

# PCC adult tutoring program

The Adult Tutoring Program sponsored by the Community Education Division of Portland Community College is expanding operations to cover Washington and Columbia County points and Newberg area.

"Everybody who needs help in learning how to learn doesn't live in the city," explains Mrs. Virginia Wilkinson, PCC tutor recruiter who will coordinate activities for the Program.

"We know there are hundreds of persons in these areas who need help in learning improved reading and writing skills, and better command of basic arithmetic. And many others need assistance in completing subjects needed to pass the high school equivalency exam," she stated. "We want to put these persons in touch with other adults who can and will help them to learn."

What the Program does, Mrs. Wilkinson said, is "to bring together those adults who, for one reason or another, have been cheated out of an opportunity to learn, and place them in a friendly, face-to-face situation with another adult who understands their learning problems and can help."

Just as students needing help

come from all walks of life, Mrs. Wilkinson says, "so do good tutors." What is really needed is the desire to help another person who must have a helping hand—we can supply the materials, the methods, the techniques, all based on long experience with thousands of other students."

Tutors are housewives, professional people, retired persons, other students—literally, the baker, the barber, the plumber, and the doctor," says Mrs. Wilkinson—anyone who can spare several hours a week to work with another person who needs to learn.

Students generally meet with their tutors twice a week for about one and one-half hours. They meet in private homes, or sometimes in centrally located places like churches or school buildings, at the convenience of the tutor and the student, at times tailored to the individual situations. The whole program is geared to the one-student-one-tutor, face-to-face situation, which experience shows allows the tutor to be most helpful and the student to learn most rapidly and effectively.

Many organizations involved in community affairs in the

area are being contacted to assist in setting up the expanded operation, Mrs. Wilkinson reported.

"There are a multitude of benefits to the community, as well as those to the student," she stated. "An informed and effective citizen has to be able to read and write and understand his world, and he is a more efficient producer when he can do so."

Many students are able to move ahead in their present jobs or to get a new and better position, after they improve themselves through what they learn in the program, she reported.

"Then there's the very great value of self-confidence and a greater self-esteem," Mrs. Wilkinson stated. "Many of our people become truly confident and able to work with others in a much more effective way."

The greatest need for the tutors, she stated. "We know there are hundreds of students waiting for our help, and we can only help them if the tutors will come to us and help us."

Training workshops for tutors are planned in the areas affected soon; meanwhile information and a schedule of training sessions is available at the Adult Tutoring Program headquarters from Failing Hall 049 S.W. Porter St., Portland 97201. Mrs. Wilkinson can be reached for more information at the Program telephone at Failing Hall, 224-2135.

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## NAACP Progress report

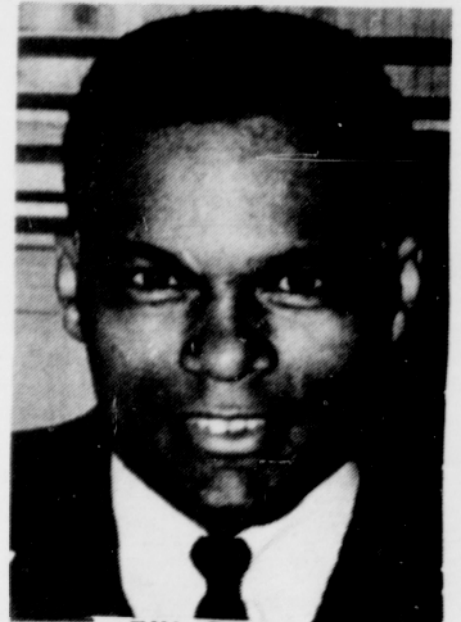
When Ellis H. Casson took office as Portland Branch NAACP President two months ago, he reorganized the office headquarters, spearheaded a membership drive, and made committee appointments with this statement: "I am asking you to work at this job. If you don't intend to work, say so now, and I'll appoint somebody else."

At Executive Board meetings, his requests for reports usually begin with the direct question: "What are you doing? Where are we?" His Executive Board members are representative of the community and his personal commitments include serving on the Board of Directors of the Portland Urban League, the Metropolitan Y.M.C.A., the National Conference of Christians and Jews as the first Chairman for the State Commission on Intergroup Human Relations appointed by the State Board of Education, and the Task Force on Racism of the council of Churches. He represents the NAACP at meetings such as the Whitney Young Memorial sponsored by the Portland Urban League March 28 and the National Conference of Christians and Jews Annual Brotherhood Banquet March 30, where he delivered the invocation.

In 1959 he was appointed by Roy Wilkins, executive director of NAACP, as Field Secretary for the West Coast region, covering 9 Western states. He has served as President of the Bremerton, Washington, and the San Bernardino branches of NAACP.

At present he is Regional Civil Rights Officer for Region #8, the Federal Highway Administration. In former positions, he was Field Representative for the Bureau of Labor Civil Rights Division, State of Oregon. In January, 1968, he was appointed by the Mayor of Portland as Deputy Director of the Portland Model Cities pro-

gram. On July 1, 1968 he was appointed Administrative As-



Ellis Casson  
sistant to the Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, as Director for Intergroup Relations, a new position and the 1st for Portland and the State of Oregon.

Answering the question "Why should people join the Portland Branch of NAACP?" Mr. Casson said, "The NAACP is the oldest Civil Rights organization in America. It has labored for 62 years to eliminate segregation and discrimination in all areas. NAACP has been in the forefront in positive ways to bring about meaningful change, and members are identified in an active movement to better our society for all people. Our leadership is the best in the country by training and experience. NAACP is consulted by the President of the United States, governors, mayors and civic leaders."

Stressing that the organization is for, by, and of the people, Mr. Casson said that the national president of NAACP is white, the executive secretary black, and the organization is integrated on national, regional and local levels. His goal for membership in the Portland branch is 2500, he added. Memberships are \$4 \$6 (which includes Crisis Magazine), \$10, \$25, and \$500 for a Life Membership.

Want to call the NAACP? Telephone 284-7722 afternoons 1:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers are on duty. Mr. Casson is usually available in the office after 5 pm weekdays.

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