

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher and Editor

## President "Spoke"

The President did Everything-- --Something rather. The word "New" was uttered 21 times as the President proclaimed his surprise economic package on T.V. last week. The surprise only came to the small business man, low wage workers and the poor in general. Evidence is clear now that Big Corporations already were aware of the freeze six months ago.

New jobs, new heights, new tax proposals, new stimulus, new prosperity, new international monetary system, new standards for minorities, busing system...New Economic Policy.

The average workman confronts the task of assessing the new new new new new Nixon, yet, they know Mr. Nixon that it is not new, it is just a different formation but the same game.

Not even the poor can accuse Mr. Nixon of not having guts. That he has plenty, First Red China and now the 90 day freeze.

We must admit, however, that there were many voices crying "Do something about the economy. Do anything, but do it now!"

Richard Nixon did it. In fact, he did everything all at once. Everything his critics said he should do. Everything they were afraid he would do. He piled it on for what seemed an orgy of Presidential action, and added some more for good measure, just to be sure no one would doubt that something indeed had been done.

Still the decision makers should

perhaps be rated not only on fortitude of intestine but on functioning of cerebrum. Will Mr. Nixon's new old economics work? Why didn't he do this when he first took office? Would you say the time was ripe. Ripe for big business.

Those who shape state and city policies and those who patronize the stock exchanges answer quickly "yes" it will work. I am obliged to note that most of them are richer--so at least a few SHOULD BE SMARTER--than I: let's hope they're right.

The 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents, a 10 percent tax on imports, a suspension of the convertibility of the dollar into gold, a proposed 10 percent investment tax credit. A proposed repeal of the 7 percent excise tax. A proposed speed-up in general income tax exemptions, a 10 percent cut in foreign economic aid, a 5 percent cut in Government personnel, a six month postponement of Government pay raises.

Relief was instantaneous; mass confusion followed, for two days the stock market soared euphorically, breaking all records for volume.

Seriously after the 90-day wonder, then what? Where? What is next? What trick will the magician pull out of his bag?

Our Republican President's Chief Economic spokesman, Democrat John Connally, assures us that so far nobody knows. Maybe complete decontrol, which will place us back where we start; or with Mr. Nixon's control, Nixon must hire 15 percent more bureaucrats instead of lopping off 5 percent.

At this point it remains to be demonstrated as to what degree the American economy can be successfully semi-regulated. What extent the freedom of market is abridged? This remains for citizens to discover the erosion of their personal liberty.

We have indicated that Nixon's new-old policy is not new but a new formation in the same old game played on the poor. The only thing missing is Nixon's old economic policy, which, on close inspection, is still the push and driving

force of new strategy. After all, economic "game plans," unlike those in football, are not adapted or discarded from one day to the next. The forces at work in the economy pushing it to expansion, lower unemployment, and lessening of inflation they say but which part can the Public really see and feel.

The Observer argues that the third part of Nixon's package--the 10 percent investment tax credit, which is clearly "Big Business" benefit--weights the President's package very much against "the people." Read this carefully! To offset some of the cost of this package, President Rich, I mean Richard Nixon, last week also announced that he would ask Congress to postpone his welfare-reform proposal for three months. Maine's Democratic Senator Edmund Muskie, criticized the package saying it was evidence the package is weighted heavily toward Big Business.

To dramatize the "people" versus "big business" Mr. Nixon instead of extending the helping hand of the federal Government to the poor, the unemployed, the inflation-plagued consumer, the financially strapped states and cities, the President decided to further enrich Big Corporations and banks.

Will the President have an extension of the freeze in November? A Quarterback looks closely at the defensive and makes his call. Since it is the same old game you see when the freeze expires in November Mr. Nixon can, like all other Quarterbacks call one signal in the huddle and after coming to the line change it again. He can review the policy with an announcement giving authority to roll back future inflationary wage and price increases. He can let the situation revert to the way it was. Already some cabinet members are saying that there will be a phase II, a sort-of tapering off.

We hope that our Quarterback leading this Nation is right! The American Public needs the assurance that when the freeze is over we will have a program to keep down inflation.

