

The Northwest's Best Weekly
A Black Owned Publication

Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 N. Killingsworth Portland, Oregon 97217.

Subscription rates: 40 cents per month by carrier; \$4.00 per year; \$5.00 per year by mail in Tri-County area; \$5.25 per year elsewhere. Phone 283-2486

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher and Editor

Black officeholders

Recent studies of political activity in Dixiland show that Blacks have made the greatest gain since Reconstruction in the number of Blacks elected in the South. This record is exclusive of three additional House seats won in the North and West, plus at least two statewide officials elected last November.

Through an energetic and farsighted leadership of the National Democratic Party, Alabama blacks have registered the biggest gains. They have taken over a number of local offices which were heretofore exclusively reserved for white folk.

Elected were three sheriffs (Green, Bullock and Lowndes counties) making a total of four in Alabama; two members of the State Legislature, the first since the lush Reconstruction Legislature. Ron Dellums from the Berkeley-Oakland area; a probate judge, three school board members, three coroners and two circuit court judges.

In South Carolina, two black men were sent to district in California and Parren J. Mitchell from Baltimore became House members from two districts in which only 40 per cent of the voters are Black.

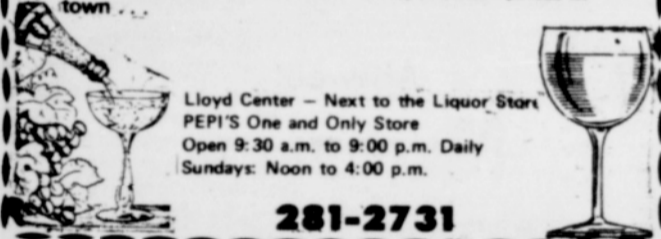
George Collins becomes the second black Congressman from Chicago, joining Ralph Metcalfe, who replaces the late Rep. William L. Dawson, who was one of the most powerful black politicians in the long history of American politics.

There are now 13 black House members, including a non-voting District of Columbia representative, and one Senator. It is pretty safe to say that the 1972 round of reapportionment will yield several more triumphs in Congressional elections; a second representative from Los Angeles and a third Congressman from Chicago.

The next surge of political accomplishments is likely to come from the metropolitan sections of Atlanta, Richmond and Houston where redistricting may put black candidates in important public office. At least 114 of some 300 black candidates have been elected. The count may go higher in 1972.

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Northerners aiding Evers

It is not entirely outside the realm of possibility that a black man might be elected Governor of the state of Mississippi. And what's more, the white voters themselves might help to bring this phenomenon into fulfillment. At least enough people believe in the onset of such an eventuality to be willing to give their time and money to hasten that day.

Some prominent New York Democrats have vowed to raise funds and to conduct a massive volunteer operation in Mississippi in support of the gubernatorial candidacy of Charles Evers, the first black man to run for Governor of that Confederate state.

From the point of view of the mathematical component of the issue, Evers' chances may appear paper thin. Mathematical projections in political predictions are always imponderable, and often wrong. The most recent voter registration figures showed that in 1968 there were 691,000 whites registered to vote and 261,000 blacks. Twenty-five of Mississippi's 82 counties have black majorities.

With experienced volunteers from the East helping to bring out the vote, a major political upset could be recorded. Evers said that this is the first time a systematic effort is being made to bring political skills to the people of Mississippi. "This time," he said, "we hope we will leave behind the nucleus of an effective political organization at the local and county levels."

A national organization of supporters and fund raisers has been formed. More than 20 prominent New Yorkers were named as a part of a national support committee headed by Gilbert Jones, a prominent public relations executive. The chairman of the New York State Democratic Committee, John J. Burns, said a victory for Evers would be "a great thing for our country and our party."

Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton is pleading for funds for the campaign. Evers is confident that he will win. It was Virgil, the Roman poet who said, "He conquers who believes he can."

Letter to the editor

The Reverend Alfred Lee Henderson
Publisher and Editor
The Portland Observer
2201 N Killingsworth
Portland, Oregon 97217

Dear Reverend Henderson:

In going to the Department of Employment, I have found a very pleasant most helpful interviewing job placement interviewer who is very understanding and courteous. She is Mrs. Helen Gill. She is very concerned and dedicated to the unemployed and the employer, she tries to give each what they want, and this makes both the employers and the unemployed happy. I sincerely feel that people, not just her job is very important to her. I have talked to many people who feel the same as I do.

She is presently employed at the North Portland Office--5022 N. Vancouver

Jessie Allen 3816 N. E. 10th, and Mr. Sherman Lyons 2850 N. E. Rodney.

BEAUTY & BRAINS



Miss Sue Childs is fashion plate at all times. Staff photographer Albert Williams could not miss this beauty subject. She is a student at Lewis and Clark College.



FLAG DAY * June 14

Bill reduces board terms

SALEM - A Senate-passed bill reducing the terms of members of the State Board of Higher Education and State Board of Education was approved by the House Monday.

The measure, CB 330, now goes to the governor for signature. At present members of the State Board of Education serve seven-year terms and those on the State Board of Higher Education six years. The bill would reduce the terms to four years although present members would serve out the terms to which they were appointed. Members would also be limited to two consecutive terms.

