growth occur in the very young. For this reason, the age group designated has been chosen. It is the intent of the project to help these youngsters see themselves as productive and successful people. The television, radio, books and other media do not provide positive heroes with which the child can identify. Thus, we would seek to provide a cultural background to generate pride and self confidence in the child's self-concept.

The black church has traditionally been the one stable organization in the black community. It commands respect even from those who are not members therein. For this reason, adults will respond positively to any manifestation of concern generated from it - further, education has long been seen as the way of escape from the ghetto. So it would not be a problem to involve Community youngsters in a Church-related "School" which sought to provide an experience which is provided in no other institution and which the community has, itself, demanded at other levels.

Self-hood and person-hood for blacks can be achieved only by teaching both Afro-American and Hebrew-Christian traditions.

V We propose to conduct a

house-to-house canvass of the communities involved (ten blocks in all directions in a typical community will yield more children than we can house.) This canvass would be conducted by the persons who serve as volunteer teachers. It would pre-register youngsters, explain the program to the parents and invite both parents and children to the opening. Parents would be invited to participate as volunteers on all levels.

Parents of children who actually would constitute the advisory committee, along with volunteers at each site. Representation from each local advisory committee would serve on a central governing board, responsible for policy and distribution of funds. The director would also serve on this board.

The program would be housed in the sponsoring churches. In instances where space would not be available larger structures could house two operations on a single site. In this event only one coordinator would be employed. Individual sites would meet three (3) hours a week on days designated by the local governing body.

Volunteers who staff the Ethnic school would be trained in workshops preceding the opening of the school and continuing in-service training would be provided throughout the year. The school would be set up according to grade levels with all pre-school youngsters in one class. Among the problems anticipated is the lack of written material available on grade level. For this reason, trained volunteers would need to be recruited to write and re-write material on reading level of the youngsters involved. Another anticipated problem would be low reading levels of youngsters in the community which renders them incapable of reading even material below their level. For this reason we propose to use the Sullivan Programmed Reading material published by the Behavioral Research Associates of Palo Alto, California. Research involving use of these materials in the Oceanhill-Brownville District of New York Public School (A community not unlike ours) indicated remarkable gains in reading can be demonstrated. We would, of course, seek to have their consultants train our volunteers to use these materials and, as is their practice, continue consultative services throughout the duration of the first year.

The only persons who would need to be college trained personnel would be the director and the coordinators. The volunteers would need only to be

In its third week, the Oregon House of Representatives has been working with the knowledge that it faces several great challenges in this, its 56th session. With that knowledge, the committees have begun work on the over 250 bills which have thus far been introduced and referred to them.

One major piece of legislation, the Extended Benefit Unemployment Compensation bill, has already been passed by the House and the Senate, and signed into law by the Governor. This measure extends the benefit period for unemployed Oregonians for an additional 13 weeks, and is designed to give an additional compensation period for those workers who had exhausted their 26 weeks of unemployment compensation eligibility.

In another area, the House of Representatives sent a House Memorial to the Secretary of Transportation recommending that the basic national rail transportation system include service to the State of Oregon. I am very pleased to be able to report that on January 28, 1971, Transportation Secretary John Volpe announced his final recommendation for a national rail passenger system, which provides rail service north and south on the Pacific Coast and passenger service through Oregon.

As a member of the Urban Affairs Committee, I was in the group who went to Portland Thursday when the Committee held a public meeting at the Buckman Center. The purpose of this hearing was to give senior citizens in the area an opportunity to express themselves to the legislators concerning their unique problems. As a result of this hearing, I realized that two needs seemed to be of overwhelming concern to these older people; their desire to feel wanted and needed; and the frustrations which are created by the lack of readily available transportation. Their inability to get out and shop or go to see their doctor creates a situation wherein they feel like virtual shut-ins.

It seems that, even though the services to the aged are many, there is somehow a lack of coordination between the various agencies who provide these services, which results in the inability of the elderly to know where a particular service is being provided to fill their specific needs at any given time. Repeatedly in the course of the hearing, one could sense the underlying theme that these senior citizens feel lonely and frustrated, and unable to take advantage of the services which are actually available to them if only there were better coordination and communication between the agencies and the people who need the service.

Basic School Support has been an issue before the House Education Committee, of which I am a member. House Bill 1114 was sponsored by the Republicans, and would increase basic school support from \$178 to \$212 per student, which is a reasonable increase within the limitations of the Governor's Budget. In Committee, however, this amount was raised to \$300 per student, and no means of raising the additional revenue was suggested. The Republican members of the Committee found themselves caught in a game of one-upmanship, so they in turn increased basic school support to \$381 per student. After both increases had been voted down by the Committee, the original proposal of \$212 per student was approved and the measure was sent to the Ways and Means Committee for further action.

The House Republicans have also issued a number of significant policy statements on what we feel are the important issues that face our state. The most important is the proposed Home Preservation Plan, which is in the nature of a program to provide substantial home owner tax relief without the need for additional major taxation. The major feature of this proposal is an exemption from property tax of the first \$1,500 of assessed value of each owner-occupied residence in the state. Another portion of the Plan is

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a freeze on the property taxes for individuals aged 65 or older. The Plan would encourage home improvements by allowing a \$500 annual income tax deduction for money spent on home improvements. The \$1,500 exemption would extend to nearly 375,000 homeowners in the state. The senior citizen freeze would result in direct property tax relief of some 2.4 million during the coming biennium, and the total direct tax relief provided by this proposal is extended at more than \$33 million for the coming biennium.

The policy statement on reapportionment included the need for single member sub-district for each House and Senate seat, and was designed to best comply with the Supreme Court directive of "one-man/one-vote". We feel that single member sub-district is an important step in creating an equal voice for all Oregonians, and their government will be bringing about greater contact between the legislator and his constituent.

In the area of constitutional revision, we realize that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to completely revise the Constitution and to have it adopted by the voters. Therefore, we supported the concept

of section-by-section revision, with the first such section being referred to the voters in the general election in 1972.

These are three areas of discussion on which the Republicans have issued policy statements. They are, I feel, significant in scope and bold in concept, and attack the important problems that have bearing on the future of the State of Oregon.

In a lighter vein - among the many very pleasant intervals I spent this week was getting to say "hello" to the Juniors and Seniors from Madison High School when they visited the Legislature. This week I also got to meet the class presidents and student leaders from all the Portland high schools when they visited the Legislature and attended a meeting of the Education Committee. On Wednesday evening my wife, Maryon, and I were among a group of legislators who were invited by Secretary of State and Mrs. Clay Myers to be their guests at a soup supper in their home, which was a most enjoyable occasion.

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