It is almost necessary to wait to the end of the 90-day period to see what will happen. What will be the Public's attitude? At any rate we cannot do it spontaneously! We the American Public as a whole, rich or poor, will have to retain a certain amount of surveillance.

## White Elks and Black People

(Ed. Note: The following talk was given by Rollie Smith to a Toastmasters Club in Corvallis August 3).

"I am willing to contribute to your care when you're ill... But don't come near me when you're well!" How would you feel if someone said that to you?

This, in effect, is what members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks seem to be saying to all non-white Americans. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks apparently does not reject non-whites from its eye and ear clinics and other charitable services. However, delegates to the National Convention of the organization recently, for the third straight year, voted to retain their "whites only" membership policy. In so doing, members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks reaffirmed their benevolence toward bigotry and protectiveness of racial biases.

In apparent effort to justify the action of the delegates, the newly-elected Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, Gene Fournace, said, "It is a question of Constitutional rights." The organization, he said, "has the right under the First Amendment, to admit whom it wants."

I've heard no one say otherwise the existence of organizations promoting racial separatism is inhibiting the development of true democracy in our country. And we have a Constitutionally-protected right to say "We don't like it!" Fournace goes on to say, "This (the whites only policy) is part of our Elks Constitution and has been since 1880." Why did he find it necessary to say that? What does it prove? Is a well-weathered prejudice any less prejudicial than a new one? I think not.

There is an interesting anomaly in the preamble to the Constitution of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and I am grateful to the former Grand Exalted Ruler of the organization, Frank Hise, for pointing it out as part of his own effort to defend the Elks' membership policies.

Prerequisites for membership as enumerated in the preamble indicate that to become an Elk one must be a white male citizen over 21 years of age and believe in God.

Hise points out that the preamble also contains these words, "Membership requirements of the Order are not and were never intended

to be discriminatory against any person, group, or nationality." The way my dictionary reads, if you discriminate you are performing a discriminatory act. As for the requirement that the Elks "believe in God" ... considering the organization's exclusive concept of brotherhood, one can't help but wonder ... Does God believe in the Elks?

Why am I, who apparently could meet all of the membership requirements risking the displeasure of you who are members, along with many community leaders, by criticizing the Elks?

I am doing it because I firmly believe that the failure of many white Americans to accept non-white Americans on the basis of their own individual merits is an overriding issue ... one that may yet destroy our country! How would you feel as a black man, or an Oriental, or a Native American Indian considering coming to Corvallis to accept a good job (an unlikely prospect at this Point)? ... You look at a demographic profile of the community and you see that the largest organization, one with more than 2700 members (a larger membership than any of the churches has) is the Elks, an organization that rejects non-whites. When you further become aware that many if not most of the white, male, etc., etc. business, political and social leaders of the community are members of the Elks would you feel that you would be able to participate fully in the life of the community?

I believe I am also acting in the best interest of the Elks. It is true the Elks is a private organization. But when they seek tax exemptions and liquor licenses from government entities that represent all of us they are involving those entities by extension, us.

In various parts of the country there are challenges being made to the right of discriminating organizations to receive such licenses and exemptions. There were several bills in the last session of the Oregon legislature proposing to remove tax exemptions from organizations that discriminate on the basis of race. They didn't get far. The lodge lobby is strong. But they'll be back. Soon the Elks and similar organizations are going to have to decide whether they value their tax exemptions more than their social exclusiveness.

What can you do? If you are an Elk, work zealously within the organization to re-

move the "whites only" policy from the Constitution. If you are not, work actively to combat racial exclusiveness wherever it exists in your community...including support for legislation and promotion of legislation that will remove tax exemptions from racially-exclusive organizations. Play a positive role by working for racial equality as an active member of the Corvallis Branch NAACP...an organization that does not discriminate in its membership policies ... an organization that welcomes men and women ... children and youth of any age and any race. You'll be enriched by the discovery that worthwhile people, intelligent people, interesting people as well as people with less desirable attributes come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

As an Elk ... as a Moose ... as a Lion ... as an Eagle ... as a HUMAN BEING be humane ... Be open and accepting in your relationships with everyone regardless of race, color or creed.

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