Reprint from Pittsburgh Courier

May 27 1971
Being Frank



Time for black press to be critical of self

By FRANK L. STANLEY

Some years ago in a black publisher's meeting in Detroit this writer presented a critique of the black press as part of my report on the NNPA Merit Awards. This criticism displeased the older publishers to no end - so much so that the late Carl Murphy of the Afro-American who was presiding, denounced the whole idea most angrily. Hopefully the black press today is more receptive to criticism than before. If not, then it is time for us to take critical looks at our publications because this is the age of change.

The Harvard Journal of Afro-American Affairs has looked critically at our press in its special spring issue. One article in particular struck my fancy; it is entitled "The Black Press: An Agenda for Change" and it is written by Frangesta Farmer Orme. Miss Orme begins by quoting the creed of the Negro press which was written by P. Bernard Young, Jr. of the Norfolk Journal and Guide.

She observes that the creed embodies "noble aspirations, sure to move black papers to a high plane of journalism, social consciousness and purpose." She then asks the question: "Whether or not black papers have consistently pursued a policy of crusading, advocating, or even honestly reflecting the conditions of the black man in this hostile society?"

Next she charges that "many papers, unfortunately, have compromised their effectiveness by unclear editorial policy, negativism about the potential of black men, over-emphasis on the black elite in a given community, and lack of a consistently strong position on the needs of black people."

"The black press must take sweeping steps to become more relevant to the community. It must convey the sense of urgency that should surround our pursuits. It must not only be politically relevant, it must be an organ for education: It must expose many of the stinging realities of our existence, and talk seriously and deeply about their chance or removal."

Miss Orme recommends that individual ownership of black papers become community and/or organizational ownership. Her reason is that "Black enterprises have always been afflicted with economic difficulties." In her opinion "community ownership, in addition to

providing financial solvency, will also bring many more black people into every aspect of the news process: reporting, editing, printing, and distributing."

Secondly, she recommends "Black papers must take a consistent ideological position and support it. By ideology, she means "a radical analysis of the existing situation, description of the 'ideal' reality, and proposal of a concrete program for resolution of the problems raised by comparing the ideal with the real."

Third, she suggests that "Black papers should not only be ideological in their approach, but also programmatic... Black papers once they explore problems in the community, must advocate positive and community-oriented solutions for those problems."

Fourth, "Black reporters must become more disciplined and serious in their approach to community news. In-depth reporting should characterize stories, not sloppy or haphazard work."

Fifth, "Black newspapers must be concerned first with their immediate community - all members of that community, not simply the bourgeoisie and those who have 'made it' by largely irrelevant white standards. At the same time, black papers must also take care to form strong ties with black communities all over the world and show clearly how events in one community relate to events in another."

This journalist has no disagreement with the above recommendations. The only unfortunate thing is that Miss Orme is ignorant of those black newspapers which attempt, in-the-main to do just what she has outlined, perhaps not as fully but certainly in part. She is likewise unaware of the fact that but for the black press involving itself directly in the black struggle and in many instances not only initiating but actively leading the fight not only with words, but physically and financially, that the civil rights movement would be much farther behind. Thus, I suggest that she do more in-depth study of the Black Press of America by carefully analyzing all of our publications and not just a few issues of a select few. Practically all of our responsible newspapers are on microfilm, thus making such a study will not be too difficult.

FBF And Capital Formation SO-O-O
Announce \$13 Million Program For Portland



On Thursday, May 27, in a press conference held at the Main Office of the Freedom Bank of Finance, Samuel S. Beard, Chairman of Capital Formation of New York along with V.V. Booker, President of FBF, announced the start of a \$13 Million Dollar Deposit program here in Portland.

Beard, along with Larry Bland, Assistant Director of Capital Formation, came to Portland, to consult with Booker concerning this program, and its feasibility in this city. After much discussion and correspondence, the announcement was made.

The program began on October 2, 1970, when Secretary of Commerce, Maurice Stans and Undersecretary of the Treasury, Charis Walker, along with Capital Formation, The National Bankers Association and the President's Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprises, co-announced the \$100 Million Deposit Program. The goal of the overall program is to re-direct \$100 million into the thirty-five black banks across the country. The purpose is to establish a firm basis for black owned businesses to borrow needed capital for development from black banks, thus cycling capital within the black community.

Capital Formation, a private non-profit foundation, has been the main instrument involved in getting the support needed for such program, from the government and also private enterprise. Beard feels that this type of program is "using the resources of an affluent America to create capital pools in have-not areas."

A long list of profitable minority owned businesses attest to the success of Capital Formation. These include all types of businesses offering goods and services across the country.

In Portland the funds will be administered by the Local operating Committee (LOC) whose membership includes: Joseph Edger, Secretary--- Treasurer, Teamsters; John D Findlay, Chairman, Federal Executive Board, Regional Director Sports, Fisheries and Wildlife Department; Cleveland Gilcrease, Director, Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee; Neil Goldschmidt, City Commissioner; Leon Harris Director, Albina Multi-Service Center; Shelton Hill, Executive Director Urban League; Vernon Josephs, Colonel, Retired U.S. Air Force; Paul Knauts, Businessman; Tony Nunn, Executive Secretary, FBF; Robert Straub, State Treasurer.

The funds will be deposited in FBF, who will in turn disperse them as needed.

Freedom Bank of Finance has been in existence since Aug. of 1969. It has been growing at a rate very few new banks can lay claim to. In less than 18 months FBF had acquired a new Main Office as well as a branch. As to the success of the program, Beard, Bland and Booker, have hopes that this will be one of the keys to better and profitable minority owned businesses.



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